

Southern Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

Minutes from March 23, 2016

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New Attendees			
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Danielle Milam	Clark County Library District	MilamD@lvccld.org	YES

1. Welcome & Introductions

New Attendees: To be considered a member, please read the Strategic Plan available at www.sneacac.com, and then *PLEASE fill out personal information on the Online SNECAC Membership form.* <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SNECACmembership>

2. Presentation: Las Vegas Clark County Library District Pre-K for All Grant

Danielle Milam from the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District gave a presentation on their state-funded Pre-K for All grant. The grant was approved as a planning grant this year, with the Library District in the lead, partnering with six partners, including; DISCOVERY Children's Museum, Nevada Partners, Las Vegas Urban League, Vegas PBS, and United Way of Southern Nevada. Subsequently, the City of Las Vegas Office of Education, State Department of Education Early Education Office, State Libraries, Archives and Public Records Office, and Southern Nevada Health District have joined the conversation.

The purpose of the grant is to develop a collective action plan to align strategies, marketing, data collection and programs for those children who are not currently in formal childcare, currently around 70% of children ages 3 and 4. The objective is to expand the number of children ready for kinder, based on national research that this strategy decreases the achievement gap and increases high school completion. The library found that 50% of the family household populations they serve are households with an income of over 70K a year, yet, they are households with young educated parents that work full time and have student and other debts. 25% of the population they serve are mixed households with low education and incomes under 50K a year, and another 25% are families under 30K a year who have moved to the U.S. in the last 10 years.

A Train the Trainer Event will be held on April 26-28th at the Sahara Library that will focus on the seven essential life skills every child needs found in the book *Mind in the Making* by Ellen Galinsky of the Families and Work Institute. The seven essential life skills are:

1. Focus and Self Control
2. Perspective Taking
3. Communicating
4. Making Connections
5. Critical Thinking
6. Taking on Challenges
7. Self-Directed, Engaged Learning

The Agenda is attached. Those who are interested should contact Danielle as soon as possible at milamd@lvccld.org or [702.507.6179](tel:702.507.6179). Danielle will be providing a brief of this upcoming event that will be sent to all the members once received.

Additional updates that Danielle provided were; 2 different parenting apps that are in the works, VROOM, developed by the Bezos Foundation and Bright By Three developed with PBS. Both apps will be tailored for bilingual parents. Ultimately the collective action plan will be available in print and TEDTalk-type video that outlines the concepts of early education, community need and elements of the action plan. More information will be provided as it comes.

3. Mini Case Study Review

The members of SNECAC in attendance reviewed the case study that had been post pone since the January meeting due to lack of time. The first case study was provided by Dr. Mike Maxwell from Las Vegas Urban League and was analyzed as follows:

With the objective being to discover possible resources available through SNECAC members here's a collective impact mock scenario for members to consider:

Case:

Mrs. Washington visited the LV Urban League Early Childhood Connection this morning. Within the past few months, she has undergone quite a few unforeseen hardships. Her daughter is 25 years old, currently in a coma which thus far, has lasted 6 weeks. Due to her daughter's current condition, she now has the added burden of caring for her two granddaughters, Imani – 4mo old and Destiny – 3yrs old. Her husband recently passed in August which has placed her in a position of having only one source of income. She's currently working full time 7am – 3pm. We are currently providing her with child care assistance and she has been given a list of Child Care Facilities to select a caregiver for her grandchildren.

- Ron, from the **Office of Early Learning and Development**, identified they urgency for child care. As the only source of income in the household, if Mrs. Washington does not receive the assistance she needs, she could lose her job and become even more high risk. Although, the Office of Early Learning and Development does not offer direct services, they are able to direct and walk those in need through the steps that will allow them to get assistance. Ron suggested the use of QRIS to match resources.
- Danielle Holmes from **The Children's Cabinet** highlighted their new C.H.E.R.I.S.H. program which would provide Mrs. Washington with parenting tips as well as partnering her up with a case manager that will directly work with her to meet parent-identified goals and self-sufficiency. The program right now has 3 case managers and 1 coordinator that work to identify areas of concern and reinforce appropriate skill-building activities within the home.
- Shelby from **CAA** also established that although they do not offer direct services, they would be able to provide parent trainings as well as parent/child engagement activities that will help the children develop crucial learning, social, and motor skills through their Strong Start Campaign.
- Lillian Englund suggested that **respite care options** are a need to be discovered here in Nevada.
- Shirley from **Early Head Start** provided a well-rounded list of services they are be able to offer Mrs. Washington to satisfy all the areas in which she needs assistance in. The services Early Head Start offers include, counseling session that will help Mrs. Washington and the children deal with the sudden hardships they are currently facing, food services, supply of diapers and formula, assigning Mrs. Washington to a Family Advocate that can link them to health and dental care, assistance with housing, filling out food stamp application, energy assistance, parenting and life

skills, and location training. Early Head Start would eventually link the family to Head Start to continue assisting them.

Summary Recommendation:

As a whole, the council, was able to identify the case as critically urgent and in need of immediate assistance. It was agreed that Early Head Start would be the ideal place for the family to start as they were able to address all of the urgent needs and get them the assistance they need all in one stop.

Next Case:

For future case study reviews the council suggested to be divided into small groups to discuss analysis and then come together and present them to the council as a whole. It was also discussed that due to the nature of each case not all organizations would have material to present or services to offer every single time. The idea is to present cases with diverse needs and levels of urgency that will allow all organizations to highlight their services and areas of expertise, providing the council with a well-rounded overview of what each organization that makes up SNECAC does to be able to better and more successfully work towards the goals of SNECAC as a whole.

4. Local Advisory Council Examples

The council was presented with an overview summary of what other Local Advisory Councils are doing, identifying their goals, activities, and strategies. The council was asked to review the document and highlight any points that popped out at them and would like to explore/discuss in the meeting. The hope was to use these examples to help come up with or elaborate on ideas that will allow the council to move forward in designated areas as a whole.

The council agreed to move forward with a new focus area to concentrate on this year. The focus area selected is to come up with concrete ways to get principals, directors, and admins to understand the true importance and impact early childhood education has on the development of a child. The council will try to narrow the gap between the Pre-K-2 and K-8 licensure, highlighting the level of importance or lack of preparation there is in Pre-K classrooms, teachers, and settings.

The council liked the idea of “learning parties” (parties used to highlight a specific theme or topic that involves established curriculum, materials, and activities provided by the organization hosting the party, with the goal to engage, bring awareness, and promoting the specific theme/topic thereby increasing action to move forward) that other local advisory councils use. Other ideas were organizing a luncheon for principals, and/or field trips to child care, day care, or preschool centers that will allow them to identify the problem areas. Danielle from the Library District suggested Downtown Achieves as a good group to pilot as they already have a relationship with a group of principals that have an open mind and are interested in working together. SNECAC’s goal would be to get this core group of principals, to speak to them about combining theory with practice, allowing them and prepping them to speak peer to peer on the topic.

5. Strong Start for Nevada’s Children Update

- **Story Time**
 - The Southern Nevada Strong Start Story Times have been successful. The parents and children at F2F have enjoyed it.

- Amanda, Mirzah, and Shelby met with Joe Stoner to talk about collaborating with the library for story time. Joe was able to refer Erin at Whitney Library as a point of contact.
- Shelby and Mirzah met with Erin and were able to sit in for Story Time. A collaboration with the Whitney Library is still in talks, a meeting to attend their Family Storytime has been schedule.
- **Little Libraries**
 - Home Depot Henderson and Lowes have donate
 - Materials
 - Tools
 - Donation of books is still being worked on
 - Little Libraries Build Day is Wednesday **March 30, 2016**
 - At the Boys & Girls club 2850 Lindell Road Las Vegas, NV 89146
 - 10 cases in total will be built
 - About 30-60 kids expected to help build
 - Libraries will be placed in businesses that are not necessarily children friendly but that children do visit. A few places that are being looked at:
 - Veterans Office
 - DMV Offices
 - WIC Offices

6. Open for Other Comments/Ideas...

- Lillie Englund will be tabling at the Family to Family Touch-A-Truck event at The Orleans Casino on Saturday, April 2, 2016. If you have any materials about your organization and/or services you provide that you would like to give to Lillie to pass out at this event please drop it off by Friday April 1st at any of the 3 locations below:
 - Children's Advocacy Alliance office - 5258 S. Eastern Ave. #151 Las Vegas, NV 89119
 - Children's Cabinet - 2470 N. Decatur Boulevard, Ste. 130 Las Vegas, NV 89108
 - Windmill Library - 7060 W Windmill Ln, Las Vegas, NV 89113
- Danielle Holmes from The Children's Cabinet presented the flyer for their C.H.E.R.I.S.H. Program (Children's Health & Education Reinforced in Supportive Homes) which is the partnership between the State of Nevada, Department of Education, and The Children's Cabinet to provide comprehensive wraparound services to families of preschool students. For more information you can contact Program Coordinator Kyjana Small at 702-335-2908.
- Susan Taylor from All 4 Kids announced and provided flyers for their upcoming summer classes at the Cambridge Community Center from May 16-Aug 11, 2016.
- Mirzah Trejo from NICRP announced that April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month and provided flyers for the upcoming Pinwheel events for Prevent Child Abuse Nevada in April.
 - April 8th kicks off the month with GO BLUE Day. Wear blue to show your support, take a picture, and share it on your social media using #GOBLUENV
 - April 9th Pinwheels for Prevention Free Community Event at Town Square Las Vegas
 - April 29th Las Vegas 51's Game PCA NV Night
 - April 30th Pinwheels for Prevention Free Community Event at Downtown Container Park

All events flyers have been posted on the Nevada Events Calendar and are attached.

2016 Meetings Dates

May 25, 2016

June 22, 2016

August 24, 2016

October 26, 2016

**Thanks to Mirzah for Dessert!!!
Any volunteers for May?**