

Southern Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

Minutes from May 25, 2016

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New Attendees			
Cindy Johnson	QRIS - NDE	cdjohnson@doe.nv.gov	YES
Candice Grayman	ITCN - CCDF	Cgrayman.itcn@sdi.net	YES

1. Welcome & Introductions

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

2. Discuss Website

Members were asked various questions regarding the SNECAC website; Do they visit the site? How often? Is it really being used? Should it be taken down or be redirected somewhere where it would be easier to manage?

Talked about the community calendar found on the website, which was something the council requested about 3-4 years ago. The idea was to have a place where all events were listed, but it is not clear if the calendar is being used or if members remember to look at it. Amanda offered to run some analytics to review if the website is being visited. It was decided that the council, as a whole, will review the website at the next meeting to determine how to move forward with it.

3. Presentations: Vegas PBS and QRIS

Vegas PBS

Jessica Russell from Vegas PBS presented on the variety of programs offered by Vegas PBS both on air and in the community. Jessica highlighted that in Las Vegas 70% of households with children ages 2-11 watch daytime Vegas PBS. PBS is a safe place for children to view, all of their programs are researched based, curriculum driven, and therefore, they know that learning is occurring by watching television.

Ready to Learn Education Outreach Program: One of the biggest things they do each year in the community is their family engagement workshops. Last school year, 2015, they did nearly 1090 family engagement workshops multisession activities for afterschool programs that use their PBS programs. These are one hour long workshops where they have the families, adults and children, learning together. They also have afterschool programs for children K-5 moving through different curriculum. Every time they go out and do a family engagement workshop they distribute a brand new look. Last year they distributed about 70,000 books to students all throughout Southern Nevada. During the meeting, Jessica sampled the learning triangle exercise with the council. The learning triangle is 3 things that parents or caregivers can do at home to help their kids grow by using educational television.



All of their programs are based on the needs of the whole child; cognitive, emotional, social, physical. They make television viewing interactive; they do not want television to be a babysitter. For instance, television can be used a lot like a book with the ability to pause and ask questions which give a deeper meaning to the content. In the workshop they watch a snippet of

television, and then read a book that correlates and emphasis the topic. Then the parents get to take the book home, since they have seen how to read the book with their children, and the children have already been exposed to the book, the next reading at home should be more interactive. The workshop concludes with a hands-on activity.

Ready to Learn will be having 3 different workshops this summer. Schedule is attached.

1. Math Activities with Peg + Cat (Ages Pre K & K)
2. Martha Speaks Vocabulary – Building Workshops (Grades K-3)
3. STEM Activities with ODD Squad (Ages 5-8)

PBS Transmedia Approach: Vegas PBS has many apps and games to increase access to learning. The PBS Kids mobile learning program offers many free downloading options. They do a lot of events where they have set up stations where families can experiment with the apps and games. Just as they encourage families to co-viewing, they also encouraged them to co-playing. A lot of families don't always know how to help their children but they have shared that just by playing these games together and talking about what they are experiencing they feel like their child's teacher. PBS really likes to emphasis at these events that television, games, and apps are not babysitters but all things to complement learning at home.

Jessica also talked about their PBS KIDS Writers Contest for K-5 students. Their KIDS Writers Contest runs from January through April and is designed to promote advancement of children's literacy skills through hands-on, active learning. The winners of the contest get to visit the PBS TV studios and are recognized for their hard work.

If you would like more information regarding any of the PBS programs you can visit their website at: <http://www.vegaspbs.org/home/>

For those of you interested in contacting Jessica, you can do so by emailing her at: jrusnell@vegaspbs.org

QRIS Overview

Cindy Johnson from the Nevada Department of Education presented on the Nevada Silver State Stars QRIS. QRIS stands for Quality Rating & Improvement Systems.

A major purpose of QRIS, as described by a quote in Cindy's presentation by Anne Mitchell, "...is to recognize quality and promote a culture of continuous improvement among providers. The rating is not a destination; it is a set of benchmarks along a pathway of ongoing improvement." Cindy highlighted that they place a lot of emphasis on the "I" (Improvement), it is not about the end but about the pathway to quality.

A view at the national level; QRIS came about because of the Childcare Development Funds, funds that pay child subsidies. Using part of those funds they have to do a state plan and report to the feds how the money they are giving is helping improve the quality of care in the state. All states have to report. In response to that, if programs and projects are being funded for quality improvements they have to make sure those programs are actually improving quality.

Nevada is still in the 2-4 year block, still babies in the system. In 2008, QRIS started the Center based model, and expanded to Family Child Care in 2014 and finally the School District in 2015. The school district model is currently being implemented primarily for Pre K programs that received the Nevada Ready Pre K Development Grant Funding. In 2017 it is expected that they will add a Tribal Model that will account for the different standards put forth by the tribe. The Tribal Council is updating their health and safety model; therefore there is no place to start until those are done.

Start Level Definitions: The Nevada System has 5 different levels of quality. Once an application is submitted, one of the following ratings will be assigned. After a star has been assigned, programs can receive coaching to help continue to make improvements at their facility.

- **5 Stars** – Highest Quality (far exceeds high quality)

- **4 Stars** – Quality Plus (exceeds high quality standards)
- **3 Stars** – Quality (meets high quality standards)
- **2 Stars** – Progressing Star (approaching high quality standards) – Above licensing standards, where many programs are
- **1 Star** – Rising Star (committed to quality improvement) – Participating, but not yet rated. Rating is an 18 month process
- **NO RATING** – program has chosen not to participate in QRIS. This indicates that prior to submitting an application; the program is either on a wait list or is participating in a coaching model to work on improving the quality in their center.

For more information and if you are interested in learning more about QRIS visit their website:

<http://www.nvsilverstatestars.org/> Please note that this website also has an interactive map to find childcare programs. It is a great resource.

4. SNECAC Initiative

The council discussed and reviewed the new SNECAC Initiative and ways to move forward. Based on the decision made in March's meeting, the council will move forward with organizing, preparing, and hosting Learning Parties. These parties are 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. The idea of our learning party is to get principals, directors, and admins to understand the true importance and impact early childhood education has on the development of a child. With these Learning Parties the council is hoping to be able 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.

It was decided that a subcommittee will be formed to focus on the content and the organizing aspects of the parties. The council was asked to think about committing to 1 party over the next 9 months and to about 2 hours of their time for those that are interested in joining the subcommittee.

The following members expressed their interest in forming the learning party subcommittee during the meeting:

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| • Amanda Haboush-Deloye | • Angela Rose |
| • Shelby Hernandez | • Mirzah Trejo |
| • Ron Barakat | |

The goal is to have 1 meeting before the next SNECAC meeting in June and be able to relay any updates to the council, as a whole. Amanda mentioned that the subcommittee may be able to pilot the Learning Party at one of the SNECAC meetings.

The council discussed the idea of having these Learning Parties for CU credits in order to ensure attendance. The CU credits require a 3 hour training to be approved. If the Learning Party does not meet the time requirement, the idea of combing the party with another one of our approved training was discussed. Nicole Sailors will help us with finding out if we would be able to host one of these parties with them.

5. Mini Case Study Review

Due to the lack of time, the members of SNECAC in attendance decided to post pone the case study review until the next meeting in June. Case study 2: provided by Margarita DeSantos from SNHD:

With the object being to discover possible resources available through SNECAC members here's a collective impact mock scenario for members to consider: Stella is a 39 year old post-partum woman with a history of smoking, possible signs of depression, and gestational diabetes from her recent pregnancy. She is a single mother of 5 children; her youngest is a 1 month old baby boy. Stella's son was born with Ventricular Septal Defect (VSD); he will possibly undergo surgery at 6 months. Stella is on maternity leave from work but concerned about returning to work due to her

child's medical condition. No one feels comfortable taking care of him. She is also, struggling financially to pay rent and household utilities. **How can your organization/agency help?**

6. Step Up for Kids Update

Step Up for Kids update; council was informed that there will be a planning subcommittee assigned to the event. The council will be notified when the subcommittee will be formed so that those who are interested in joining can. Council was also informed about the survey monkey application that will be sent out soon for those who are interested in signing up as vendors, co-supporters, and/or volunteers. Save the Date flyers will soon be sent out and the council will be asked to please share and promote the event.

7. State ECAC Update

Patti Oya gave a quick review of what was discussed in April's State ECAC's meeting. She discussed Read by Three and the assessment process the State Board of Education is working on. They are moving forward with the Brigands as the state Kindergarten Entry Assessment, making it clear that the kindergarten entry is just a screener for kids in kindergarten; it is not a way to hold them back. Kindergarten entry is done just to get a baseline of where the kids are when they are coming into the schools so that they can get the help they need if they are behind. Because Brigands is from birth to 1st grade they are going to start requiring it in the State Pre K, Pre K Development Grant, and moving towards adding it to QRIS so across the board they will have pre & post Brigands data from childcare through kindergarten that will provide solid data aligning with the rest of the K-12 system.

If you are interested in more information regarding the State ECAC April's meeting please refer to the minutes attached or visit their website: <http://nvecac.com/meeting-information/>

The next State ECAC meeting will be a 2 day, in person meeting on June 13th & 14th at Nevada H.A.N.D. The agenda and handouts are available at their website at: <http://nvecac.com/meeting-information/>

8. Open for Other Comments/Ideas...

- Patti Oya from the Office of Early Learning and Development announced and passed out Save the Date flyers for the SNAEYC dinner, Celebrating Professionalism ECE Awards Summer 2016, on Friday, July 15th from 7-9 pm at Three Squares 4190 N Pecos Rd Las Vegas, NV 89115 to celebrate field professionals.
- Office of Early Learning and Development is also having an Infant Toddler Planning Meeting in Southern Nevada on Monday, June 27th from 9-4 pm at the Tuscany Hotel & Casino 225 E Flamingo Rd, Las Vegas NV and in Northern Nevada on Tuesday, June 28th from 9-4 pm at Hyatt Place 1790 E Plumb Ln, Reno. Please RSVP to Patti Oya at: poya@doe.nv.gov by 5 pm on Friday June 17th. Lunch will be provided by Lakeshore Learning.
- Susan Taylor announced that All 4 Kids will be having their Healthy Kids Event on September 24th
- It was announced that Joe Stoner from the Library District was leaving as his wife took a job offer in California. It was not clear as to what day exactly is Joe's last day.

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

2016 Meetings Dates

June 22, 2016

August 24, 2016

October 26, 2016

Thanks to Tawanda for Dessert!!!

Any volunteers for June?

If anyone is interested, please email Mirzah at: mirzah.trejo@unlv.edu