

Southern Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

Minutes from June 22, 2016

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New Attendees			
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1. Welcome & Introductions

Meeting began with welcome greeting. Members gave brief introductions of themselves and their agency/organization.

2. Discuss Website

There was a continued discussion of the SNECAC website to determine the purpose and usefulness of the website. Many of those present still did not have a chance to visit the website and a few were unaware it existed. For those who reviewed the website, they indicated it was helpful.

In order to make a more informed decision on what to do with the website, members were asked to review the website with special attention to the following areas before the August meeting:

- The events calendar
- The council information section
 - Looking over their listed organization and verify members listed to make sure the information is correct

3. Mini Case Study Review

The members of SNECAC in attendance reviewed the following case study during the meeting and notes regarding the discussion are presented.

With the objective 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.

- **Nevada Early Intervention Services (NEIS)**, Erica Magana and Lori Ann
 - Agency handles children 0-3 years old with development disabilities or delays
 - Per VSD, baby is automatically eligible and referred to NEIS upon hospital discharge
 - Case is open for the baby and can remain open until age 3
 - Case is headed by a service coordinator and a developmental specialist (Including: nutritionist, physical therapist, and an occupational therapist that can make 1hr home visits a couple of times a month to prevent the baby from regressing after surgery)

- Refer to other agencies that can provide financial support or subsidies
- **Office of Early Learning and Development**, Ron Barakat
 - Help the family find child care at a site that is able to support child with VSD, including family home care that service children with special needs in a family home setting
 - Guide the family in navigating the QRIS website, <http://www.nvsilverstatestars.org>, to find a suitable program in Nevada
- **Southern Nevada Health District**, Margarita DeSantos
 - Enroll case under Healthy Start program
 - Perform developmental screenings to identify any delays in baby due to VSD
 - Go over diagnosis, surgery details, appropriate development pertaining to the different stages and how to identify possible delays
 - Screen the mother and refer to a partnering agency that deals with depression in women
 - Provide transportation through bus vouchers for the mother to get her to appointments
 - Assist with keeping post-partum checkups
 - Provide nutritional education, general diet and fitness, and prevention of diabetes, due to higher risk with previous gestational diabetes diagnosis
 - Returning to work assistance, education, refer to eligible resources per child's medical condition, and review support system
 - Refer to other agencies in the community to assist with: affordable housing, utilities, basic budgeting to prioritize bills, and working on a reproductive plan that will highlight implications of having another pregnancy while in current circumstances
- **Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada**, Cruz Bohnsack
 - If the baby is of native descent, they can reimburse childcare as long as the mother is working or going to school
- **Las Vegas Urban League**, Mike Maxwell
 - Provide rental and utility assistance
 - Determine eligibility for and make referral to WIC
- **Acelero Head Start**, Laura Brown
 - If other children are between the ages of 3-5, they can assign a family advocate to walk the mother through the different resources in the community
- **Hopelink**, Alice Rodriguez
 - Their family resource center mainly provide services for those in Henderson or Boulder City
 - Depending on location of residence, they can provide rental and utility assistance and refer to other resources
 - In specific cases they can place families in their transitional housing program, qualifying the more severe cases for up to a year of assistance
- **Sunrise Children's Foundation**, Tomomi Murakami
 - Childcare assistance for children 0-3 years of age, referring to Acelero for continued assistance after the age of 3
 - Assign family advocates to help the mother locate financial resources within the community

Summary Recommendation:

Based on the responses the council provided, it was agreed that NEIS would be the primary resource for the family because they will be notified by the hospital upon the baby's discharge due to his VSD. Once the case is reviewed and initiated at NEIS, referrals and communication to other organizations/agencies can be established to work as a team to provide improved and well-rounded services to the family without having the mother go from place to place trying to locate services and/or miss potential

opportunities available to her at such a critical time in her life. The council did a great job identifying different levels of assistance and prioritizing the family's needs.

Please review Case 3 which will be reviewed during the August meeting. Case study 3 is attached for review.

4. SNECAC Initiative: Learning Party

In the last meeting, members selected a Learning Party as the SNECAC Initiative. A subcommittee of 6 members was formed to outline the party. The subcommittee met in June and created the following outline regarding the learning party content.

Learning Party Outline (length 30 minutes to 60 minutes):

1. Into – Strong Start Overview, including ECE benefits and access in Nevada
2. How Standards Connect – Linking Early Learning Standards
3. Demonstrations/Activities – providing hands on aspect to those in attendance of what and how children learn and develop

SNECAC member discussion of Learning Party:

- Time length and credit approval
 - The party is intended to be 30 to 90 minutes depending on the audience.
 - It was suggested that this party receive approval for continuing education units. Mike Barton at CCSD's Instructional Unit is the contact for CU credit approval. In order to qualify, the party needs to be 3 hours for approval of 1 credit.
- Learning Party Content
 - The brain science behind ECE- ensuring that the individuals understand the importance and it becomes common knowledge
 - Math Standards and Activities (packet passed out) was used as an example of how an activity could demonstrate how preschool relates to kindergarten readiness and how it supports/links to the Nevada Academic Content Standards in Mathematics
 - Focus on a broader concept
 - Not just incorporating learning activities but explaining and demonstrating
 - Asking - What is the best practice in general?
 - What does a Pre-K classroom look like?
 - Feel like?
 - Sound like?
 - Emphasizing on critical pieces that are missing
- The goal
 - Get them thinking!
 - What should "we" be saying when talking to 3 year olds?
 - When walking into a Pre-K teacher's classroom, why should you be applauding instead of discouraging play
 - Highlighting these concepts can really help create an understanding of the general theory
 - Ideally, pushing Pre-K up to 3rd not 3rd grade down to Pre-K

The council had very positive feedback and all agreed on the Learning Party content. A copy of the Learning Party outline and the Standards and Activity packet are attached.

5. Step Up for Kids Update – Step Up for Kids 2016 Event planning has begun!

Step Up for Kids will be on September 26 at Springs Preserve from 3pm to 7pm. Save the date flyers are currently available on the website: nic.unlv.edu/stepup. Also, an involvement survey is currently available so if an organization would like to table at the event, please have them sign up as soon as possible.

We are currently looking for a subcommittee of SNECAC to plan the event. If you are interested in being involved please email Mirzah at mirzah.trejo@unlv.edu and she will connect with interested persons.

During the meeting, members were asked if they had any ideas to make the event a success. Ideas were as follow:

Entertainment or Media:

- Boy Scouts and Dance Reflections have expressed their interest in participating at this year's event
- Kevin Janison will be invited back to broadcast the weather live from the event
- Contact information for Univision and Fox in hopes of some kind of partnership will be provided
- VIDA music program will be invited again to provide music and dance
- Las Vegas 51s Cosmo, McGruff the Crime Dog, and Deputy Drip will be invited again to make an appearance
- PBS has characters that they may agree to make an appearance

Marketing and Promotion:

- Try to get The Linq High Roller, Las Vegas Welcome sign, Freemont Street, and any other Casino Marquee to light up a certain color the day of the event
 - Step Up or Children's Day does not have a specific color assigned. Talks of possibly selecting a color.
- Contacts to radio stations, local TV stations/shows, the Morning Blend, etc.

Raffle Prizes:

- Lakeshore will be contacted again for any prizes they can donate
- Las Vegas 51s will be contacted and asked if they can donate a gift bag again

Other Donation Ideas:

- Casinos donate water and prizes to organizations through their Community Outreach Department especially if we mention that their logo will be advertised

6. State ECAC Update

A quick recap of June's 2-day State ECAC's meeting was provided. A new strategic plan was discussed as the current plan ends in 2017. There will be a move to 3 subcommittees:

1. Early Learning
2. Health and Community
3. Professional Development

Further discussion of this will occur at the next meeting. The council's focus is making sure that services are not being duplicated in order to be able to work more together.

- As of June 30th there will be an empty Higher Education seat. Dr. Catherine Lyons will be retiring. SNECAC members were encouraged to promote this with any contact they may know that would be interested in applying. All interested parties are to contact Tammie at tammiewilliams@doe.nv.gov. There is currently one application submitted.
- If you are interested in the State ECAC meeting information, agendas, and minutes please refer to their website: <http://nvecac.com/meeting-information/>
- The next State ECAC meeting will be August 2nd at 9:00 am, location is yet to be determine

7. Open for Other Comments/Ideas...

Announcements:

- Cruz Bohnsack from Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada Inc. announced that she will be leaving July 8th and that Diane Crocci has left their department.
- Erica A. Magana from Nevada Early Intervention also announced that she is leaving and that this was her last SNECAC meeting. Lori Ann Malina will be taking her place.

Event/Training Information:

- Dianne Farkas from Family to Family announced that they have created monthly meetings that incorporate Kinder Standards. Lillie Englund facilitates the meetings that provide professional

development and websites. If anyone is interested in attending these meetings they meet at Family to Family Cascade Valley location every 3rd Thursday at 2:00 pm for 1 hr.

- Tawanda McIntosh announced her Love and Logic classes she will be teaching over the summer. Tawanda will send list of dates and times when she returns to her office and they will be included in the minutes email.
- Ron Barakat announced that their QRIS training schedule is posted. Visit the Nevada Department of Education's Facebook page for more information.
- Alice Rodriguez from Hopelink of Southern Nevada provided a flyer for their Henderson Back to School Celebration on Saturday, August 20th at Valley View Recreation Center from 9-12pm. The flyer is attached.
- Shelby announced the new Strong Start for Children Parent Training available both in English and Spanish, *Learning for Your Little One Workshop*. This training for parents covers the importance of early learning for 0-5 year olds and provides parents with tools and resources on how to engage a child in cognitive, social emotional, math and science, and literacy areas of learning. A baggy with materials to be able to do an activity for each of the four areas will be given to the parents to take home. If you would like to book this or any other training, please contact Shelby at: shelby.henderson@caanv.org

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

2016 Meetings Dates

August 24, 2016

October 26, 2016

Thanks to Margarita DeSantos for Dessert!!!

Thanks to Arelia Denby for volunteering to bring dessert to our next meeting!!