

*Southern Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council*

**Minutes from March 22, 2017**

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## 1. Welcome & Introductions

Meeting began with welcome greeting. Members gave brief introductions of themselves and their agency/organization, including the community groups/coalitions they are involved in.

## 2. UNLV Child and Family Policy Consortium Introduction and Discussion

Claire Tredwell, Director of the UNLV/CSN Preschool, reviewed the mission of the Child and Family Policy Consortium, which started at UNLV a year and a half ago. The goal of the consortium was to bring everyone, at the university, who did some type of research around children's issue to collaborate and work together. And to do outreach and work with the communities to see what research/evaluations are needed, how to partner, how to bring in funding so it goes into the community, and do evidence base work.

The consortium developed a starting point and looked at what are some of the questions and ways we can collaborate as entities that are looking at child and family issues across the state, where data is needed to promote any kind of policies that are coming into effect. Claire presented some of the questions made to the community:

- What issue is most pressing for you and your organization?
- What data collection would be needed to support your question?
- How does your question apply to relevant policies in place?
- Who are the partners needed to produce a quality study?
- What is your timeline?

Claire also discussed potential research interest areas the consortium has with departments/schools at UNLV. Mission, questions, and listed are attached. The main goal of the consortium is to build a collaborate unit so we can support anything going on with early childhood in the state, what is needed, and who are the people we need to connect at UNLV.

Breanna Garcia from the Department of Psychology at UNLV presented on behalf of Dr. Andrew J. Freeman who is the Director of the D.I.M.E. (Development of Irritability, Mood and Emotions) Lab at UNLV. The D.I.M.E. Lab bases its work on the principles of evidence-based medicine and developmental psychopathology and conduct high quality research that is both clinically and theoretically helpful for children, adolescents and young adults with mood disorders (Bipolar disorder, Depression, and Disruptive Mood Dysregulation Disorder). Breanna briefly discussed their recent work with a new treatment for mood spurs in children that has to do with sleep cycles and the amount of blue light in their environment.

The D.I.M.E. Lab is actively seeking local community partners to analyze the utility of different screening and assessment techniques for mood and disruptive behavior disorders. Families and clinicians deserve evidence-based tools that help diagnoses be more accurate so that effective treatment is provided as soon as possible. If you are interested in more information please contact Dr. Andrew J. Freeman at 702-895-5062 or [andrew.freeman@unlv.edu](mailto:andrew.freeman@unlv.edu). Business card attached.

Breanna also presented on behalf of Dr. Jennifer Rennels who is the Director of the Baby and Child Rebel Lab at UNLV. The lab conducts research to understand how infants and children learn about people in their social world. Some of the studies examine how infants' experience with faces affects their preferences and recognition of certain faces. Others examine how infants categorize faces based on social cues, such as gender, or physical attributes, such as attractiveness. If you are interested in more information please contact Dr. Jennifer Rennels at 702-895-0648 or [jennifer.rennels@unlv.edu](mailto:jennifer.rennels@unlv.edu). Business card attached.

Lastly, Breanna presented on behalf of Dr. Erin Hannon who is an Associate Professor of Psychology and the Director of the UNLV Music Lab. The Lab examines how human knowledge of music is shaped by the innate structure of the auditory system, by culture-specific listening experiences, participation in musical activities (such as dancing and singing), and by the knowledge simultaneously acquire in other domains such as language. By studying how infants, children, and adults respond to and understand music, they want to answer these fundamental questions about our musical nature. Their development topics are:

- Auditory Perception & Music Cognition
- Parallels Between Music and Language
- Intermodal Perception of Music
- Music and Social Preferences
- Cognitive Development

If you are interested in more information please contact Dr. Erin Hannon at [erin.hannon@unlv.edu](mailto:erin.hannon@unlv.edu). Business card attached.

### **3. SNECAC Initiative**

#### Learning Party Scheduling Update

- All of the learning party materials were finalized in October. We have not been able to schedule a Learning Party as of yet. We have been working with Mikaela Cunningham from The Children's Cabinet but there hasn't been much interest expressed.
- Members were asked if they know of a group that may be interested to let us know so we can reach out to them. A recruitment flyer exists for anyone wanting to schedule a learning party. Please contact Mirzah for the flyer.

#### 4. Strong Start for Nevada's Children Update

Shelby Henderson from Children's Advocacy Alliance provided a brief update:

- The City of Las Vegas Strong Start Academy will be opening in August 2017.
- Children's Week at the Legislature from March 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> had a great turn out with 40 families riding the bus from Las Vegas to Carson City.
  - Families were sponsored to travel from Las Vegas to Carson City and from Reno to Carson City to be able to experience and learn about the Legislative process, how to advocate, how to testify, how bills become laws, and to speak to their representatives.
  - Photos of Children's Week are available on Strong Start's social media
    - <https://www.instagram.com/strongstartnv/>
    - <https://twitter.com/strongstartnv>
    - <https://www.facebook.com/StrongStartNevada/>
- Strong Start's social media platform is growing.
  - Strong Start has a new YouTube Channel
    - Videos were made and uploaded to help people be more active
    - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPbfrwqIAAbIbwx0WC3W-Fg>
  - It is advocate oriented
  - Posting facts on Children's issues

#### 5. State ECAC Update

The last meeting was on 2/7/2017. A brief review was provided;

- ECAC is working on a statement for the Every Student Succeeds Act
- The strategic plan is being revised. ECAC does not want to rush anything. They are bringing on another consultant to assist with the revision.
- The next meeting is scheduled for April 4, 2017. For more information and meeting location visit their website at: <http://nvecac.com/meeting-information/>

#### 6. Mini Case Study Review

Members were reminded that we are still lacking case studies to be able to continue with our group analysis for 2017, which allows us to learn more about the services each of our agencies offer, permitting us to be more informed in providing resources to the community. Attendees were asked to consider if they want to continue with this work and, if so, to please submit cases for review to Amanda or Mirzah by the next meeting in May.

Due to a recent reoccurring question Mirzah Trejo, from NICRP, presented a case at the meeting. The members of SNECAC in attendance were asked to think about the case and come prepared to review at the next meeting in May. The case reads as followed:

***With the object being to discover possible resources available through SNECAC members here's a collective impact mock scenario for members to consider:*** Mom calls requesting information on health services. The parents nor the children have legal documentation. The family moved here from Mexico about 2 years ago. The oldest child is 5 years old and the youngest is 1 year old. Both children need medical evaluations and shots. The 5 year old needs a physical exam and shot records to be able to enroll in school and the 1 year old needs the scheduled vaccinations. Mom is concerned of not finding the assistance they need due to their legal status. She called SNHD to get information. She was told that the exam is \$20 and each shot is \$8. The mom is a stay at home mom and the dad is in between jobs and they are unable to afford the costs, especially for both children, at this time.

*The mom wants to know where she can call or go to request assistance in getting her children's medical needs provided. She is concerned about the questions they may ask due to their legal status. **How can your organization/agency help?***

## 7. Volunteer for dessert

Danielle Holmes with The Children's Cabinet volunteered to bring dessert to the next meeting.

## 8. Open for Other Comments/Ideas...

- Stacey Joyner from Nevada Department of Education, Office of Early Learning and Development presented information on the Nevada Ready! Birth-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade - Become a Pilot Site. There are 3 projects that are currently being worked on:
  - 1. Planning
  - 2. Framework – the idea is to pilot 3 sites across the state. Ideally, it will pilot one in the North, South, Rural, and Urban area.
  - 3. Development of Professional Development opportunities
  - All the data will be collected and used to make improvements. The goal is to ease the transition between B-5 and 4-3<sup>rd</sup>.
  - They are actively recruiting!
    - The application for the B-3<sup>rd</sup> pilot is a 2 year commitment.
    - It is NOT a grant!
    - Looking to recruit child care provider or preschool with strong partnerships.
  - For more information refer to the flyer attached.
- Julie Kasper from Clark County School District announced the State PreK Family Fun Fair being held Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am-1:00pm at the Yvonne Atkinson Gates CDC 951 N. Tonopah Dr. Las Vegas, NV 89106. The event is FREE and there will be FREE food and entertainment. Flyer is attached.
- Susan Taylor from All 4 Kids discussed the passing of AB152 that requires most licensed child care centers to provide a program of physical activity for the age of the child. She announced that they are working with directors from child care centers and preschool in Clark County to help them meet the requirements of the new Bill. Flyer is attached, providing further information on how to get help to adapt to the requirements and how to set up a date to have a representative to visit.
- Shelby Henderson from Children's Advocacy Alliance announced that on Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup> they will be hosting a press conference in Carson City and Las Vegas to respond to the House vote of the American Health Care Act (AHCA). For more information please visit their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1287522017983985/>
- Makenzie Pomi from The Children's Cabinet discussed about their program Connecting Kids to Coverage that helps Nevada's uninsured families access healthcare and support services by providing application assistance and connecting families to community resources such as, Medicaid, Nevada Checkup (CHIP), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and Women Infants and Children (WIC). Flyer is attached.
- Amanda Brown from the Southern Nevada Health District announced their FREE event - Baby Bash Immunizations and Health Fair on Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup> from 12:00pm-4:30pm at the Southern Nevada Health District 280 S. Decatur Blvd. Las Vegas, NV 89107. Flyer is attached.
- Cheryl Westfall from College of Southern Nevada shared information on a training she is currently taking from ZERO TO THREE called Critical Competencies for Infant-Toddler Educators that details the essential skills educators need to optimize the social-emotional, cognitive, and language and literacy development of all infants and toddlers. The material is available for digital download for \$25.00. The link to the download will be provided in the "My Downloads" tab at [my.zerotothree.org](http://my.zerotothree.org).
- Amanda Haboush-Deloye from Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy announced that April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month! Help Prevent Child Abuse Nevada Kick-Off Child Abuse Prevention Month on National GO BLUE! Day Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup> by wearing blue and posting to social media with #GoBlueNV. Prevent Child Abuse Nevada will be hosting the following events in both Northern and Southern Nevada in April:
  - STATEWIDE EVENT- Go BLUE Day! Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, All Day. Flyer is attached.
  - STATEWIDE EVENT- Go BLUE Weekend - Faith Based Communities April 7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup>, All Day. Flyer is attached.

- CARSON CITY- Pinwheel Planting Ceremony on the Legislative Lawn - OPEN TO THE PUBLIC Friday, April 7th, 12:00pm-1:00pm.
- LAS VEGAS- 2017 Pinwheels for Prevention at Galleria at Sunset - OPEN TO THE PUBLIC Saturday, April 8th, time: 10:00AM-2:00PM. Flyer is attached.
- LAS VEGAS- 2017 Pinwheels for Prevention 51's Game Night at Cashman Field - Tickets now available for \$10! Contact PCANV Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>. Flyer is attached.

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

**2017 Meetings Dates**

**May 24, June 28, August 23, October 25**

**Thanks to Mirna Mejia for bring dessert for this meeting and to Danielle Holmes for volunteering to bring Dessert in May!!!**