

**STATE OF NEVADA
GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

CHILD CARE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, June 25, 2025 – 2:00 p.m.

Location:

Nevada Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) Conference Room
1 State of Nevada Way, 4th floor
Las Vegas, NV 89119

Members Present

Susan Brager, Chair
Scott Black, Councilman
Irene Bustamante Adams
Sara Millett
Cheryl Olson
Kamalisha Green
Bharman Gulati
Marilyn Kirpatrick
Dr. Tiffany Tyler-Garner

Absent

Robert Benner

Others Present

Kim Cullen
George Gault
Elaine Rodriguez
Tiffany Vazquez
Brooke Yarborough

1. CALL TO ORDER – OPENING REMARKS

Chair Brager called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

2. ROLL CALL – CONFIRMATION OF A QUORUM

Tiffany Vazquez took roll call and confirmed the presence of a quorum.

3. VERIFICATION OF PUBLIC NOTICE POSTING

Tiffany Vazquez verified that the meeting had been publicly posted pursuant to Nevada Open Meeting Law, NRS 241.020.

4. FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT(S) NOTICE

There were none.

5. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION – Approval of August 14, 2024, minutes

Chair Brager called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes. It was moved by **Dr. Tiffany Tyler-Garner** and seconded by **Cheryl Olson**. The motion carried.

6. **DISCUSSION/INFORMATIONAL ONLY – A discussion led by Welfare about Children’s Support Services – Transition of Workload and Program Updates.**

Brooke Yarborough, Agency Manager for Child Care and Development Program under DWSS reported significant recent changes due to funding cuts following the end of ARPA dollars and COVID-related projects. The program had to reduce income eligibility thresholds drastically: intake evaluation income eligibility dropped from 85% to 41% of the state median income as of October 2024, with renewal eligibility set at 49%. This adjustment allows for a household income increase of up to 19% within 12 months while maintaining eligibility. Additionally, the copayment system was changed from a sliding scale based on income (0–7%) to a flat-rate system ranging from \$0 to \$150, also effective October 1st. These were identified as the most impactful recent changes to the program.

Dr. Tiffany Tyler-Garner wanted to know with the reduction from 85% of the area median income to 41% exactly how many households lost access to childcare.

Brooke Yarborough responded that the program is in a transition period. Previously, it served over 12,000 children, but due to limited federal funding and no state funds, the sustainable target caseload would be about 7,500.

Dr. Tiffany Tyler-Garner verified that nothing from the general fund was dedicated to the program. She also asked, with the mention of switching to a flat rate co-pay but then provided a range. What is the range based on?

Brooke Yarborough confirmed nothing from the general fund received. She reported that income thresholds for eligibility were aligned with other programs, with priority populations—such as NEON participants, homeless households, those involved with foster care or CPS, and SNAP E&T households—exempt from copayments. A major change involved transitioning provider payments and subsidy eligibility determinations to state management. Phase one, focused on Southern Nevada providers and eligibility, began in February, ending the contract with the Las Vegas Urban League on June 30th. Now, the state directly processes subsidy applications and pays providers. Phase two, targeting Northern Nevada, was planned to begin in June of the following year.

Dr. Tiffany Tyler-Garner inquired whether any efficiencies had been observed during the transition in the South, and similarly, if any gaps or issues had arisen.

Brooke Yarborough concluded by revealing that the state has taken over a large workload with only about a dozen staff, compared to over 70 previously at Las Vegas Urban League, causing some staffing challenges. Despite this, provider payments are now processed much faster (within 15 business days instead of 60 – 90). The transition has brought cost savings and improved efficiency, which may allow more children to be served beyond the current goal of 7,500. The team is actively supporting families and providers through regular communication and technical assistance during the transition.

Dr. Tiffany Tyler-Garner asked if there was an existing waitlist and whether a waitlist had existed prior to the transition.

Brooke Yarborough replied that they brought back the waitlist in April 2024 because ARPA and COVID related funding ended. Without that extra funding, they couldn't reduce the caseload to a sustainable level.

Dr. Tiffany Tyler-Garner clarified that the committee's role is to address unmet childcare needs and sought to understand the demand before and after the transition. Beyond the 12,000 currently served, how many more people need care to enable them to work but unable to access services due to limited system capacity?

Brooke Yarborough expressed that the number of kids that can be supported is far below the actual need. Even at the peak of 14,000 children during ARPA funding, many families still went without access to childcare. Today, the demand remains just as strong, but funding limits their capacity. They mainly families on TANF and SNAP benefits, which represent very low-income households. Unlike other programs that use the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) to determine eligibility, the child care program uses State Median Income, but the result is similar: they are still only reaching those well below 200% of the FPL. Their income thresholds don't even match the eligibility levels for Medicaid's lower categories.

Their funding comes from a fixed federal block grant. By law, 12% must go to quality improvements-3% for infant and toddler programs, and 9% for general quality improvements. Administrative and operational costs are separate. 75% of the block grant supports the subsidy program, which supports about 7,500 children. Far more children need care.

7. **DISCUSSION/INFORMATIONAL ONLY – Ways to prepare for the next legislative session on getting state funds for childcare.**

Chair Brager posed the question; how do we prepare for the next legislative session? One idea would be to secure additional state funds for child care. Her proposal involved organizing a statewide roundtable discussion with municipalities, including city and county representatives, to explore collaborative solutions. The idea was to frame child care as not just a state issue, but also a local one, requiring shared responsibility and advocacy. The roundtable would aim to identify actionable steps each entity could take, potentially informing future legislative efforts, including Assembly Bill 185.

Chair Brager called for ideas or thoughts from the group, asking if it would make sense to hold a roundtable with our cities and key department leaders to figure out how to work together and show lawmakers that Nevada isn't meeting the childcare needs of its children.

Councilman Scott Black offered to speak to Mayor Goines Brown and city officials in North Las Vegas about hosting a municipal-level childcare discussion. He noted the recent launch of North Star Academy, a childcare facility serving primarily first responders, which has been successful. The member planned to explore organizing a symposium or roundtable at North Las Vegas City Hall in the coming months to facilitate a regional conversation on childcare with relevant stakeholders.

Chair Brager expressed support for scheduling the proposed roundtable discussion after summer, possibly in October, to allow adequate planning for the next legislative session. They can reach out to herself or Tiffany Vaquez. She emphasized the importance of identifying key participants and speakers for the event. Concerns were raised about the lack of regulations regarding children being left home alone, highlighting the need for common-sense laws to

protect young children. It was agreed to add this topic to the agenda for the next meeting in August to further discuss planning and the next steps.

Councilman Scott Black confirmed that he would report back to the Chair after he has the conversation.

8. DISCUSSION/INFORMATIONAL ONLY – Assembly Bill 185 – Revises provisions relating to childcare.

AB 185 vetoed by the Governor 6/5/25.

Kamalisha Green recalled a program discussed the previous year aimed at supporting families, particularly mothers, in purchasing homes or condos to navigate licensing and HOA challenges related to childcare. She inquired whether this initiative was still active or impacted by a recent bill veto. It was confirmed that the program was a separate effort focused on assisting homeownership alongside the standard licensing process.

Chair Brager noted that Commissioner Kirkpatrick had been assisting with county-level efforts related to childcare and agreed to add this topic back to the agenda due to its importance. A roundtable discussion was seen as a way to address multiple related issues collectively.

9. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT(S)

There were none.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:37 p.m.