

Early Childhood Advisory Council Agenda

January 23, 2025

1:00-4:00 pm

To participate virtually

Virtual Meeting Link: <https://utah-gov.zoom.us/j/89903376109>

To participate in-person

Anchor Location: Multi Agency State Office Building (MASOB)
195 North 1950 West, Room 1020C, Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

Chair and Chair Elect: Encarni Gallardo, Heather Thomas

Time*	Topic	Presenter	Notes
1:00	1. Welcome 2. Approve October 24, 2024 Meeting Minutes	Encarni Gallardo	Motion to approve minutes by Wendy Byron. Second by Hailee Hernandez. Approved unanimously.

1:10	3. Office of Early Childhood Updates	Dakota Matherly	<p>Invitation to the Utah Association for Education of Young Children (UAEYC) Conference on March 14, 15 2025. https://uaeyc.org/utah-early-childhood-conf Panel by Office of Early Childhood, Office of Child Care, and Office of Licensing on the 14th. Funding request for BabyWatch Early Intervention being considered during this legislative session. ASQ ECIDS reports have been released. Everyone is invited to join user groups. https://ecids.utah.gov/ Reach out to Nate Call (Nathancall@utah.gov) for an invitation. Lauren Pierce will be ECU's new Medical Homes Program Specialist and working with the Health subcommittee PDG Planning grant application released late February. Question about becoming ECIDS user: application process approved by Governance committee. Apply through website.</p>
	4. PDG Updates	Mandi Mendenhall	<p>Website to be launched spring 2025, review to follow later in the program. Help Me Grow is developing relationships and continuing to use the Sparkler app. Data on slides regarding use of the Sparkler app. Pyramid Model and The Children's Center Utah Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health now in separate contracts, still same support for the Pyramid Model. Culturally responsive practice include partnership with the local health department for nutrition presentations including local ingredients like blue corn. Plans for summer STEM program with the school district. Care coordination is very busy and aligning data across the state.</p>
	5. Office of Child Care Updates	Heather Thomas	<p>Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity appropriation for Child care solutions and productivity plan, it has now been published.</p>

	Child Care Solutions and Workforce Productivity Plan		<p>Proposed budget includes 2.1 million dollar child tax credit increase to include infants under age 1. There may be a bill in the legislative session related to partnerships with vacant state-owned buildings being used for employer-sponsored child care. CCDF State Plan has been approved and appendix to address noncompliances has been submitted. Stabilization grant recipients are being surveyed. Currently reviewing results. Aggregate results will be made public.</p>
	<p>6. Utah State Board of Education Updates Utah's Toilet Training Practices Toolkit GatherRound Community of Practice LETRS EC Cohort</p>	Jared Lisonbee	<p>No McKinney-Vento updates. USBE has created a toolkit and is accepting comments on toilet training practices. GatherRound consulting is leading a community of practice for early childhood educators through May to support advanced advocacy training. Some funding for LETRS training about the science of reading if any early childhood educators might be interested in joining the cohort. Part B transition requirement. Question about why there were 4 counts of non-compliance. IEP not in place by 3rd birthday. Various reasons, but all have been addressed. Discussion around why the goal is 100 percent if the qualifications are not the same. Part B requirements are more stringent than Part C. Question regarding how many children referred to Part B are not eligible. Chelsea will follow up with this information.</p>
	<p>7. Presentation on Utah's Pyramid Model</p>	Sue Olsen	<p>Pyramid Model has been in existence for 45 years and has evolved to provide support for early-childhood workers. Newly available for children birth to 3. 44 Programs in Utah now using Pyramid Model and 26 of 29 counties have a program. Over 6,000 children are being supported in early intervention, home visiting, child care, Head Start, and school district preschool programs. Coaching is</p>

			<p>essential to pyramid model implementation. Training is not encouraged until coaching is available. Questions around waiting list and how long programs would wait. Currently they are unable to accept new programs until existing programs become independent of external coaches. Programs may be waiting until funding becomes available. Question about Pyramid Model app, if it is available to the public. It will be, and the link will be made available when updates are completed. Question about how to recognize a program that is implementing the Pyramid Model. They are encouraged to put it on their website, but not all are doing that.</p>
	<p>8. Presentation on Box Elder Early Childhood coalition</p>	Heather Crockett	<p>Current partners in coalition are basically all the programs that operate in Box Elder county. Started out focusing on literacy and trying to build little libraries. Survey showed that parents had books but weren't reading to their children because of lack of time. School district requested help with attendance. Preschools didn't track attendance regularly, but when they started, discovered that most families who pay for child care had regular attendance. Now focusing on preschool enrollment.</p>
	<p>9. Membership proposal and discussion Proposed Membership Update 12/30/24 ECU Administrative Rules 402-2</p>	Jennifer Floyd	<p>Thank you certificate for Jared Lisonbee, past chairperson. Alysse Loomis stepped down as higher education representative, will seek to fill from subcommittee membership. Conflict of interest forms will be sent out to voting members.</p> <p>Discussion of proposed rule change to add members. In the past, some wanted to reduce size of membership, but executive committee reviewed membership and purpose of council and suggested tactic of adding flexibility to membership rule. Rather</p>

	Ask for vote		<p>than adding many named positions, only adding member for Office of Child Care Licensing, and Teaching and Learning Specialist, and flexible members to be approved by Executive Committee.</p> <p>Question about Title V position including Children with Special Health Care Needs. Discussion around whether statute allows this rule to be made or if appointments must be made by executive director. Statute found here: https://le.utah.gov/xcode/Title26B/Chapter1/26B-1-S422.html</p> <p>Questions around the purpose of the council by statute. To engage with families and stakeholders and provide recommendations to agency directors. Questions about the annual report and how often it should be updated. Need to be intentional about who is approved and adding different perspectives to the advisory council. Aimee Winder Newton motioned to approve the rules changes. Jared Lisonbee seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.</p>
	5 minute break		
	10. New Early Childhood Website	Jennifer Floyd	<p>Demo of new Early Childhood Utah Website. Still in beta testing. Funded by PDG - Activity 3, linked with care coordination offered by Activity 6 funding. Not just resource and referrals but teams around the state working to help people find services they need if they can't find them by themselves. Translated into Spanish. Demo of search and results. Feedback on finding resources by names that people are expecting, difficulty of mapping services to zipcodes. Request for review and feedback following soft launch. Soft launch link to be shared with advisory council in February, marketing and hard launch in March.</p>

	<p>11. Subcommittee updates</p> <p>a. Early Care and Education Ask for vote on Kindergarten Transition Toolkit project proposal</p> <p>b. Data and Research</p>	<p>Kelly Noorda</p> <p>Jared Lisonbee</p>	<p>Proposal to advisory council will be taken back to subcommittee and executive for approval if approved here. Review of goals. Kindergarten readiness definitions and frameworks will involved multiple definitions joined together in a framework for acceptance by next advisory council in April. Ready to support when headed into next school year. Create a visual tool to be shared easily. Coaching competencies partnered with Sarah Denson at Weber State University. Have been revised, reviewed and comments. Working with the university to look at a website option to build a resource that would be an interactive space for educators to learn and have resources and use the competencies. Probably a 6-month project.</p> <p>Proposal to bring on the Kindergarten Transition Toolkit to create an outreach plan to roll out at the same time as the framework. Toolkit was piloted in South Salt Lake Mill Creek community, now time to share the toolkit out for use. Possible future projects to measure effectiveness of outreach and toolkit, gather data for improvements.</p> <p>Carrie Martinez motioned to approve the proposal for review by the subcommittee and executive committee. Elizabeth Van Sant-Webb seconded. Approved unanimously.</p> <p>Overarching goal based on the PDG needs assessment and strategic plan. Identifying what research questions will want to be used to make useful research and making sure that the data is</p>
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			<p>useful for research. Build on the strengths of existing data systems and infrastructure. Develop a focused coordination plan to help data become more standardized across the state. Build awareness by creating a data sharing presentation with the pros, cons, and how-tos of data sharing. Audience: agencies who are interested in sharing their data, parents to understand why data sharing is important. Focus on overcoming barriers and provide technical assistance to coordinate efforts.</p>
	c. Health and Access to Medical Homes	Janel Preston	Continuing work on increasing use of Medicaid. Reviewing videos that may be useful to help support users in application. Next steps are to understand more of the 1115 Waivers, presentation by the Medicaid office.
	d. Parent Engagement	Carrie Martinez-Wolf	New ECCS family lead, Muyly Miller is engaging with the individual parents in the subcommittee. Introduce Madeline Giles as new chair-elect. Offer from Janel Cerva to present at UCA parent advisory board meeting.
	e. Social-Emotional and Mental Health	Wendy Byron	Have provider survey questions ready for executive committee. Will present them to advisory council next time.
3:45	12. Public Comments & Information	Open	None.

4:00	13. Adjourn Next ECU Advisory Council Meeting: April 24, 2025 1-4 p.m. Request in-person attendance if possible.		Motion to adjourn by Elizabeth Van Sant-Webb. Second by Jared Lisonbee.
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**Times are approximate; meeting could conclude prior to 4:00 pm.*