

# Early Childhood Advisory Council Minutes

## January 22, 2026

### 1:00-4:00 pm

To participate virtually

Virtual Meeting Link:

<https://utah-gov.zoom.us/j/81091571456>

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: Heather Thomas, Sabrina Harman

| Time* | Topic   | Presenter      | Notes   |
|-------|---|----------------|---|
| 1:00  | 1. Welcome<br>2. October 23, 2025 Meeting Minutes | Heather Thomas | Motion to approve minutes Nate Call, Hailee Hernandez second. Approved unanimously. Crystal Knippers, Juone Kadiri abstain. |

|      |                                      |                             |   |
|------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| 1:10 | 3. Office of Early Childhood Updates | Jennifer Floyd substituting | <p>Preschool Development Grant notice of award received for a systems building grant for one year. Notice of Funding Opportunity received with 11 days notice, good preparation and teamwork and support of executive leadership. Application was submitted, waited until December 30, last day for award, received Notice of Award. About \$7 million in federal funds. Mandi will discuss more later. Working on getting all contracts in place.</p> <p>Utah legislative session, request for 5% budget cuts to all State Departments. DHHS has been carefully going through expenditures to think about where it would hurt the least to lose this funding. All public record and is on legislative website.</p> <p>Governor's budget was released, recommendations to legislature by governor. Funding details on slide. Home Visiting pilot project extended internally. Rural Health Transformation Grant must be approved by legislature to be spent, follow the website for more information.</p> <p>Continuing resolution ends January 30th, hoping that there will not be another shutdown.</p> <p>Bring HB88 to attention about proof of citizenship for anyone receiving social services.</p> |
| 1:40 | 4. Office of Child Care Updates      | Heather Thomas              | <p>New notice of rulemaking accepting public comment through February 4. 4 state requirements will no longer be required, but states are able to still do them: capping co-pays at 7%, paying subsidy services</p>  |

|  |             |  |  |
|--|-------------|--|--|
|  |             |  | <p>prospectively, paying subsidy by enrollment, all already practiced in Utah.</p> <p>CCDF Discretionary Funding in grant year 2025 new data went into the formula which reduced the grant by about 21.75 million dollars from previous year. 14-15% of CCDF grant. Funding will remain at same lower level for grant year 2026 if it remains level funded with continuing resolution. Talking with contractors and partners to see how they could reduce budgets. Discussing potential reductions, and will propose to advisory committee in March.</p> <p>Update to Child Care Quality System: notifying providers of change to rating system, able to apply in March to receive a rating. In July those ratings will be effective. More points for Ages and Stages Questionnaire and participation in Online system among other updates.</p> <p>All 30 conference sessions for 2025 Utah Preschool Conference are now available on the YouTube channel.</p> <p>Every Day Counts campaign to promote daily school attendance. Anyone is welcome to become an attendance ambassador. Resources are available.</p> <p>21st Century Community Learning Center Grants available for preschool and school-aged afterschool programs Request for Application will open in February. Nutrition program events on slide.</p> |
| 5. Utah State Board of Education Updates | Teresa Judd |  |  |

|  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
|  | <p>6. PDG Updates</p> <p>7. Membership update</p> | <p>Mandi Mendenhall</p> <p>Jennifer Floyd</p> | <p>Former grant 3 years ending December 30, 2025. 3 month no-cost extension for care coordination. That will also continue under the new 1 year grant. New work will include Pyramid Model, Sparkler app, and the Early Childhood Utah website, which had a recent facelift. Adding 4 new health departments to care coordination and new partnerships with preschool experiential learning.</p> <p>Reporting being completed for previous PDG grant, and will have a comprehensive report at the next meeting.</p> <p>Impact stories on slides.</p> <p>Welcome new members Juone Kadiri and Crystal Knippers.</p> <p>Vacancies: Medical provider, family engagement representative has retired, but we have an application and are accepting new applications.</p> <p>Parent representative: unable to provide stipends for a voting members of the advisory council either for their work in the council or the subcommittee. Due to this, parents who had participated in the past will no longer be participating in the advisory council. Will seek change to statute.</p> <p>Requirements for parent representative: parent with child under the age of 8, preferred someone who has had experience with some of the early childhood programming, someone who is willing to make the commitment. Applications can be emailed to Jennifer Floyd or apply online on</p> |
|--|---|---|---|

|                                       |                    |  |  |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|--|--|
|                                       |                    |  | <p>Boards and Commissions website. Willing to hear different perspectives if there's disagreement about paying a parent. May be parents who are able to volunteer, and expanded search may be necessary.</p> <p>Subcommittee has not met since November. Still working on Coaching Competencies, personnel has shifted. Started roll-out of Kindergarten Readiness Pathway at the Preschool Conference. Continuing to work on promotion and website design. Planning at next meeting for new goals.</p> <p>Finish up data sharing training document that will be a resource to the community. Topics that have been assigned and due dates for completion. Training on data for the Parent Engagement subcommittee.</p> <p>Medical home: support system from health provider. Bottom 10 states for children who are uninsured. Challenge is Medicaid application online can be very overwhelming. Review of MyCase application on slides. Prioritization of recommendations is next on the list.</p> <p>Feedback on how changes suggested would be beneficial for all 4 programs that use that application. Also remember that competing priorities limit capacity for changes to the application by</p> |
| 8. Subcommittee updates               |                    |  |  |
| a. Early Care and Education           | Meridith Karppinen |  |  |
| b. Data and Research                  | Nate Call          |  |  |
| c. Health and Access to Medical Homes | Lauren Pierce      |  |  |

|      |                                       |                |   |
|------|---------------------------------------|----------------|---|
|      | d. Parent Engagement                  | Jennifer Floyd | <p>Division of Technology Services. Positive that people can apply all on one application.</p> <p>Take Care Utah is a nonprofit organization that offers a free service that gives one-on-one help in application.</p>  |
|      | e. Social-Emotional and Mental Health | Tiffany Perry  | <p>So successful to have all the different subcommittees present to the parents: educates parents and professionals. Recent presentations listed on slide.</p> <p>Parent leadership training based on "Serving on Groups" curriculum developed by Family Voices began in January. Helping parents move from family engagement to parent leadership. It will be presented by professional members of the group monthly through July.</p> <p>Update from Alysse from University of Utah on survey. More responses than initially thought. Reviewed some initial data and will review more qualitative responses at next meeting to pull out themes.</p> |
| 3:45 | 9. Public Comments & Information      | Open           | None.   |
| 4:00 | 10. Adjourn                           |                | Move to adjourn by Stacy Swilling, Hailee Hernandez second, approved unanimously.   |



|  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
|  | Next ECU Advisory Council Meeting:<br>April 23, 2026 1-4 p.m.<br>Request in-person attendance if possible. |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|

*\*Times are approximate; meeting could conclude prior to 4:00 pm.*

DRAFT