

Early Childhood Advisory Council Agenda

April 23, 2026

1:00-4:00 pm

To participate virtually

Virtual Meeting Link:

<https://utah-gov.zoom.us/j/87471439228>

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 2. January 22, 2026 Meeting Minutes	Heather Thomas	Motion Hailee Hernandez, second Janel Preston, unanimous no abstentions

1:10	3. Office of Early Childhood Updates 4. PDG Updates	Jennifer Floyd	Recording 3:35: Dakota Matherly out on paternity leave. New baby girl was born April 4. Updates on slides: • New Home Visiting Model NEST. Nurse based home visiting program that allows for wider participation than Nurse Family Partnership. • New Year 3 contracts for MIECHV and Family Spirit begin July 1. • Baby Watch Early Intervention received \$2 million in ongoing funding from the legislative session. • Child Health Advanced Records Management (CHARM) program will be closing on June 30, 2026. We are investigating ways to make ASQ results available to providers and parents, but the office will still support the ASQ screening program and integration with ECIDS. Any data needs, please reach out to the original data sources. • HEAL program survey about breastfeeding information on slides. • All members are requested to fill out survey about Parent Engagement subcommittee. Link here: • Annual report is in progress.
1:40		Mandi Mendenhall Nate Call	Recording 13:23 See slides for updates. Recording 24:06 Change from contracted vendor to in-house development for Early Childhood Integrated Data Systems (ECIDS) website. This has been in the planning and implementation stages since early 2025, and development is approximately 60% complete with preliminary launch in

	5. Office of Child Care Updates	Lauren Pierce Heather Thomas	August 2026. Current version of ECIDS will remain available until launch of new system. Information on slides about current data availability in each system. Recording 26:55 See slides. HB 190 Employer tax credit added in legislative session. HB 290 non-refundable tax credit for \$1000 to children under 6 change to income phase out. HB379 Food preparation amendment, child cares exempted from food service establishment rules in certain situations. Requires Child Care Licensing and OCC to make regulations. SB12 Office of Child Care Advisory Council extended for another 3 years Education Savings Incentive: state funded \$300 match to my529 account for families experiencing IGP. After this year, this program will no longer be funded. Very low participation. CCDF reduced discretionary fund allocation. Office of Child Care budget update: Reduced federal discretionary budget by about \$21 million 2024-25, reducing the same this year. Draft proposal to reduce budget in areas that were unspent, returning to pre-COVID funding levels, trying to limit impact on families. Contracted partners also worked with OCC to adjust budgets as well. First budget reduction details available on public meetings website for Office of Child Care Advisory Council. Changes that impact families and providers will be phased in as families re-qualify for the program. One reduction is adjusting the number of application fees paid for the child by
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	6. Utah State Board of Education Updates	Teresa Judd	year, and reduction tp to 3 months for job search eligibility (as opposed to completion of 12 month eligibility) Child Care Quality System Framework revision. Simplified and provides more options and flexibility for child care programs. Will be live on July 1, 2026. Recording 43:51 USBE Training request portal for public or private programs. Training is provided at no cost. Links on slide, fill questionnaire out as best you can and team will follow up. PEEP is optional if it's not required for a grant program. Changes beginning in fall 2026. Revised to offer more developmentally appropriate learning styles for preschoolers. Giving the same assessment at beginning and end of school year to measure growth. Training is required to use the PEEP, more information about the trainings on slides. Child and Adult Care Food Program available
	7. Membership update Amy Garlick	Jennifer Floyd	Welcome Amy Garlick as new LEA representative, replacing the retiring Nannette Barnes. Still seeking a medical provider and parent representative. Applications are pending for parent representative.

	8. Subcommittee updates a. Early Care and Education b. Data and Research c. Health and Access to Medical Homes	Meridith Karppinen Nate Call Lauren Pierce	Recording 51:59 New goal is to refine the Utah Core Competencies for early education to reflect the advancements and best practices and newer licensing requirements. Vote to approve goal: Nate Call motioned, Staci Fuller second, approved unanimously. ECE mostly wrapped up Kindergarten Readiness definitions and framework, still working on finding home online for those and the Coaching competencies. Recording 55:39 Updates on slides. . Recording 58:53 Discussion about one-pager. These recommendations will not change Medicaid policy or the actual application, just add information to help families complete more accurately. Suggestion to add asterisks to show there are other recommendations, and to show this was created by the ECU Health subcommittee. Motion to approve one-pager with modifications discussed by Heather Thomas, second Nate Call. Approved unanimously.
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	d. Parent Engagement	Jennifer Floyd	Recording 1:09:02 Updates on slides. Reminder to complete the survey. Early takeaways include that parent perspective is very important to this group, and also that we aren't doing a great job communicating what the parent input is to the council, or how the council is using their input back to the parents. This is exciting because it shows us where to put our efforts.
	e. Social Emotional and Mental Health	Tiffany Perry	Recording 1:12:59 Updates on slides. Detailed information from provider survey on slides provided by Alysse Loomis. Currently deciding how to move forward with more work on suspension and expulsion that directly relates to early childhood or workforce mental health, or to pivot to a different topic.
3:45	9. Public Comments & Information	Open	No public comment
4:00	10. Adjourn Next ECU Advisory Council Meeting: June 25, 2026 1-4 p.m.		Motion to adjourn by Nate Call, second by Teresa Sanchez

	Request in-person attendance if possible.		
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**Times are approximate; meeting could conclude prior to 4:00 pm.*