



The Early Childhood Professional

A quarterly publication of the Nevada Association for the Education of Young Children
 Volume 1, Issue 2 February, 2007

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PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE: Setting Priorities in a Dynamic System of Systems

By Margot Chappel, VP of Public Policy

Many issues face the field of Early Care and Education today. Prioritizing those issues in order to focus efforts on improving our field is challenging at best. There's the staffing crisis. Then there is the new governor's budget revision; all-day kindergarten will not be funded statewide as originally planned. Should we advocate for full day kindergarten or more funding for public pre-kindergarten programs? How can we recruit high quality staff when our wages are low and benefits are rarely available? Once we have high quality staff, how do we keep them? How do we cultivate new leadership in the field? These questions, and others, keep NevAEYC board members, program administrators, and other Early Care and Education groups working diligently to advocate for improvements.

In 2006, the NevAEYC Board determined that addressing the early childhood workforce crisis by pursuing state funding to support a compensation initiative would be the agency's priority during the 2007 legislative session. Compensation initiatives are designed to supplement the salary of child care providers working in both family child care homes and early childhood centers with children ages birth to five. Currently, compensation supplements for the early childhood workforce are offered in 16 states. Supplement amounts vary from state to state and are based on education levels and length of time working in the field. While there are critics of this agenda, it is difficult to argue against the need to fill the gap between what parents can afford to pay for child care and a living wage for practitioners.

NevAEYC made the development of a compensation initiative a priority in order to build upon the success of existing provider support programs. Many providers in our state have been able to increase their higher education and Career Ladder levels through the Nevada Child Care Apprenticeship program and T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Nevada. In fact, during program year July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006, the turnover rate for T.E.A.C.H. program participants was 18%, compared to 45% statewide according to the Nevada Workforce Study (July 2002). Additionally, since 2002, 84 practitioners have graduated from the Apprenticeship program across Nevada. Both the Apprenticeship and T.E.A.C.H. programs build financial support for participants into their programs by requiring licensed facilities to provide bonuses or permanent raises to participating employees. In order to keep parent fees affordable, licensed facilities frequently cannot provide the bonuses or raises needed to provide living wages for their employees.

Although these existing programs affect turnover while participants are enrolled, it is difficult to measure their long term impact on turnover. The Nevada Registry is developing a mechanism to track the workforce over time, but it is a complex process requiring time and money to ensure accurate data collection.

If you believe a compensation initiative is vital to building a high quality Early Care and Education workforce, please join NevAEYC during our pre-conference Day at the Legislature on March 1st from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Participants will learn about the legislative process and advocacy, as well as important Early Care and Education issues. **BE PART OF THE COLLECTIVE VOICE FOR EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION!**

Celebrating the Week of the Young Child April 22 to 28, 2007



What is the Week of the Young Child?

The Week of the Young Child is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the world's largest early childhood education association, with nearly 100,000 members and a network of over 300 local, state, and regional Affiliates.

The purpose of the Week of the Young Child is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs.

NAEYC first established the Week of the Young Child in 1971, recognizing that the early childhood years (birth through age 8) lay the foundation for children's success in school and later life. The Week of the Young Child is a time to plan how we--as citizens of a community, of a state, and of a nation--will better meet the needs of all young children and their families.

Why focus on young children and early childhood programs?

Today we know more than ever before about the importance of children's earliest years in shaping their learning and development. Yet, never before have the needs of young children and their families been more pressing.

The Week of the Young Child is a time to recognize that children's opportunities are our responsibilities, and to recommit ourselves to ensuring that each and every child experiences the type of early environment--at home, at child care, at school, and in the community--that will promote their early learning.

Read NAEYC's, [*A Call to Excellence in Early Childhood Education*](#), which describes our vision for all children, all early childhood professionals, all families, and all communities.

For more information and resources for Week of the Young Child, visit the [NAEYC website!](#)



Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities

2007 NevAEYC Annual Conference!

Grand Sierra Resort
Reno, Nevada

Pre-Conference March 1st
Conference March 2nd and 3rd

- Choose from two pre-conference options:
 1. Dr. Maureen Conroy "Building Positive Pathways for Young Children with Significant Challenging Behavior"
 2. The NevAEYC Pre-Conference Day at the Legislature
- Learn from nationally known keynote speakers, Dr. Pam Schiller and Jose Luis Orozco.
- Attend workshops to satisfy all of your professional development needs.
- Tour NAEYC Accredited early childhood programs.
- **New!** Exhibitor's booths will be open for shopping during the Welcome Reception on Friday evening.
- **New!** Register online with your credit card.
- **New!** Lunch and snacks included each day.
- For more information go to: www.nevaeyc.org
- or call Peggy Pulver at (775) 321-5037

NevAEYC/UNCE Training Partnership

The University of Nevada Cooperative Extension (UNCE) and the Nevada Association for the Education of Young Children (NevAEYC) are teaming up to provide training opportunities for early care and education professionals throughout Nevada. UNCE has been providing training for many, many years but this will be the first time NevAEYC will partner with UNCE to support their training efforts.

NevAEYC is looking for qualified individuals who may be interested in becoming a workshop facilitator for their local communities. Facilitating a workshop will be a service opportunity for you to get out and meet child care center providers.

There will be an official application process to qualify you as a trainer and once accepted you will need to attend a "train the trainer" workshop to learn about the materials to be presented.

For more information, contact Sue Turbow, VP of Professional Development (777) 673-7191, or sturbow@tmcc.edu.



Nevada AEYC has a new mailing address:

**NevAEYC
P.O. Box 4988
Sparks, NV 89432**



State Bureau of Services for Child Care Proposed Regulation Changes Update By Melissa Faul, Bureau Chief

Over the past two years, the Bureau of Services for Child Care has been engaged in an extensive, mandatory review of the state child care regulations. The following is a summary and update of the results of that work and next steps in the process.

Historical Background of Previous Workgroups and Workshops:

A comparison study of Nevada's child care regulations and the National Standards for Health and Safety in Child Care was conducted in 2004. Results of the comparison study indicated 34 of the 209 National Standards were not met, 170 standards were partially met and only 5 were fully met. In 2005 Child Care Licensing engaged in a Public Hearing process, soliciting members to participate in five workgroups to review state regulations. Workgroup members included the Fire Department, Health Department, University Professors, Child Care Providers, experts in early care and education, and consumers of child care. The five workgroups were Health & Safety, Child-Staff Ratio, Training Requirement, Types of Child Care Facilities, and Other Regulatory Issues. Over a period of about a year, four board meetings were held, three workshops were conducted, and a Small Business Impact Statement was distributed. The Bureau reviewed the Small Business Impact Statement and the concerns from the public were incorporated into a comprehensive set of proposed regulation changes. On December 20, 2006 an adoption hearing was held for the purpose of adopting or omitting the proposed regulations. After extensive public testimony, the Child Care Board decided to postpone the approval of the regulations. Their suggestions to the Bureau included holding more workgroups and workshops in order to focus primarily on the controversial issues that might affect the public. The Bureau is planning board meetings and workgroups within the next month and then will solicit members from the public to begin the continuation of the workgroup process. If you have any questions, please call the Bureau at (775) 684-4463.

The mission of the Bureau of Services for Child Care is to reduce the risk of harm to children placed in child care outside of their own home. To ensure the health, safety and proper treatment of children receiving out-of-home care, the Bureau has the responsibility for initial licensing, continued monitoring and providing technical assistance to child care facilities caring for five or more children not licensed by local entities. The policy-making Board for Child Care adopts Regulations and Standards for Child Care. The Board consists of five members appointed by the Division Administrator with the concurrence of the Director of the Department of Human Resources. In this past year, the Board adopted new regulations to strengthen and clarify health, safety and training related requirements.

Nevada Infant Toddler Standards Development By Joanne Everts, Washoe County School District

The Steering Committee for Pre-K Standards is in the process of developing standards or early learning guidelines, for children birth to age three, which would align with the current Pre-K standards and provide a comprehensive system to support the development of all children from birth to age 5. The Committee will develop work groups for each developmental area and age group. Meetings will be held in Reno, Las Vegas and Elko simultaneously with video links. Work groups will be established regionally, so that the groups will not have to travel. The Committee hopes to develop the standards during the next six months. About 50 professionals from across the state with experience and expertise in working with infants, toddlers and three year olds will be working on the infant/toddler standards.

The first video conference meeting was held Jan. 31 in Reno, Las Vegas and Elko. The Steering Committee reviewed infant/toddler standards from nine different states to provide the committee for development of Nevada Infant/Toddler Standards with a framework and some ideas for content and development. Materials reviewed were Arkansas, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Ohio, Washington State and Nevada's Benchmarks for Early Childhood Special Education. Links to all the states except Nevada can be seen on the [National Child Care Information Center Website](#).

For more information e-mail Joanne Everts: jevorts@washoe.k12.nv.us.

Local Affiliate News



Reno AEYC By Margaret Oberg, President



Southern Nevada AEYC By Christine Matiash, President

The [RAEYC](#) board is excited about the events planned for this year's Week of the Young Child. Some plans in the works are:

- ✚ A Mayor's Proclamation from both Reno and Sparks, declaring the week officially the Week Of Young Child (WOYC)
- ✚ A Walk-a-Thon for families which will also be a fundraiser to help sponsor our WOYC events
- ✚ Specially scheduled story times at Barnes and Noble and Borders book stores to promote literacy
- ✚ Pajama Night at the Library as well as story times for toddlers and preschoolers
- ✚ Distribution of posters commemorating the week to child care facilities around the area

Our main goal this year is to promote community involvement and awareness of WOYC, and to give more opportunities for family togetherness. We hope to see everyone there!

SNAEYC says goodbye to longtime President, Christine Matiash, and thanks her for many years of hard work and dedication! Under Christine's leadership, the small group has grown into a large, successful early childhood education organization. Jessi Torrero has taken the helm as the new President. A complete list of the 2007 Governing Board is posted on the [NevAEYC website](#). The SNAEYC Policies and Procedures, as well as the Bylaws have been updated and are available on the website.

Upcoming Events:

March 13, 2007, 12:30-2pm
SNAEYC Book Club "**The Intentional Teacher**"
Call 486-1432 for more information and to register.

March 20, 2007 12:30-2pm
Directors Luncheon "**Improving Quality in Your Center**"
Call 482-1432 for more information and to register

March 31, 2007 "**6th Annual ECE Awards**"
The Grove at Silk Purse Ranch
Call 870-7050 or 486-1433 for more information, tickets or nomination forms. Nomination forms also available on the website.

News from the UNR Student Member Section

By Jennifer Reisig, Vice President of Programming

The [UNR Student Member Section](#) finished up a great fall semester. In December, Tina Springmeyer, from the Child Care Apprenticeship Program, and Stephanie Aguilera, from the Nevada Registry, spoke at the last meeting of 2006 on "Career Building for Future Early Childhood Educators." Tina provided us with great information about interviews and resumes, and Stephanie discussed the importance of becoming part of the Nevada Registry. The meeting was a great success, and the students were grateful to get some insight in to the real world of professional educators.

The UNR SMS also spent time in December helping two single, teenage mothers and their children. The students went shopping for items the families indicated they needed for the holiday season. It was a great opportunity to give to two families in need, and be involved with the community!

This spring semester, our main focus will be working on the NevAEYC Conference Planning Committee. The students will be hosting the bus tour of accredited centers in Reno, and will be first-time presenters at the conference! With the help of our University professors, the students will be presenting a session on the meaning and importance of documentation of children's learning in the classroom. We are looking forward to this exciting professional opportunity. The SMS is also planning a fundraiser to take place during the conference. Look for our booth in the exhibitor hall!

To join a Student Group at one of the Colleges or Universities, please contact the faculty advisors:

University of Nevada, Reno
Melissa Burnham, PhD
(775) 784-6490

University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Catherine Lyons, PhD
(702) 895-1322

Truckee Meadows Community College
Crystal Swank, MS
(775) 673-8272

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Jessi Torrerro, President
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Jamie Burnett, Member At-Large
jburnett@childrenscabinet.org

Conference Committee Co-Chairs:

Peggy Pulver, Member At-Large
Development Committee Chair
ppulver@washoe.k12.nv.us

Terry Randolph
trandolph@washoe.k12.nv.us

Tina Springmeyer
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Michael Hill, Project Director
T.E.A.C.H. @ Early Childhood Nevada
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The NevAEYC Governing Board meets on a monthly basis, alternating between Reno and Las Vegas throughout the year. Meetings dates are posted to the calendar on the NevAEYC website. Members are welcome to attend board meetings, agenda items may be sent to the Board President two weeks in advance of each meeting. Meeting minutes are posted on the *Members Only* section of the website.

Elections for the Governing Board are held in the fall of each year. To nominate an individual for a board position and/or volunteer to serve on the board, please contact the Nominations Committee Chair.

Bylaws for the Governing Board are reviewed and revised as needed annually. The bylaws are also posted in the *Members Only* section of the NevAEYC website.

At the January, 2007 Governing Board meeting, the following standing committees were identified.

- Development
- Governance
- Finance
- Public Police
- Accreditation
- Membership
- Nominations
- Professional Development
- Annual Conference

Each committee is chaired by a member of the Governing Board. Members who are interesting in participating on a committee are encouraged to contact the committee chair.

The Early Childhood Professional is a quarterly publication of the Nevada Association for the Education of Young Children. Newsletters are published according to the following schedule.

| <u>Deadline</u> | <u>Publication Date</u> |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| October 15th | November 15th |
| January 15th | February 15th |
| April 15th | May 15th |
| July 15th | August 15th |

Newsletter contributions should be sent as a simple Word document to cswank@tmcc.edu. The NevAEYC reserves the right to edit all contributions for length and appropriate content.