



The Early Childhood Professional

A quarterly publication of the Nevada Association for the Education of Young Children

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From Our Co-President...



This is my favorite time of the year, except of course, for it being allergy season. The days are warm and sunny; it's not yet too hot to leave the house. I have all of the windows in my home open and love the fresh breezes, the smell of flowers, the gentle laughter of children and the pleasant sound of birds singing happily outside...

Okay- so if you know me at all, you are probably thinking, "It's quite possible that she has taken too much allergy medicine, she hates birds!" And you are absolutely correct- I have a strong dislike for birds. The real reason this is my favorite time of the year is because everything is over! The NAEYC conference went fabulously; congratulations to Peggy Pulver, Tina Springmeyer and Terry Randolph, the three queens of conference chairing. Kudos to the local boards as well, the SNAEYC awards celebration and Family Fun Day were beautifully executed and commenced and I hear the RAEYC Week of the Young Child Events also went quite well.

So now we can all sit back and relax, drink lemonade, eat ice cream and listen to the pretty birds, knowing that we have once again provided excellent, outstanding services to the Early Childhood Community, to young children and their families and most importantly to Early Childhood Professionals across the great state of Nevada.

This brings me to the point of this article... Oh sorry, hold on a moment, my phone is ringing... Okay, I'm back but unfortunately I'm going to have to wrap things up here. I need to attend a meeting for the 2008 conference planning committee. The 2008 NevAEYC conference will be held in Las Vegas and preparations have already begun. We are looking to our members to help us plan; you can join the planning committee, present a session or volunteer at the event. If next spring seems too far away, make a plan to become more involved now... join the local board, host a training or directors luncheon, or simply help out with a mass mailing. Check out our website for ways to get involved. We always enjoy seeing a fresh face and hearing about new ideas... just please don't bring any birds with you to the meeting!

Christine Matiash
NevAEYC Co-President

New Resources Provided by The Nevada Registry

By Shelly Nye, Program Coordinator



The Path to Brighter Futures

STATEWIDE JOB BOARD

The Nevada Registry is excited to announce a brand new service – a statewide JOB BOARD for Early Care and Education. The new job board is available to the entire ECE community and allows employers to advertise available positions FREE OF CHARGE! Visit the “Job Board” link at www.nevadaregistry.org to post positions and to view a listing of current job opportunities in the field!

NEVADA’S CORE KNOWLEDGE AREAS AND CORE COMPETENCIES FOR EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS

The Nevada Registry, along with our many community partners and contributors, is also excited to introduce the result of our latest collaboration – Nevada’s Core Knowledge Areas and Core Competencies for Early Care and Education Professionals. Nevada’s ECE Core Knowledge Areas (CKA) are a set of content areas that define what caregivers should know and understand in order to provide quality experiences for children. In July 2006, the CKAs were revised to be more closely aligned with national standards. Core Competencies are a set of observable skills that reflect a caregiver’s knowledge and understanding of the Core Knowledge Areas. Core Competencies help to standardize the expectations for ECE professionals and are based on nationally accepted standards and best practice in the field of ECE. Nevada’s competencies were developed by a statewide team of ECE professionals and are part of the larger Nevada ECE Professional Development System.

The Core Competency document is a FREE professional development resource that is intended to be a practical self-assessment tool that may be used in a variety of ways. For instance, ECE teachers and caregivers can evaluate their own current level of knowledge, identify areas of training/educational needs and determine training/professional development that can meet those needs. Directors or administrators can specify levels of training/education needed for individual jobs, develop more complete job descriptions based upon the competencies defined for the early childhood field, help staff develop professional development plans, plan educational or training opportunities that will best serve the needs of the teachers and caregivers in the program, develop a salary scale based upon levels of competency and appraise job performance of staff. The list of benefits goes on for higher education faculty, trainers or training organizations, career advisors, parents, and policymakers. Regardless of how you use this document, please keep in mind that Core Competencies are NOT being used by The Nevada Registry to determine Career Ladder levels nor are they currently required by licensing or regulation – use is completely voluntary and up to you!

While supplies last, you can request a copy (or multiple copies) via email at nevadaregistry@washoe.k12.nv.us (Please be sure to include a mailing address in your request) or download the document at www.nevadaregistry.org by clicking on the “Program Forms” link from the home page. Please feel free to contact the Registry for more information and/or with questions about the newly developed Core Competencies for Early Care and Education Professionals!

2007 NevAEYC Annual Conference a Great Success!

By Peggy Pulver, Conference Co-Chair

"This was by far the best, most beneficial conference I've attended in several years. The sessions were educational and the topics very applicable. I'm going home filled with new ideas and a refreshed vision of what early childhood should be. Thank you!" - Conference attendee

The annual Early Childhood State Conference was held March 2nd and 3rd in Reno, Nevada at the newly remodeled Grand Sierra Resort. Nearly 500 Early Childhood Educators from throughout Nevada and nearby states were in attendance. The Office of Early Care and Education, along with The Children's Cabinet provided funds for 72 scholarships. The DEC Pre-Conference Day was attended by 147 people who gained useful information to help "Build Positive Pathways for Young Children with Significant Challenging Behaviors". In Carson City at the Pre-Conference Day to the Nevada State Legislature, 24 attendees learned more about advocating for Early Childhood issues.

Keynotes Pam Schiller and Jose Luis Orozco were well received and inspiring. One attendee wrote: "She (Pam Schiller) is an excellent presenter and had useful information. So much wonderful info on the brain!" Mr. Orzoco's keynote had everyone on their feet singing and dancing. Several featured presenters and many more volunteer presenters gave of their time and talent to offer 73 workshops on a wide variety of topics.

Evaluations at previous conferences indicated that attendees would like to have lunches included in their conference fee. Even though conference meals can be very expensive and it isn't easy accommodating everyone's dietary needs and tastes, the conference committee decided to give it a try. "Should lunch be included in the registration fee at future conferences?" An overwhelming 96.3% of the 136 people answering this question on the evaluation agreed!

The Friday evening reception was also lots of fun – thanks to all the sponsors! Thanks to go to Clifford the Big Red Dog and magician, Justin Meitz.



Washoe County Classroom On Wheels and Pre-K Staff snuggle up with Clifford.



Vicki Martinez was the lucky winner of a \$100 Lakeshore Gift Certificate for turning in her conference evaluation.

Start planning now to attend the 2008 Conference in Las Vegas! Attending your state conference is a fantastic way to network with other Early Childhood Professionals and learn from knowledgeable, experienced presenters. Information about the conference will be posted on the Nevada Association for the Education of Young Children's website as soon as it is available. Volunteer your time to be a committee member, presenter, or exhibitor. It takes a lot of people working very hard to produce a conference that is affordable and still be the high quality you deserve!



Nevada's Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Initiative By Margie Franzen-Weiss, MPH, CHES, Program Coordinator

The State Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) Planning Grant was awarded to the Nevada State Health Division, Bureau of Family Health Services (BFHS) in 2003. Through the initial two-year planning grant, workgroups were established to build a statewide plan to guide the development of a seamless system of care for children ages birth to five and their families.

The ECCS grant required that the plan address children and their families in five different yet connected domains. These domains include, Early Care and Education, Family Support, Parent Education, Medical Homes, and Social and Emotional Health. By coordinating the services and policies that address these five domains, the goal of the Nevada ECCS initiative is to facilitate the development of services for young children and their families. In so doing, this will ensure that every child, commencing at birth, receives an equal opportunity to become a well-educated, psychologically sound, contributing member of society, hence leading to the economic growth and success of the State of Nevada.

In order for the ECCS initiative to continue the process of implementing the strategic plan activities and evaluating the outcomes, there must continue to be involvement from a broad range of public and private early childhood agencies, parents and community groups who share the goal of promoting the health and well-being of children from age birth to 5 years. The new ECCS coordinator, Marjorie "Margie" Franzen-Weiss, MPH, CHES, has been re-engaging old and new partners in an effort to gain input and full representation of the work that is currently occurring in Nevada's early childhood arenas, as well as to reestablish the ECCS workgroups and leadership team. The workgroups will begin meeting in both the north and south and are open to the public. Your ideas and input are always welcome. For more information or to become a member of a workgroup, please contact Margie at 775-684-4231.

Public Policy News ~ Federal Update

By Margot Chappel, Vice President for Public Policy

SPEAKER PELOSI ANNOUNCES CHILDREN'S SUMMIT

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi will convene a National Summit on America's Children in Washington that will feature national experts and practitioners speaking to legislators about effective strategies for supporting young children and their families in the areas of early childhood development, health, and family income support. The Summit will take place in D.C. on Tuesday, May 22, and will be chaired by Reps. George Miller, Rosa DeLauro, and Chaka Fattah. We will let you know more about the summit as details are finalized.

NAS PANEL ON OUTCOMES AND ASSESSMENTS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

Congress authorized the National Academy of Sciences to convene a panel of independent experts on Developmental Outcomes and Assessments for children birth through age 5. Dr. Catherine Snow of Harvard University will chair the panel. Other members of the panel are listed with short bios at <http://www8.nationalacademies.org/cp/CommitteeView.aspx?key=48786>

The committee will focus on two key topics: (1) the identification of key outcomes associated with early stages of child development for children ages 0-5, and (2) the quality and purpose of different state-of-the-art techniques and instruments for developmental assessments. In the first area, the committee will review the research base associated with developmental outcomes for children ages 0-5 in different domains, including physical, cognitive, social, psychobiological, and emotional. In the second area, the committee will examine the available range of techniques and instruments for assessing these outcomes, paying particular attention to the empirical evidence available about the reliability, validity, fairness and other considerations related to the quality and use of the developmental assessments. The review will consider issues related to the use of assessments in screening the developmental status of special populations of children (such as children with developmental disabilities, children from minority cultures, and children whose home language is not English). The committee will provide recommendations to practitioners and policymakers and develop a research agenda.

Local Affiliate News



Reno AEYC

By Margaret Oberg, President



Southern Nevada AEYC

By Jessi Torrerro, President

Week of the Young Child was a great success! The two library events and one Barnes and Noble event were very well received and our "Walk for Children" had over 160 walkers participating!



We were successful in securing five vendors who set up tables to display helpful information. We had plenty of volunteers to help on race day, donations of water, goody bags, fruit, and raffle prizes, and the Student Member Section made a beautiful banner, too. We concentrated all our efforts on WOYC this year, but hope to do more next year for Provider Appreciation Day as well.



The Mayor of Sparks, Geno Martini, seen here with the RAEYC Board, opened the race with the WOYC Proclamation.

On Saturday, March 31, SNAEYC honored the brightest stars in the Early Childhood Galaxy, including outstanding teachers, administrators, programs and advocates at a celebration at The Grove. Award recipients were:

Shooting Star Winners (Outstanding Teachers)

Ikaika Regidor- UNLV Preschool
Joyce Rossiter- CCSN Campus Lab School
Audrianna Leon- The Learning Tree
Kami Cuenco, Easter Seals Southern Nevada

Super Nova Award (Outstanding Administrators)

Kelly Holtam, CCSN Campus Child Care
Julie Dockter, CCSN Campus Child Care
Jennifer Kalas, Alexander Dawson School
Maynard Florence, Nellis CDC II

Constellation Award (Outstanding Agency)

Prevent Child Abuse Nevada, Debbie Barter

Zenith Award (Outstanding Individual)

Ann Adams, CCSN



Members of the SNAEYC Board at the 2007 Award's Night

The experience of eating out is as important as the food itself. A good experience – one that would cause the diner to "spread the word" – happens when the quality of the food lines up with the service, ambiance, and price. Such was the case, recently, at an awards banquet for over 200 early childhood educators held at *The Grove*. What these professionals previously have been able to afford was a crowded noisy bar setting with standing room only, where guests juggled drinks and small plates of unimpressive appetizers while trying to hear colleagues being honored over poor quality sound systems. (*continued on page 6*)

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

By Angela Goodrich

What is the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)?

The Child and Adult Care Food Program is a US Department of Agriculture program that supports or provides funding for healthy meals and snacks served to children and adults receiving day care. The CACFP reimburses participating programs for some of the cost of meals. Independent centers and sponsoring organizations enter into agreements with the State agency to operate the program. The CACFP is administered by the Nevada State Department of Education, Office of Child Nutrition and School Health (702) 486-6472.

What types of facilities can participate?

- * Child Care Centers
- * Family Day Care Homes
- * After School Care Programs
- * Homeless Shelters
- * Adult Day Care Centers

Who gets CACFP meals and snacks?

Children ages 12 and younger are eligible to receive up to two meals and one snack each day at a day care home or center through the CACFP. Children through age 18 who reside in homeless shelters may receive up to three reimbursable meals each day. Migrant children age 15 and younger, and persons with disabilities, regardless of their age, are also eligible for the CACFP. After school care snacks are available to children through age 18.

For more information on the CACFP, including current reimbursement rates for qualifying participants go to: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Care/CACFP/cacfpfaq.htm>

Nevada CACFP consultants: Diane Hogan, MSRD Angela Goodrich, MSRD
If you are interested in becoming a participant, call (702) 486-6472 for more information.

SNAEYC Awards Night *(continued from page 5)*

Seating is of primary importance to early childhood teachers who spend their days in little chairs or on their feet scrambling after little people. So when the Southern Nevada Association for the Education of Young Children planned their awards ceremony, they wanted a place where everyone could sit down, enjoy a beverage and visit without a lot of background noise. *The Grove's* atmosphere was complete with formally adorned tables arranged around a dance floor attended by a disc jockey.

The dinner was served buffet style and accommodated a variety of tastes. Though the dinner was unremarkable by most gourmet standards, the dishes were good, freshly prepared, and with enough offerings for a variety of eating preferences. The buffet style service allowed everyone to have hot food while retaining the personal touch of servers dishing out the portions.

For a group of dedicated early childhood professionals looking for a rewarding experience to fit an important but poorly compensated profession, *The Grove* was a perfect match. What *The Grove* provided instead of the expensive, inadequate bar scene, for the same price, was a really good meal in a quiet peaceful setting formally decorated and pleasantly served – truly a rewarding experience for an evening of awards. Pass it on!

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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 Policy
- 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

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