

CALAVERAS COUNTY SPECIAL EDUCATION LOCAL PLAN AREA

Calaveras County Office of Education
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Calaveras County Special Education Executive Council

MINUTES
May 14, 2007

****Special Study Session:** Discussed continuum of services-no decisions were made.

I. Call Public Session to Order 9:05 a.m.

Establishment of Quorum
Attendance by Roll Sheet

Executive Council Members:

Rick Brewer, Superintendent
John Brophy, Superintendent
Glen Sewell, Superintendent
James Frost, Superintendent
Mike Chimente, Superintendent
Diane Bateman
Evan Garamendi
Jill Bray
Joan Lark
Lou Boitano (subbing for Valerie Tudor)

Mark Twain Union Elementary School District (MTUESD)
Calaveras County Office of Education (CCOE)
Vallecito Union School District (VUSD)
Calaveras Unified School District (CUSD)
Bret Harte Union High School District (BHUHSD)
MTUESD Board Member
CUSD Board Member
VUSD Board Member
BHUHSD Board Member / President
CCOE Board Member

Staff:

Kathy Northington
Mike Harrison
Patty Haskell
Sharon Knick
Claudia Davis
Debbie Koehler
Debbie Scadden

Associate Superintendent/SELPA Director
Program Manager
Program Manager
CUSD Special Ed Director
Assistant Superintendent, Business Services
Director, Personnel/Administrative Services
SELPA Administrative Assistant

Absent:

Other(s) In Attendance:

Karen Dickerson

CUSD Child Care Services Director

II. Approve Agenda

A motion was made by Jim Frost to approve the agenda for May 14, 2007 with an additional item not noted (Item D.) John Brophy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
Note: Agenda items were discussed out of sequence (as reflected on the tape) but will be noted in sequence on this document.

III. Public Comment

No public in attendance.

IV. **Flag Salute**

V. **Consent Minutes**

Glenn Sewell made a motion to approve the minutes of April 9, 2007. Evan Garamendi seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

VI. **Discussion/Action items**

- A. **Presentation by Meegan Lucore and Trudi Foss:** Kathy Northington introduced the presenters to the council members. A handout was provided and the presentation was directed at the type of training required for this position, the number of students on caseloads and the role of the SLP with preschoolers and/or infants. The council members appreciated the information shared by these staff members.
- B. **Fully Included Preschool (Same Topic as Item C.):** Kathy Northington shared that the CUSD Preschool is moving towards changing to a fully included program. She assured the council members that there has been contact with the parents to ensure and receive their support. The current preschool is being relocated to the San Andreas Elementary site. The plan for next year is to have two preschools on site. The students currently in Jen Tapia's program will be split in half between the two classes and Jen will assume a consultative role but will have an area to pull students out individually or in small group model to provide services or assist in attaining goals that cannot be met in the regular classroom. Her aides will be in the classrooms to support the students in mainstreaming. In this way the students will spend the day fully included, being taught by a regular education teacher with support from Jen Tapia and her staff with modifications when necessary. Kathy shared that Karen Dickerson and Patty Haskell have been collaborating on creating this mainstream program but neither could be available at this meeting. Karen would be the Supervisor for these programs and after school Jen Tapia would continue her work with the autism students in the home programs. The council members were pleased with this proposal.
- C. **Inclusion Preschool (duplicate item noted in error-see above)-Revised Item: O.T. Service Costs:** Kathy Northington explained that our O.T. services are currently being covered by Susan Sirias who serves the Highway 4 schools, her COTA who is currently working in some of the CUSD schools, and Tarisa TenBrink who is a contracted employee with us through Comp Health. As the Comp Health employees are only allowed to stay with us for one year, Kathy feels this creates a revolving door effect for our students. Kathy praised Susan Sirias for her assistance with our OT services and her support with our contracted OT's with background information on the students they would be serving during the year. Kathy stated that Susan will be hiring an employee and has proposed contracting directly with the county to provide O.T. services. Her initial fees are slightly higher than what the county can afford but Kathy asked for approval from the council members to continue negotiations with Susan. The council agreed to this proposal and Kathy stated she would provide the final proposal at the June 2007 meeting.
- D. **Behavior Task Force Update:** Mike Harrison shared that the last meeting was well attended and the main topic was the ability for our behavior analyst to cover the growing number of cases in our county. He shared that creating an appropriate behavior plan is extremely important however, the implementation of the plan is crucial. The council members discussed the following:
- o a cadre of trained paraprofessionals to assist implementation of the behavior plans (Mike shared that Tuolumne County is currently contracting with a professor at Stanislaus State, she sends one of her graduate students on her staff to spend a few weeks in a classroom to help train staff in dealing with the student)

- Mountain Ranch seems to be getting a large amount of students with behavior problems, concern regarding the resources available to students at that site, the structured programs were created to intervene
- behavior services for K-3 students
- should Behavior Analyst concentrate on training special education teachers as new psychologists are not prepared to handle these students
- a staff member at each school site that is trained in behavior using our Behavior Analyst as a resource

Our Behavior Analyst suggested having an individual hired by a district that she could train to be available to go into classrooms and give direction to staff as to how to deal with students with behavior issues, however this person should be someone that teachers and aides would be comfortable taking direction from. The council members asked for a draft job description for this position. Kathy and Mike will work on this document and it will be brought back to the council members for review.

- E. **ESY Calendars:** Kathy Northington stated that due to the inconsistency in ESY calendars throughout the county, it is increasingly difficult to provide the needed services for our students while still allowing for some summer break to our staff. Kathy offered to meet with the district personnel who create the summer school schedules to provide input and try to create ESY calendars that are more in synch. The council agreed with this proposal.
- F. **CCSEEC Meeting Dates:** John Brophy shared a conflict with the October date on the 2007-2008 proposed Executive Council meeting dates. The request was to change the date from October 15th to October 22nd. As all seemed in agreement to the change, Glenn Sewell made a motion to approve the document with the one revision. John Brophy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

VII. SELPA Director's Report

- Kathy Northington verified the receipt of the Local Plan Assurance forms sent to the Superintendents to be presented, reviewed and signed at their next Board meeting. Glenn Sewell/VUSD and Mike Chimente/BHUHSD stated they had not received their documents and Kathy assured them that another set would be sent to each. Kathy reiterated that the signatures pages need to be returned by June.
- Kathy discussed trainings that are being offered in June. It was decided that this was the most opportune time to offer trainings without having to hire substitutes to cover classes or infringement of staff vacation time. Kathy shared that although fliers have been distributed county-wide, if needed, council members can obtain additional copies by contacting Lorie Wise.

VIII. Regionalized Programs Report

Mike Harrison clarified the subject matter of the upcoming trainings as follows:

Monday, June 11 – 'Behavior Plans': A workshop presented by Cait Conklin, AU Behavior Specialist, directed to the development of behavior plans for students

Tuesday and Wednesday June 12-13 – 'Handle with Care': Training presented by Cait Conklin (Behavior Specialist) and Andria Pyle (Program Specialist/School Psychologist) Handle with Care Training (Previously PART), on the proper approach in dealing with a student who exhibits violent and/or explosive behavior

Thursday and Friday June 14-15 – 'Why Try?': Presented by the originators of this program, this training focuses on our "At-Risk" youth. It addresses dropout prevention and truancy, school wide behavioral problems, academic failure, and more.

Kathy Northington shared that John Brophy had used CCOE funds to pay for the 'Why Try' training. Mike Harrison noted that there is a 'kit' that is offered for the program and it is for sale at the training for \$350.00 (regular price is \$450.00) if any of the sites were interested. Copies will be available for review at the training. Mike urged council members to speak to their administrators as this program's reviews have been excellent. Although it is a first come first serve basis, there is limited space in the conference room so staff should be contacting Lorie Wise in the AU office to register as soon as possible. Our county employees will have first choice if they want to attend and if space is left, it will be opened up to Tuolumne and Amador counties who have shown interest.

IX. Finance Report

Claudia Davis provided a handout to council members regarding an update on the current year budget to prepare for 2007-2008. Although anticipated there are some savings on the expense side for this year. Revenue has been cut slightly due to the P2 attendance. Overall for the current year, there will be a pass through of approximately \$100,000.00 with each district getting their allocation as noted on the spreadsheets provided. There will be a reserve at the AU of 4%. The COLA for 2007-2008 is proposed at 4.53%, however due to the bifurcated COLA for Special Education the revenue will increase by 2.84%. Claudia also noted a decline in ADA of approximately 11.94%; this will mean that overall revenue level will not increase by much. Regarding the SELPA Director position for next year, Kathy Northington will be budgeted for ¼ of her time in this arena. We will be hiring an individual for the SELPA Director along with two Program Managers. Claudia will provide a 2007-2008 budget for review and adoption at the June meeting. Kathy Northington noted at this time that she is aware of current legislation to eliminate the bifurcation. The council members discussed the consistent declining enrollments.

X. Personnel and Payroll Report

Debbie Koehler reported that there are a number of positions opening in the special education department. There are currently two management positions available, i.e., SELPA Director and Program Manager. She is also posting vacancies for two school psychologists (one was filled recently), a Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHOH) Specialist, Assistive Technology (A.T.), Structured Behavior Teacher for Mark Twain El., O.T., Speech and Language Specialist and possibly an opening for a braille aide.

Debbie noted that Jean Ogburn is available to fill in as an interim DHOH if we cannot find a suitable applicant, the A.T. position may be filled in house and she has applicants and will be scheduling interviews for the MTE Structured Behavior Teacher. The remaining positions are continuing to be advertised.

XI. Comments from Council Members

- John Brophy noted his sincere appreciation of Kathy Northington as SELPA Director and Mike Harrison as Program Manager who will be returning to their former positions after three years of hard work and dedication to the AU. The council members expressed their own appreciation for these staff members. John also noted that Corrina Lindblom will be starting a new position with Dr., Thompson who is opening a clinic in Murphys. She will be working with autistic students and their families. The council members wished her well.

XII. Comments from the Public

None

XIII. Advance Planning & Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Closed Session: Started at 11:05 a.m. and ended at 11:45 a.m.

Next Executive Council Meeting

June 11, 2007 – 9:00 a.m.

Calaveras County Office of Education Main Conference Room (CUSD Hosting)

Any individual, who requires disability-related accommodations or modifications, including auxiliary aids and services, in order to participate in the board meeting, should contact the SELPA office in writing.
(Gov. Code 54953.2, 54954.1)