



TULARE COUNTY COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

MINUTES

The Tulare County Community Advisory Committee for Special Education met November 3, 2011 in the Board Room of the Tulare County Office of Education, 2637 West Burrel at 1:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tim Perrotta, Connie Acevedo, Gary Kenny, Amy McMahon, Stephanie Caldera, Filomena Rocha, Randi Kestner, Blanca Florez, Cyndi Ward, Michelle West-Dyer

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dana Collins, Tiffany Stark, Claudia Garcia,

OTHERS PRESENT: Norma Erwin, Miroslava Esparza, Parent Liaisons / Tulare County Office of Education; Sapr Khalil, Kieria Hicks / members of the public.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS: The meeting was called to order by Tim Perrotta, Chair. The CAC and members of the public introduced themselves.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no comments made from members of the public present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The motion to approve the meeting minutes of October 6, 2011 was made by Filomena Rocha and seconded by Blanca Florez. The minutes were approved by majority vote. The minutes stand.

REPORTS:

A. **Report of September DOSE Meeting:** Michelle West-Dyer, DOSE Representative informed the members that the Directors of Special Education had not yet met and will provide that report at next month's meeting.

B. **Study Topic:** "Service Delivery Models in Speech and Language: Challenges and Solutions" by Scott Aldrich, Program Manager, TCOE Speech & Language Services. Scott Aldrich provided committee members with power point handouts and discussed the basis of the Pull-out Model and the Classroom Based Models for Speech and Language Pathologists. In a pull-out model instruction takes place outside the classroom and targets small groups of students with articulation problems. The benefits of this model are that it provides a quiet room with fewer distractions. Students with severe disorders in need of direct intervention and teaching of new behaviors or certain skills requiring drills are pulled out of class. However, some of the disadvantages are that the student works in isolation and has difficulty generalizing these skills in the classroom. It is a non inclusive model in which communication goals are separate from classroom curriculum goals. There is typically no communication with the teacher about strategies being used with students. Scott Aldrich explained that pulling kids out once or twice a week for fifteen to twenty minutes is the model most often used even though it provides minimal

instructional time and may not be as effective for all students.

The service delivery in a classroom based model is a much more inclusive model in that the SLP is able to work with students either directly by working alongside the teacher in a team teaching approach or indirectly as a consultant to the classroom teacher providing expert guidance on targets and approaches to better meet student needs. The classroom based model is a collaborative consultation model that integrates speech and language goals within the classroom curriculum and activities. This increases the frequency of interventions and results in better generalization. Scott Aldrich stated that research shows students generalize sounds better in natural environments and with different communication partners as oppose to producing sounds in isolation. He added that a blend of both delivery models may be considered for a student with articulation errors. Comments made by committee members included;

Parents need to be on board with it.

Is this out there already and where can I find the forms?

I have had to ask when my child's services are being provided.

Integration is really important.

Scott Aldrich recommended parents ask the following questions when discussing their child's speech and language services:

What interventions are you going to use with my child?

What is the delivery model for my child?

Who will provide the primary intervention support?

The CAC expressed their appreciation for Scott's presentation.

C. Discuss next meeting: Norma Erwin asked the CAC if they would like to meet at a restaurant for the next meeting or continue to meet here in the Board Room in order to access the new calendars. The consensus of the committee is to continue to meet in the Board Room.

D. New Project Ideas: Norma Erwin informed the committee that CAC member Filomena Rocha proposed that a new project idea be considered to replace the loss of the COS Disability Awareness event. Norma Erwin offered a variety of project ideas; 1) Child Find; providing community presentations; 2) Transition Conference; Collaboration with CVRC/TCOE, and 3) COS Disability Event; evaluating the feasibility of putting on such an event. Tim Perrotta suggested looking into sponsoring a movie day at a local theatre to highlight disability awareness. Members were appointed to research these ideas and report back to the committee for consideration.

E. CAC Calendar Update: Norma Erwin advised the CAC that the calendars are expected to arrive November 14th and volunteers would be needed to assist with repacking and distribution. Amy McMahon, Cyndi Ward and Melanie Brainerd volunteered to assist. Norma Erwin invited the CAC members to present the "Meeting Challenges" Calendar to County Board. Blanca Florez and Amy McMahon volunteered to do so. CAC members were encouraged to be present if possible.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A. There were no announcements.

A motion was made by Filomena Rocha to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Gary Kenny. Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.