

Tulare County  
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
for Special Education

MINUTES  
January 8, 2009

The Tulare County Community Advisory Committee for Special Education met in the Board Room of the Tulare County Office of Education at 1:30 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Eric Sinclair, Amy McMahon, Filomena Rocha, Gary Kenny, Tiffany Stark

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Connie Acevedo, Dana Collins, Ramon Cervantes, Tim Perrotta, Jeff Higgins, Shelley Dever, Claudia Garcia, Stephanie Caldera

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Norma Erwin, Brenda Beatty; Parent Liaisons/Tulare County Office of Education, Kevin Clements, Robert Mayben, members of the public.

**WELCOME / INTRODUCTIONS:** Vice Chairperson, Amy McMahon welcomed CAC members and had everyone introduce themselves.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Members of the public did not address the committee on agenda items.

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the December CAC meeting were approved.

**D.O.S.E. REPORT:** The report on the December Directors of Special Education meeting was tabled, as Jeff Higgins was not present.

**ANNUAL LUNCHEON REPORT ON ENTERTAINMENT PLANS:** Norma Erwin reported that the suggestions for entertainment at the CAC Luncheon are still being considered. In addition, Norma will be meeting with Leslie Berry to discuss options using mixed media and pictures taken during photo sessions for the "Meeting the Challenges Calendar". Amy McMahon reported she would contact Linda Chester to ask if Linda would consider having her student dance production perform at the CAC Luncheon. Additional information will be available at the February CAC meeting.

**CHILD FIND REPORT:** Norma Erwin reported on the 2008 – 2009 Child Find Campaign. Norma gave the CAC members a copy of the Child Find brochure and Child Find Campaign and explained the Campaign was approved by the Directors of Special Education and that it complies with the California Education Code in making sure no child needing special services is overlooked. Child Find is a systematic way of

identifying and referring children who may have a disability. If services are needed, the child is referred to an appropriate educational facility for these services. Any person who is concerned about a child who may need special services may make a referral to Child Find.

Norma stated that in addition to short presentations to various agencies, posters, brochures, camera-ready ads, radio announcements and Cable TV ads are being utilized to inform residents of Tulare County about Child Find. Child Find materials are printed in English and Spanish.

Brenda Beatty reported several Child Find presentations have been scheduled throughout Tulare County. Presentations are scheduled with Women's Shelters, Rescue Missions, Parent Education classes, and Child Care Programs.

**SURROGATE PARENT RECRUITMENT:** Norma Erwin presented information on the appointment and training of surrogate parents for Special Education Students. Surrogate Parents represent educational rights of a child and attend the IEP meeting related to the child's education. Norma gave the CAC members printed material and a flowchart that explained when and why a child would need a surrogate parent. She also explained the surrogate parent agreement and training process. Norma reported that a person employed by the LEA or agency involved with the care or education of a student could not become a surrogate parent for the child, as that would be a conflict of interest.

Norma introduced Filomena Rocha, a CAC member serving as a parent at large, who was recruited to be a Surrogate Parent for a Tulare County Office of Education student. Filomena gave a report on her recent experience when she represented a student at an IEP meeting. Filomena felt it was a learning experience especially since the child's needs were very different from the needs of her son. Filomena stated she felt being a surrogate parent was rewarding. Norma informed CAC members that serving as a Surrogate Parent could be one way for CAC members to support activities on behalf of individuals with exceptional needs for those members that did not have a conflict of interest.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Speakers Update: Kaye Van Gilluwe will speak next month on OT & PT services for SH students. The March speaker will be announced next month.

CAC calendar to be presented to County Board January 14, 2009.

New CAC members to be presented for appointment at County Board January 14, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 2: 15 p.m.