



**TULARE COUNTY COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION**

**MINUTES**

**The Tulare County Community Advisory Committee for Special Education  
met in-person and virtually on January 13, 2022 @ 9:00 am**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Sally Fernandes Stephanie Caldera, Irma Peralta, Anthony Martin, Michelle West, Phillip Rios, Celeste Toledo, Timberly Romero

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Amy McMahon, Tiffany Stark, Connie Acevedo

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Jessica Ceja, Malinda Furtado, and Joy Voita—Parent Liaisons with Tulare County Office of Education, Amy Rogers & Nicole Delima—Parenting Network, Nicholas Lutton—EPU, Amy Hernandez—TCSD psychologist, Beth Wilshire—Foster Youth, Josie Garcia, Josefina Manriquez—Parents and Members of the Public

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:** Sally Fernandes, CAC Vice Chair, welcomed everyone and called for self-introductions.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Sally Fernandes called for approval of the minutes for December 9, 2021. Stephanie Caldera made a motion to accept the minutes and Timberly Romero seconded. The minutes stand.

**REPORTS:** None to present.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. **STUDY TOPIC BRAINSTORM:** Malinda Furtado, CAC Facilitator, continued last month's discussion to identify additional topics of presentation for the 2022-23 academic year. Additional topics selected by members were:
- Diploma vs. Certificate track
  - Understanding diagnoses such as RAD, ODD, OCD
  - Behavior management strategies for assisting parents
  - Student panel to speak about how local programs/services have helped them
  - Service dogs/animals

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. **STUDY TOPIC:** CAC "Meeting Challenges" Calendar Discussion—Jessica Ceja, Parent/School Liaison
- Jessica shared a document covering the history of calendar topics since 1991 and asked for members' input regarding the topic of the 2023 calendar.
  - One idea Jessica had was focusing on the siblings of students with disabilities
  - Malinda shared that she had thought about highlighting how social groups at school had met students' emotional needs during Covid
  - Jessica also brought up the idea of focusing on students that are involved in various sports at their schools
  - Various members shared their thoughts on the topics and unanimously agreed by vote that a focus on siblings was the best idea for the 2023 "Meeting Challenges" Calendar—making sure to focus on a span of differently-aged students.
  - Jessica then presented a 12-month overview of the process to create the annual CAC calendar, beginning in January and ending in December. She distributed a graphic that highlighted the many steps necessary to take the calendar from an idea to a finished product.

- Right now, the focus is on asking DOSE to recommend names of students to highlight in the calendar
- In March, April, and May, the subcommittee will work to collect information on the students, schedule photos, and begin writing the narratives
- In August, the subcommittee will reach out to teachers/parents to collect any last-minute information needed to complete the writing. All photos and narratives are sent to the graphic designer as they are completed.
- Timberly Romero asked if non-members could assist with the calendar process. Jessica replied that she was thankful for the offer of help but would prefer that CAC members volunteer since the calendar is a project of the CAC.
- Jessica reminded members that if they wanted to be part of the process, but couldn't be involved in the creative work, she would still need volunteers to help with the distribution of the calendars during November and December.
- Jessica then asked to form a Calendar Subcommittee. Volunteers were: Timberly Romero, Irma Peralta, Sally Fernandes, and Stephanie Caldera
- Joy Voita asked if students in the CBI program at COS would be able to help preparing calendars for distribution. Members thought it was a wonderful idea. Jessica will follow up.
- Calendar subcommittee will meet Friday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am at TCOE. Room TBA.

- B. **MEMBERSHIP VACANCIES:** Malinda Furtado discussed the vacancies in the CAC membership and the need for new recruits. Currently, there are openings for one Exceptional Individual and five Parents-at-Large. Current members are encouraged to bring others with them who may be interested in joining. Those who regularly attend CAC meetings and may be interested in becoming a member should contact Malinda for an application.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- A. Annual Luncheon subcommittee will meet immediately after today's meeting at 10:30am.
- B. **Next Meeting:** The next CAC meeting will be—**February 10, 2022, at 9:00am in Redwood A** and virtually at:

<https://zoom.us/j/94477589735?pwd=K2thY25HbzRRd0dBam4yTmt2NHA4Zz09>  
Meeting ID: 944 7758 9735      Passcode: 879219

- C. Miracle League registration is open until the first Friday in March. Flyers are available and more info is online.
- D. California is in the process of rewriting the CAC SELPA Handbook. Malinda will be sending out a survey and CAC members are encouraged to provide feedback on the revisions. Feedback is due by January 31<sup>st</sup>.

*A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Timberly Romero and seconded by Sally Fernandes. Meeting Stands Adjourned at 9:55am.*