



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

**MINUTES**

**The Tulare County Community Advisory Committee for Special Education  
met in-person and virtually on October 14, 2021 @ 9:00 am**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Connie Acevedo, Sally Fernandes Stephanie Caldera, Timberly Romero, Tiffany Stark, Irma Peralta, Michelle West

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Marilyn Malloy, Cyndi Ward, Amy McMahon, Anthony Martin, Tracy De LaCruz,

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Jessica Ceja, Malinda Furtado, and Joy Voita--Parent Liaisons with Tulare County Office of Education, Tammy McKean—Assistant Superintendent Special Services/SELPA Administrator, Mary Xavier—Clinical Supervisor for BHS, Brandice Larsen, Alexis Tapia, & Josie Garcia--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 June 3, 2021. Timberly Romero made a motion to accept the minutes and Tiffany Stark seconded. The minutes stand.

**REPORTS:**

- A. **DOSE Report for October 2021**—The October report was provided by Tammy McKean, Assistant Superintendent Special Services/SELPA Administrator, Tulare County Office of Education
- Jody Arriaga, Director, Internal Business Services reported on:
    - i. Low Incidence & Attorney Fee costs for 2020-2021. There were no attorney fees.
    - ii. Transportation Costs—last year they were down about 1 million dollars, yet slightly higher than usual for the number of students being transported. This was due to needing to use more buses for fewer students because of Covid spacing requirements.
  - Sarah Hamilton, Administrator, AcCEL shared the following chart about CALPADS/SEIS:
    - i. Program placement of special education students in the SELPA and how our data compares to the State
  - Joe Martinez, Director of Psychological Services, provided an update on:
    - i. Preschool Summit Report
    - ii. DRDP update
    - iii. California PBIS Coalition Recognition
    - iv. CDE Early Learning and Care Division Update
  - Tiffany Stark, Administrator, Intervention Resource Classrooms, provided update on IRCs
  - Sarah Hamilton, Administrator, AcCEL reported:
    - i. State SEACO Meeting on September 23, 2021, update regarding CAA (California Alternative Assessment). Going forward, the State will advise that *only* students on a Certificate track should take the CAA. Also, if student on IEP qualifies under SLD, they should *not* take the CAA.
  - Tammy McKean, Assistant Superintendent Special Services/SELPA Administrator provided an update:
    - i. State SELPA meeting—our SELPA received just under 6 million dollars for Learning Recovery and ADR for which each District created a spending plan in early October. ADR plans have been accepted, still waiting on Learning Recovery plans.
    - ii. Superintendents Governance Committee Report

## **DISCUSSION:**

- Tammy McKean reported on Covid-19 regulations affecting all teachers that go into effect today. Anyone working in education must either show proof of full vaccination or submit to regular Covid testing. Some are choosing to retire or go on admin leave without pay. There is the possibility that classes will have to be moved and/or adjusted to account for teachers leaving and lack of substitutes. Bright Start and Bright Future staff do not have the choice of testing—they must be vaccinated by November 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Josie Garcia asked if the 6 million dollars in funding for the County and SELPA comes with restrictions and if any of those funds have been used. Tammy McKean responded that there are limitations, and we are still waiting on state approval to use them. Districts had to submit a plan for the funds use by October 1<sup>st</sup> and their individual amounts are based off their ADA. They will have until July 2023 to use those monies.
- Josie also asked if students in Special Education will be required to be vaccinated in the future. Tammy McKean stated that she is unsure which way the state will go and whether deadlines will be extended. However, regardless of what mandates are enforced, a student on an IEP cannot be denied their services and the only place to receive those is at school.
- Brandice Larsen asked about general vaccination rates for students pre-covid. Tammy McKean encouraged her to seek that information from the Public Health Department—she could only speak to the special ed piece and IEPs.

## **REPORTS (CONTINUED):**

- B. **CAC CALENDAR:** Jessica Ceja, Parent/School Liaison, gave an update of the CAC “Meeting Challenges” Calendar, sharing a handout with the schools and programs participating and reminding members that this year would feature a special write-up about the history of the calendar and its creator. The CAC is looking forward to the special edition.
- C. **CAC ORIENTATION:** Malinda Furtado, CAC Facilitator, provided the organizational structure and contact information for the CAC and a review of the monthly meeting dates and study topics. Malinda also discussed the CAC membership and opportunities for expansion. She invited all members to attend any or all the monthly meetings.
- D. **STUDY TOPIC & GUEST PRESENTER:** “Learning Loss & Social/Emotional Well-Being After Covid-19” by Michelle Zavaleta & Jennifer Marroquin from TCSD and Tiffany Stark, Program Manager of Intervention Resource Classrooms. Michelle & Jennifer could not be present but submitted a slideshow for sharing. Tiffany Stark reviewed the following points:
- There *has* been learning loss among our students, but many things have been implemented to combat this. TCOE held a summer camp for students in the Alternative Achievement Program with reading and social/emotional activities
  - High school students (in Intervention Resource Classrooms and the Alternative Achievement Program) with failing grades had their school days extended and were given tutoring help and strategic instruction to raise their grades to passing—made possible through Learning Loss funds from the State
  - Social/Emotional Learning is happening from preschool through high school in the Intervention Resource Classrooms, curriculum is from Jeremy Anderson. Alternative Achievement Program is using Next Level Teaching. Other curriculum mentioned was Zones of Regulation, Boys Town, Second Step, and Leaps
  - “TCSD Learning Loss and Recovery” slideshow was shared with those present. Since those at home could not hear the slideshow due to technical difficulties, it will be sent in an email after the meeting.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS & RESOURCES PROVIDED:**

**Next Meeting:** The next CAC meeting will be—**November 4, 2021, at 9:00am in Redwood H** as well as virtually at:

<https://zoom.us/j/94770850720?pwd=bTR5WVdsODdscTVGTUtoaDF2SEV2dz09>

Meeting ID: 947 7085 0720

Passcode: 252956

## **Resource Information:**

- A. Handouts included flyers for the scheduled virtual parent training and cafes in English & Spanish and updated CAC forms: member directory, member list, CAC meeting schedule, PDF of Study Topics and zoom links

*A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Tiffany Stark and seconded by Timberly Romero.*

*Meeting Stands Adjourned.*