



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

MINUTES

**The Tulare County Community Advisory Committee for Special Education
met virtually on April 1, 2021 @ 1:30 pm**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Richard Standridge, Amy McMahon, Stephanie Caldera, Louise Kenny, Timberly Romero, Anthony Martin,

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sally Fernandes, Connie Acevedo, Marilyn Malloy, Cyndi Ward, Michael Adams, Tiffany Stark

OTHERS PRESENT: Jessica Ceja, Norma Erwin, Parent Liaisons with Tulare County Office of Education; Tracy De La Cruz, Central Valley Regional Center; Marlene Barrera, Malinda Furtado, Parents and Members of the Public

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS: Stephanie Caldera welcomed CAC members and members of the public and called for self-introductions.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Amy McMahon called for approval of the minutes for March 4, 2021. Stephanie Caldera made a motion to accept the minutes and Timberly Romero seconded. The minutes stand.

REPORTS:

- A. **DOSE REPORT FOR MARCH 2021** – The March report was provided by Norma Erwin, Parent Liaison.
 - a. Sarah Hamilton, Administrator, Academic Collaboration for Exceptional Learners reported:
 - i. Special Education Enrollment Compared to CBEDS (California Basic Educational Data System). A pdf data report was shared.
 - ii. Number and percentage of AcCEL students from each district served in classrooms operated by TCOE. A pdf data report was shared.
 - b. Rashella Avalos, DOSE representative to the CAC reported on the February CAC meeting
 - c. Jennifer Newell, Director of Behavioral Health Services (BHS) shared the following reports:
 - i. BHS Educationally Related Mental Health Services (ERMHS) Demographic Report. CAC may request further information be presented at the CAC meeting in September.
 - ii. BHS ERMHS Referral Report. A pdf data report showing rate of referrals for this year as compared to last year was shared.
 - iii. Social Emotional Learning and Grief & Loss Resources were shared
 - iv. BHS Mental Wellness Offers Service Contracts to school districts – A pdf flyer was shared.
 - d. Anthony Martin provided an explanation of CBEDS data and CAL PADS data and how it is collected on a designated day of the year.
- B. **CAC Subcommittee Report** – Stephanie Caldera, Jessica Ceja and Norma Erwin provided the CAC with information on the current planning and logistics for the Annual CAC Awards for Special Education. Stephanie reported that it will be an all virtual event with everyone zooming in from all locations, from home, work site or school site. The event will include student performances, annual reports to be given by each committee followed by recognition of honorees and presentation of awards. School districts may choose to zoom in as a small group from their school location. Each district will read the bio for their honoree and present the award in person from their location. Districts will receive award certificates and a box of chocolates in advance to present to their honoree. Invites will go out today. Pre-registration is required. Jaime Burnitzki will track attendance thru pre-registration and will order the awards. Jessica Ceja is auditing and preparing the student performance videos to be queued up

as part of the event. Jessica Hinz is working on the award certificates to be signed by Tammy McKean and Amy McMahon. It is the first virtual event for the CAC and CAC is grateful for the support of the IT department. All logistics are coming together, and CAC members are encouraged to pre-register. Norma will continue to communicate with the CAC as more information develops.

- C. **Selection of the “Linda Hess” Award** – The CAC members reviewed and discussed the positive contributions made by each parent nominee and selected the recipient of the “Linda Hess Award”. All parent nominees will be honored. The “Linda Hess Award” will be made at the end of the program by the designated school district.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **STUDY TOPIC / GUEST PRESENTER** – Amy McMahan, CVRC Program Manager provided an open forum and discussion of Central Valley Regional Center (CVRC) services for adult students residing in /out of home placements. Amy provided the following information:
- a. The Regional Center network is specific to the state of California and does not exist in any other state. It was created to help remove people from Development Centers across the state. In Tulare County, the goal was to shut down the non-forensic side of the Porterville State Hospital by 2020. The goal was met, and individuals now live in their own home or family homes.
 - b. The focus of the Regional Center network has evolved and there is a greater focus on teaching individuals how to access their community and how to utilize local resources.
 - c. Current goals include developing “Competitive Integrated Employment” (CIE) which looks at every individual as employable regardless of the disability and provides for paid internship programs. It will also work to adopt person-centered practices. Funding is provided through a waiver from the Center for Medicaid and Medicare (CMS) rule.
 - d. Another goal is to change the setup of group homes and prepare for the CMS rule to follow. Group homes are incentivized to move to a four-bed model as opposed to a six-bed model. Group homes will be required to set up “landlord tenant agreements” providing more rights to residents in the group home. The effective date has been delayed due to COVID.
 - e. CVRC partnered with Tulare County in March and facilitated a vaccination clinic for 800 people served. It allowed CVRC service coordinators to connect with clients.
 - f. Day Programs are being cleared to reopen utilizing an “Alternative Service” model. The state is requiring Day Programs to be more person-centered with a focus on individualized goals versus same program for all. The Alternative Service allows families to request work on specific skills.
 - g. Discussion was held over safety protocols for the various programs.
 - h. The Central Valley Regional Center serves 22,000 clients and the numbers continue to grow. Currently, CVRC is delivering Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) supplies to families.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **NEXT MEETING: “Annual CAC Awards for Special Education” May 11, 2021 at 12 noon**
Pre-registration is required: <https://tulare.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=200615>
- **Election of CAC Chair and Vice chair** - The CAC discussed nominations and voted in a new Chair and Vice Chair. Starting September 2021, the new CAC chair will be Anthony Martin, Director of School Resources and Support for Burton School District. Anthony Martin currently serves on the CAC and represents the general education teacher but is also the parent of a child with special needs. The new vice chair will be Sally Fernandes. Sally Fernandes is a current CAC member representing Region III. Sally Fernandes represents the perspective of a parent of a general education student and parent of a child with special needs. The CAC discussed the vacancies available on the CAC and is looking to fill vacancies. Parent Liaison will request recommendations from the DOSE.

*A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Stephanie Caldera and seconded by Anthony Martin.
Meeting Stands Adjourned.*