



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

MINUTES

February 6, 2020

**The Tulare County Community Advisory Committee for Special Education
met February 6, 2020 @ 1:30 pm at 6200 S Mooney Blvd., Visalia CA. in Redwood E.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Louise Kenny, Sally Fernandes, Connie Acevedo, Stephanie Caldera, Timberly Romero, Amy McMahon, Michael Adams proxy for Rashella Avalos-Senteno

MEMBERS ABSENT: Richard Standridge, Marilyn Malloy, Cyndi Ward, Tiffany Stark, Anthony Martin

OTHERS PRESENT: Joy Voita, Jessica Ceja, and Norma Erwin, Parent School Liaisons/ Tulare County Office of Education; John Davis, Leadership Support Services/TCOE; Sarah Hamilton, Administrator, Special Services/ TCOE; Christina Agda/ TCOE; Irma Peralta and Farrah Martins, Parents /Members of the public;

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS: CAC Vice Chair, Stephanie Caldera started the meeting by welcoming guests and CAC members and self-introductions were made.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES for JANUARY 9, 2020: Amy MaMahon called for the approval of the minutes for January 9, 2020. A motion was made to approve the CAC minutes by Sally Fagundes and seconded by Timberly Romero. The minutes stand.

REPORTS:

- A. **DOSE Meeting Report for February** – The following DOSE report was provided jointly by Norma Erwin and Michael Adams for Rashella Avalos-Senteno, Dinuba Unified School District:
- Tammy McKean, SELPA Administrator reported that California Department of Education (CDE) released a new template for the local plan, which will be due to CDE by June 30, 2020
 - Joe Martinez, Director of Psychological Services reported that the Preschool Summit Inclusion Grant would provide additional training and support for Autism.
 - Jennifer Biagio, Program Specialist, provided a Leadership Support Services update. John Davis was available to assist with a basic explanation and review of the California Dashboard 2019 and explained how it provides districts with feedback to improve instructional services and support. Leadership Support Services provides continuous improvement trainings to staff as requested.
 - Norma Erwin provided brief recap of the January CAC meeting to the DOSE including the theme for next year's CAC Calendar, which will focus on the challenges of students entering and exiting middle school.
- B. **Wrap Up Discussion of "Meeting Challenges" Calendar for 2021** - Norma Erwin and Jessica Ceja summarized the focus of the CAC calendar for 2021 as discussed the previous month and asked for any new ideas. CAC members clarified and approved the theme of transitions entering and exiting Middle School. The CAC approved the following ideas that could be included such as:

- How BHS supports students
- How a Sense of Belonging is developed
- AB2246 Adopting suicide prevention policies
- Social Emotional Learning
- How Extra Curriculum Activities are a part of a student's success
- Diversity
- Sports & Band participation in Middle School
- Equity Access

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **AcCEL Extended School Year Waiver Request** - Sarah Hamilton, Administrator, Special Services explained that the AcCEL program submits a waiver request to the state each school year in order to change the Extended School Year program from 19 days to 15 days. Students receive the same amount of instructional minutes in the 15 days, as they would have in the 19-day session. The benefits of the 15-day session include reduced transportation time for students, and alignment to district ESY schedules. The CAC Chair thanked Sarah for the information.

- B. **CAC Directory of Services** - Norma Erwin proposed the formation of a subcommittee to address needed updates to the four-year-old "CAC Directory of Services". Timberly Romero and Sally Fernandes volunteered to assist with revisions needed. The goal will be to have something ready for the new school year.

- C. **Informational Booths - Share "Child Find" & "CAC" information-** Norma Erwin shared information on the current events within Tulare County in which the CAC has been invited to have an informational booth. Norma shared that informational booths are opportunities to invite new families to CAC meetings or share "Child Find" information with parents who may have questions. Members were invited to participate.
 - Transition Resource Faire - flyer available
 - Autism Awareness Poker Run - Flyer available
 - Tipper's Birthday & Free to be Me Night" - flyer available

- D. **Study Topic - "Accessing Afterschool Programs"** - CAC hosted a panel of guest speakers from school and community agencies involved in afterschool programs. Speakers were asked to comment on accessibility, programming, inclusion and support available for students with special needs. Speakers shared about the variety of clubs and programming on and off school site and described the layers of support available. The speakers echoed the value of communication between the after school program personnel, school and parents to make inclusion work for students. The CAC thanked the following members for participating:
 - Michelle Zavaleta, Director of Psychological Services/Special Education, Tulare City Schools.
 - Ashlee Winslow, Recreation Supervisor for Tulare BEST Club
 - Jason Edwards, Director of Special Education, Tulare Joint Union High School District
 - Rob Smee, District Psychologist, Lindsay Unified School District
 - Denise Cifuentez, Program Facilitator, TCOE Choices After School Program

- E. **ANNOUNCEMENTS & RESOURCES PROVIDED:**
Next Meeting: This will be a field trip to tour the IRC at Liberty School located at 1771 E Pacific Ave in Tulare.
Resource Information:
 - February 8 - Strategies for Success and Understanding the Student with Autism
 - February 23 - Tulare County's Annual Inclusion Collaborative Training
 - February 29 - Visalia Sibshops
 - April 1 - Transition Fair
 - Buddy Break flyer on a new respite program

Meeting Adjourned.