



TULARE COUNTY COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

September 3, 2020

**The Tulare County Community Advisory Committee for Special Education
met virtually on 9/3/ 2020 @ 1:30 pm**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sally Fernandes, Stephanie Caldera, Amy McMahon, Tiffany Stark, Timberly Romero, Louise Kenny, Richard Standridge, Cyndi Ward,

MEMBERS ABSENT: Marilyn Malloy, Anthony Martin, Connie Acevedo,

OTHERS PRESENT: Joy Voita, Jessica Ceja, and Norma Erwin, Parent School Liaisons/ Tulare County Office of Education; Tammy McKean, Assistant Superintendent Special Services /SELPA Administrator, Tulare County Office of Education; Linda Gonzalez, Nicole Delima, Becky Ochoa, Annette Jaramillo and Rosa Tinajero, Parenting Network staff; Aaron Siegel, Central Valley Regional Center staff

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS: Amy McMahon, CAC Chair welcomed everyone and called for self-introductions.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES for June 4 2020: Amy McMahon called for the approval of the CAC minutes for June 4, 2020. Cyndi Ward motioned to approve the CAC minutes. Stephanie Caldera seconded the motion. The minutes stand.

REPORTS:

A. DOSE Meeting Report for August – Tiffany Stark filled in and provided the following DOSE report:

- Ron Pekarek, Program Manager-Bright Start/Bright Future/TBS said that they would continue to provide IFSP support to preschoolers who turned 3 during school closure until school districts could take over given the challenges. Districts will be provided with a list of names that pertain to their district.
- September is "Suicide Awareness Prevention Month". Jennifer Newell, Director of Behavioral Health presented an English & Spanish version of the "Teen Guide to Mental Health". The Resource Guide is part of AB 2246 which calls for a Mental Health Awareness Plan for 7th and 8th grade and high school. AB 1767 calls for Elementary (K-6) to have a policy or practice plan for mental Health awareness and response to suicide.
- Dr. Newell also reported that Behavioral Health Services has continued to provide services via Zoom, Microsoft Teams and a couple of other platforms.
- Rachel Weaver, Special Services Administrator reported on the use of technology to continue to make related services and supports available to students.
- Sarah Hamilton, Special Services Administrator provided an update and contact information on new program managers in the AcCEL program.
- Preschool Summit Meetings and zoom locations were shared.
- Jennifer Reimer shared about the staff development calendar and said it was available on the tcoeselpa.org website along with the parent trainings and parent cafes.

B. CAC "Meeting Challenges" Calendar – Jessica Ceja provided an update on the planning and development of the "Meeting Challenges" calendar for 2021. Jessica reviewed a list of schools and programs to be featured and shared some examples. She noted that a few teachers requested a consent form to cover themselves as shown on video platforms. Jessica showed the CAC examples of some of the scenarios being planned. The CAC was pleased with the development.

C. CAC Directory of Services – Sally Fernandes introduced the newly updated CAC Directory of Services. Sally shared that the process of developing the directory was a new experience and found that as a parent, the CAC directory

was very helpful. Norma added that copies are available to any school, community agency, nonprofit or family member upon request.

D. CAC Orientation – Norma Erwin provided the organizational structure and contact information for the CAC and a review of the monthly meeting dates and study topics. Norma also discussed the special projects planned; the CAC “Meeting Challenges” calendar, Special Education Recognition luncheon, “Surrogate Parent” opportunities and parents as speakers as requested by the community. Norma invited everyone present to attend any or all monthly CAC meetings.

E. Study Topic & Guest Presenter – “SB 98 & New Requirements” & “Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan” by Tammy McKean, Assistant Superintendent Special Services /SELPA Administrator. Tammy reviewed the following points of discussion regarding SB 98:

- Continued the general discussion on virtual learning since schools were not cleared to open
- Changed instructional minutes to 240 minutes per day
- Allows for a blend of face to face & independent learning; synchronous and asynchronous learning as determined by the teacher and district
- Requires schools/districts to create an emergency plan /distance learning plan as an attachment to the IEP and be reviewed at the next annual so that parents know what the plan is in the event of another pandemic.
- The immediate challenge has been to develop an emergency plan for each student as it cannot wait until the next annual IEP meeting since the pandemic is current.
- State and federal levels have provided guidelines to schools. There has been some reprieve for some mandates. However, federal IDEA regulations were not lifted.
- Currently, it allows for “Learning Continuity & Attendance Plan” to replace the local plan for SELPA’s and districts.

“Learning Continuity & Attendance Plan” (part of SB98)

- Instead of creating LCAP districts are to create “Learning Continuity Plans” to address how student learning and attendance will be ensured virtually. In many cases, both parents work, and students have to sign in on their own.
- Learning Continuity Plans are due to CDE by September 30th. Each district should have their plans posted.
- Provides for “learning loss mitigation” funds. Funds are to be used to support strategies that mitigate learning loss due to not being “face to face”; for example, student Chrome books, Wifis, online curriculum, virtual assessment kits, etc. It does not cover things that are normally purchased by the school. Instructional materials are not covered since they are normally purchased by the school.

Discussion Followed

SB 820 – (recently passed)

- Effective immediately
- Makes clear that No restrictions have been lifted with regards to IDEA laws. The IEP needs to move forward
- Opens Mental Health service funds to ALL students including students in general education although no additional funds have been allocated. This recognizes that students who did not have mental health concerns before that may now have issues due to the pandemic and school closure. On the other hand, many students who had problems before are now doing much better due to distance learning option.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & RESOURCES PROVIDED

Next Meeting: October 1, 2020 at 1:30 pm – Zoom link was provided

Resource Information:

- Handouts included flyers for the scheduled virtual parent training and cafes in English & Spanish. Timberly Romero discussed the dates and times of the parent trainings and parent cafes.

*Cyndi Ward made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Timberly Romero seconded the motion.
Meeting Adjourned.