

Community Advisory Committee (CAC)
Meeting Agenda (Zoom Video Conference)
December 10, 2020
11:45am-1:15pm
Minutes

1. General

1.1.Call to Order and Meeting Ground Rules by Melinda at 11:48am

1.2.Introductions made by all attending

PRESENT: Justin Albano, program Specialist SJCOE, Melinda Barrera- Manteca, John Barrera- Manteca, Kristy Baysinger , Brandie Bruni- SJCOE Assistant Superintendent - SELPA/Special Education, Jody Burriss- Director of SPED Manteca, Rowena Fairbanks, Monica Filoso-SJ County Programs, Dena Hernandez- Regional Manager State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) North Valley Hills, NellLaine Kilgore, Banta School District, Nicki Moss-Family Resource Network (FRN), Angelica Thomas- Jefferson District, Patricia (did not get last name)- parent from Tracy

2. Parent Portion

2.1.Parent Discussion on Distance Learning – What is working and what needs to improve?

Hurdles & Successes given:

Monica- San Joaquin County Programs- challenging time for parents, teachers, and students in general. We have done outreach since the last CAC meeting but with all the zoom activity- some parents may not want to attend the CAC meeting on zoom. Our county hybrid model- students have benefitted being back in school -face to face. Shared the schedule for students.

Angelica- Jefferson School District- similar to county programs- Hybrid model- some students are on campus up to 4 days a week right now and some at home. Have noticed an uptick in parent training on IEP's. More families needing more support to access their education when at home. Currently- 4 hours a day instruction on campus and hope to extend that in January and waiting on the Board's direction next Tuesday.

Jody- Manteca Unified-we have students on campus for the next 2 days then Phase 1.5 where will be doing cohorts for next week and first 2 days back in Jan and back to plan on Jan 11. Getting our staff and parents prepared for what is going to be going on in the next few weeks when we will be back in full swing. She then explained the models for the different age groups/classes. Important to have students come into class and classes from home as an option. Parents were to notify the school counselor if they chose not to have their student back on campus at all to make sure of an appropriate placement for the student. Opening more spots on for elementary On-Line Academy that might be a good option pending students need.

Nellaine- Banta School District- two different scenarios going- River Islands has completely shut down and is all distance learning. There was an uptick of COVID cases in that area. At Banta- hybrid approach of special education and rest of the school is on distance learning. And it is going fine there. It has been beneficial for our kids to be back in school. They learned to stay 6 feet apart within the week.

3. CAC Business

3.1. Reviewed/Approved the CAC Meeting Minutes dated **October 22, 2020.**

Motion made to approve minutes as written: Angelica/ 2nd by Monica- roll call vote taken: all in favor/ Nicki abstained – **motion passed.**

3.2. Upcoming meeting dates and times: The times were agreed upon.

- December 10, 2020 – 11:45 am
- February 18, 2021 – 6:00 pm
- April 22, 2021 – 11:45 am
- May 13, 2021 – 6:00 pm

Melinda stated that she would like to have a parent segment at every meeting. She reviewed the topics she sent out for feedback but didn't get a lot of feedback. Would like to a mock IEP and maybe a document review. This might help parents understand the process and the forms. The group agreed that this was a good idea and a need for parents. Melinda will seek volunteers on these topics from the committee moving forward.

4. SELPA Representative Business

4.1. **Justin Albano** – SELPA- we as a SELPA provide the opportunity for facilitated IEP meetings to our districts through our SELPA as well as some people from Stockton came to a training. Also provided Tracy Unified School district with trainings with regards to relationships and behaviors as well as social/emotional learning. Currently the SELPA is reviewing special education plans for districts as part of a compliance procedure for CDE.

4.2. **Brandie Brunni** – Council of Directors Report- as Justin shared- Currently, we are reviewing the SEP (Special Ed Plans) for those districts who have some areas of compliance that the CDE is monitoring. This data is sent every year to CDC. This is brand new process using a SEP. How it works- districts with a collaboration of professionals reviews and looks at what the root cause is, develop a plan to improve the area including someone from the SELPA to be part of the planning committee. It is sent to the SELPA to review to ensure that they have all of the components that are required. SELPA then sends them up to CDE and they will be going out this Monday. It has been crunch time due to COVID that the work was delayed.

Sharing that the local plan we approved back in the spring- is moving forward- I have gone to the board meetings of the districts and reviewing the local plan with each of them and received approval Ripon, Linden, Manteca, Banta did on own. I will be attending Tracy,

Lammersville and Venture next week. By February -we should have the final sent to CDC for their approval.

5. District Representative Business

3.1. **Jody Burriss** – Manteca Unified- we are working through the distance learning. Trying to figure out how we can best meet the needs of our kiddos.

3.2. **NellLaine Kilgore** – Banta School District-want to change our focus as it has been training. I attended the county Mindfulness initiative and looking forward to it. Melinda asked to hear more about it. NellLaine explained that it is techniques for self-awareness, they use them in schools and our county program use it in their ED programs. It teaches the kids about self-awareness, empathy, meditation skills and meditation for focusing the mind and calming down. Started with county employees and pushing it out to their districts. I thought it would be a good thing to go to. Monica may have more info.

3.3. **Monica Filoso** - San Joaquin County Programs – yes added to the Mindfulness explanation. The Mental Health professionals have been using this for a few years now. It has been a benefit to students and staff alike and will be opened up to the districts. The intent is that the staff would learn the practice of mindfulness and be able to infuse that into their classrooms. It will benefit the students and also the staff who have been feeling overwhelmed from the stress of the pandemic. The idea that you have to care for yourself before you can care for others is effective advice. It is an after-school commitment and is voluntary. Dena interjected that SCDD Orange County Office has hosted several Mindfulness Trainings to self-advocates, parent advocates and school personnel and others during this pandemic and it has been well received as a needed resource for many. Dena will share this free resource with the CAC as they schedule more. Monica continued- We continue live in three different school years and all the planning that involves. We are really happy to have the students back in the classrooms.

3.4. **Angelica Thomas** – Jefferson School District- update- we started in the cohort model with our most significantly at-risk students- preschool- 8th grade. Brought them back 4 days a week and having distance learning. Board voted to wait until January 2021 to bring back all students. We are focusing on our services at risk students. Lots of meetings, lots of planning and taking direction from our board.

At this point in the meeting- Melinda was informed that a parent joined the meeting and raised her hand. The following comments were made:

She shared that she had requested a Spanish interpret at the last meeting and didn't see one on this meeting. Justin explained that the SELPA was working on this.

She did receive the agenda in Spanish but to follow and understand the meeting she would need an interpreter.

Melinda apologized that there was not an interpreter and she will make sure there will be one at future meetings.

4. Agency Representative Business

4.1. **Danielle Wells** - absent

4.2. **Nicki Moss** - Family Resource Network- FRN is still here for families and staff are continuing to work from home. We can do IEP phone or zoom consults to help parents- parents can scan over their IEP and we can review. We had a successful Holiday Drive Through this past Saturday. We had 80 families come- they got to go home with a bag of PPE supplies provided by us at SCDD and craft projects and 2nd Harvest donated bags of food. Families were very appreciative. It was nice as staff to SEE people even at a distance as they were in their cars. We have a Conservatorship Training on Jan 27, 2021 via zoom- 6pm-8pm. Once the flyer is developed- I will send to the CAC to share with families. Quick update on SJ TEETH- grant with First 5 is coming to an end on December 31, 2020. If anyone knows of a family in need have them call us and we will try to get them set up with a dentist.

4.3. **Joe Stansil** - Department of Rehabilitation- absent

4.4. **Dena Hernandez** - State Council on Developmental Disabilities- North Valley Hills- I want to say GREAT job to FRN and their Board which included John and Melinda for a wonderful Holiday Drive through- I was able to help out that day and it was awesome! Seeing the kids light up when they saw Santa was the best. The families were so grateful for all the items! I would like to share some VMRC info in Danielle's absence. VMRC will be hosting a couple times a month- free COVID testing drive throughs in Stockton and Modesto from 8am-12. SCDD will be there to help by passing out PPE. Go to www.vmrc.net for more info and to register for testing. Claire Lazaro- VMRC Clinical Director has worked really hard to get this set up to help meet the needs of the community. VMRC, Self-Advocacy Council 6 and SCDD still providing PPE distribution days from 2pm-4pm- all the info is on the VMRC website.

5. Public Comments (5 minutes for each speaker)-

* Justin came back into the meeting to state he couldn't get an interpreter for this meeting but will get the parents contact info and work with her for future meetings. He apologized for this and will make sure an interpreter will be at the meetings in the future.

* The parent said this was her second request and she missed the information from this meeting. Brandie stated that the minutes would be done in Spanish for this meeting for her to review the information. SJCOE will have an interpreter at the next meeting. The parent said that this committee should be open for the Spanish community. Melinda stated that she wants the CAC to be open to all which included the Spanish Community. Dena shared info on how SCDD & VMRC list the Spanish interpreter line on the agendas for ease of access to interpretation.

* Rowena Fairbanks shared that when she is at IEP meetings- she shares info about this CAC. She attended today so she could learn more about it to share with the parents. She would like her parents to get involved to network and learn more about it.

* Patricia- parent-wanted to discuss IEP trainings that Justin spoke about. Those trainings were for district personnel to learn about a facilitated IEP. Nicki from FRN stated that they have a bilingual staff person (Blanca) who can help with IEP in Spanish.

* Patricia asked about the suicide of a student in Lodi. Has there been a protocol to prevent that situation from happening at other districts? The response was that districts put information on their websites such as Hot Line numbers for students and parents across their banner of website for Mental Health assistance. Also reviewed the District's protocols for referral for what we call a "Threat Assessment"- this is for any time a student presents signs they might harm themselves- we have a process in place. The County Office clinicians are aware and working to make sure during this time of distance learning that people know who to contact in they need help ensure that our students are saying safe. Also sent out information to our families that address if they have a mental health concern that they can contact our Mental Health Hotline that puts them in touch with one our therapists. Available to talk and assist with resources. Nothing is being left unnoticed for student safety. Our team meets every Friday since we learned of the unfortunate Lodi event.

* Patricia asked about training- I would like it if teachers had trainings- I read IEP's and there are errors. The teachers don't make SMART Goals, they just roll the goals over from IEP to IEP. There is nothing specific – its not complete in the goals. I think the teachers and the program managers need training on how to do this not just training for the parents. Brandie stated that trainings are done throughout the year for all teachers. She let Patricia know that if is it a specific teacher or district that she is seeing this with to let Melinda or herself know and that would help us work with those teams.

* John asked a question through Melinda- he wants to know the parameters surrounding putting a school to 100% distance learning- Manteca Unified in particular. How is it decided? The Deputy Superintendent and Board members meet regularly with the senior directors and review all the information out there including Facebook parent forums and site information from Special Ed as well. They talk about how to best meet the needs of our students to include health, safety and education standards. Discuss risk versus benefits of opening back up. Brandi stated that they review and monitor positive COVID cases. If 25% of staff and students test positive in a 14-day period, the school can be shut down by County Public Health. That is why the students put info into the Qualtrics survey each morning.

6. Adjournment – Meeting ended at 12:53pm. Next Meeting **February 18, 2021 from 6pm-7:30pm**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Dena Hernandez- SCDD North Valley Hills/ SJCOE CAC Secretary

7. Voting Members

Parent Representatives (14) – (10) Open Positions

County Programs (2)

- *Open*
- *Open*

Escalon (1)

- *Open*

Jefferson (1)

- *Open*

Lammersville (1)

- *Open*

Lincoln (2)

- Lupe Buzo (Vice Chair)
- *Open*

Linden (1)

- *Open*

Manteca (2)

- Melinda Barrera (Chair)
- John Barrera

Ripon (1)

- *Open*

Small Schools (Banta) (1)

- *Open*

Tracy (2)

- Crystal Pelayo
- *Open*

Educational Representatives (4) - Full

- Manteca Unified - Jody Burriss
- Jefferson – Angelica Thomas
- Banta Elementary - NellLaine Kilgore
- SJCOE - Monica Filoso

Agency Representatives (5)

- Valley Mountain Regional Center (VMRC) – Danielle Wells
- Family Resource Network (FRN) – Nicki Moss
- Department of Rehabilitation – Joe Stansil
- State Council on Developmental Disabilities - Dena Hernandez

Additional Appointed Representatives (1)

- Student/Adults with special needs – Gina Marie Haugh

Non-Voting Membership

Ex-Officio Representatives

- SELPA Director – Brandie Bruni
- SELPA Program Specialist – Justin Albano
- SELPA Administrative Assistant – Alexandria Hinson
- Council of Directors Representative – 1 rotating position among directors; 1 position appointed on an annual basis
- Assembly member’s Office
- Senator’s Office
- Attendees