

TEHAMA COUNTY SELPA
SELPA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE -- REGULAR MEETING

Tehama County Department of Education, Library
1135 Lincoln Street, Red Bluff, CA 96080

Tuesday October 20, 2020
9:00 AM TO 10:30 AM

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT: Veronica Coates, Rich DuVarney, Brad Mendenhall, Cindy Haase, Rick Fitzpatrick, Jim Weber, Jared Caylor, Michelle Farrer, Jenny Montoya, Jeff Scheele, Rachel Davis

ABSENT: Todd Brose, Cliff Curry, Joey Adame

GUESTS: Katie Silva, Jillian Damon, Mark Pfaff, Loreina Santana, Aubrie Fulk, Diana Davisson, Jim Southwick, Sara Smith, Suzanne Adkins, Wes Grossman

1. Call to Order

Brad Mendenhall called the meeting to order at 9:01 am.

2. Consent Agenda

Rick voted to approve the consent agenda, Jared Caylor seconded the motion.

All in favor motioned carried.
0 opposed; 0 abstained

3. Public Input

There was no public input.

4. Priorities Request

No input

5. LCI Request

No input

6. California Children's Services (CCS) Interagency Agreement

6.1 Veronica stated that the SELPA department summarized the history of CCS and SELPA requirements. There has not been a signed interagency agreement in many years. Tehama County Public Health/CCS have asked us to review it again and they also have this draft agreement. CCS staff is requesting districts to provide transportation to the MTU clinic. To receive

transportation to the MTU, both transportation and the CCS service must be on the IEP. CCS is a medical based service.

Brad Mendenhall asked if there was transportation written into the IEP if the district would need to provide the transportation. Veronica stated that yes, if there is transportation written into an IEP we are obligated to provide transportation, if the CCS service was also listed within the IEP. Some CCS students are not students with IEPs and would not be eligible for transportation. Veronica relayed she discussed with CCS staff the barriers all districts are currently facing with the COVID 19 pandemic crisis and emergency, including staffing.

There were questions regarding why so little SELPAs in the state have an actual signed interagency agreement. Veronica relayed that this is a statewide issue as the leadership within the CCS system has directed locals not to sign off on the agreements. There are many disputes statewide and recent student litigation wherein which CCS was found liable for the service on the IEP. It is still important to review the agreement and approve as a SELPA to present to Tehama County Public Health.

Jared Caylor motioned to carry, Jim Weber seconds motion.

All in favor motion carries
0 opposed; 0 abstained

7. Special Education Finance Update

7.1: A scenario with projected increased low incidence funds was provided to the committee. There has been a substantial increase in the low incidence funding. Students who generate this funding are students with visual impairments, deafness, hard of hearing, or orthopedic impairments. All funds must be expended on specific services, materials and equipment for LI students. SELPA Administrator and Fiscal analyst described the calculation used to equitably expend the funds, across the expended generated from eligible students. The calculation uses the percentage of students that drive these numbers and applied to staff delivering the services. Funds were also allocated to materials, equipment and supplies. allocated some of the monies to go to materials, equipment and supplies. The SELPA will track the patterns of funding going toward materials and equipment to provide more data in the next fiscal year. Our equipment expenditures continue to increase each year. There was a question related to the Phonak contract. Veronica explained this is a contract with insurance for expensive DHH equipment that has a high risk of being lost or broken. Veronica relayed that this will be discussed with the CBO group meetings as well as at future SELPA meetings, including when first interim is released.

7.2 Veronica relayed that the SELPA applied for the Statewide Necessary Small and Sparse SELPA Extraordinary Cost Pool for a student who was placed in a Residential Treatment Facility. Diana Davisson explained the process and an estimate of potential revenue we could recoup and contribute back to our SELPA Priorities Fund, in the amount of \$113,000. Veronica praised Diana on her hard work on this application as it is confusing and takes a lot of accuracy and attention to detail.

7.3 State SELPA Finance Update

This has been included in the packet and link in the agenda. In addition, it is a live google doc may be viewed at any time.

7.4 WestEd Special Education Finance Update

Veronica summarized an ongoing current WestEd study that is looking at SELPAs and special education finance. There are some concerning implications coming from the study and there may be some opportunities to provide advocacy on the benefits of a SELPA finance model that is interdependent among multi district SELPAs, specifically Small and Sparse SELPAS.

8. Regional Program Facilities Update

The SELPA will schedule a facilities committee meeting within the next few months to discuss SELPA facility needs for regional programs, specifically for our programs at Gerber.

9. Regional Program and Services Update

Mark Pfaff updated about the Gerber programs open for in person learning. Parents are being supportive and working with staff. There were questions about participation and attendance? Mark stated that attendance is about 50% this week, but it has been about 90%. Mark mentioned that they are keeping under 16 people in the classroom including staff members and other staff that may be coming in. We continue to look at increasing time the students are in person.

Loreina Santana gave an update for preschool and TALC programs. She stated that 23 preschoolers are currently doing distance learning and 1 teacher is assigned to this Distance Learning need. Classroom numbers remain low. The cohorts are attending two days a week right now, and will increase to four days in coming weeks. As far as attendance goes, parents have been doing really well at keeping their kids home when sick. There was one student who tested positive, however it was a student with no other student to student contacts.

Loreina stated that she is seeing an increase in appointment based programs in preschool. She is also seeing a decline in referrals for special

education at this time. The trends appear to be related to the current COVID 19 crisis and our improvement process related to preschool assessment. There has been a significant amount of students who are not qualifying and the team is currently looking at the data around these trends. Loreina gave an update on the TALC program; there has been a decline in enrollment. Currently there are six students, four are in person and two are participating, daily in a remote learning format. We remain engaged with all students in the program.

Aubrie gave an update for Educational Related Mental Health Services. She relayed that there has never been a delay or stop to any of these services, not even in March during the shutdown. Clinicians felt it was important to continue services and provided them remotely and virtually. Aubrie relayed that there is a significant increase in the services to parents at this time. There are five students who we haven't had regular contact with we are doing welfare checks, working with districts and checking in with those families. As of right now no students are being exited in ERMHS. We have two psych interns that are assisting and those students close to transitioning to an exit of ERMHS are being placed on maintenance plans with the interns to slowly phase out during this time. Psych interns have been helping to provide them with a maintenance program to slowly phase them out instead.

Other related services have really pivoted, mentioned Veronica, the "Motor team" OT, PT, OI, have been very creative in how they are providing services as some schools are fully reopen and some are not. The team has been going to school sites along with finding ways to connect with the distance-learning students as well. The DHH and VI teams are very similar and have been creative in how they are providing services in a unique way. We are seeing an increase of a need from districts to districts placements.

10. Special Education Accountability Update

Veronica provided the following reminders and updates:

10.1 CALPADs certification deadline. The deadline to be certified is December 11, 2020. CALPADS providers within the districts need to be working with Mandi Gozzo, from the SELPA, to ensure we are submitting all the data and there is time to correct any errors.

10.2 Special Education Plan (SEP, formerly known as PIR)- deadline is Dec 15th to the CDE. SELPA has met with every district and provided them with all the documents that they need to complete for these plans.

10.3 Overdue timelines: CDE has issued letters to districts where there are overdue IEPs and/or assessments during the COVID 19 crisis time. CDE is

requiring districts to decrease their overdue IEPs and assessments by 20% within the next 30 days.

10.4 Disproportionality review report was sent in August, however after reviewing the data there was some inaccurate data for our SELPA. Veronica worked with the CDE and after data was corrected, we have no districts in Disproportionality Monitoring.

11. SELPA Administrator Report

11.1 Litigation trends; Veronica relayed there is an increase in litigation across the state. We are seeing an increase in parent concern and disputes related to a myriad of COVID related reasons, including distance learning. We currently have no active litigation at this time.

11.2 Legislative update

Nothing to report on the legislative report as most bills related to special education died due to COVID. There may be new special education bills in the new session. There was a discussion about concerns related to the WestEd study and the continual negative spotlight on SELPAs. Rich DuVarney shared that many COES are supportive of SELPAs and the structure it brings for LEAs.

11.3 SELPA Administrator report

11.3 Veronica mentioned that we have applied for an Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) enhanced grant to address COVID related disputes. The grant has been submitted to CDE.

11.4 Veronica summarized the professional development opportunities the SELPA has provided to member districts and LEAs which include CPI. Both Loreina and Mark are now certified CPI trainers. There have been ADR opportunities, including a meeting with the ADR team on how to enhance and increase ADR team members. The SELPA has some hot topic IEP and Special Education topics.

12. District Reports

No districts reports

13. Adjournment

Rick Fitzpatrick motioned to adjourn the meeting. Jared Caylor seconded the motion.

All in favor motioned carried. 0 opposed; 0 abstained

Meeting Adjourned at 10:00am