

Community Advisory Committee Meeting
April 22, 2009
New Brighton Middle School – room 32
250 Washburn Ave., Capitola
6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Call to Order- Ms. Cernac called the meeting to order at 6:31pm and asked for a Roll Call. Everyone around the table also introduced themselves and their role in CAC.

Roll Call

Rebecca Cernac, Chair
Victoria George, Co-Chair
Hal Ledbetter, COE, Senior Director of Special Ed
Jennifer Sullivan, Morgan Autism Center
Deborah Partain, Morgan Autism Center
Erica Sowder, LOSD
Katie Merchant, LOSD
Carmel Weifert, LOSD
Lauri Lewis, SLV
Susie Christensen, Scotts Valley
Stephanie Dale, parent
Kim Tuson, SCCS
Jill Wilhelm, SCCS
Sheryl Haageman, potential new Member at Large

Visitors

Stephanie Dale
Terry McKinney
Kit Sherman

Review and approval of February 11, 2009 minutes
(M/S/C) Erica Sowder/Laurie Lewis, all ayes

Additions/Deletions to Agenda

By Laws- Ms. Christensen asked to review the by-laws for CAC.
Ms. Cernac, Chair put it on the agenda for next meeting

Public Input (For items not on the agenda - Three minutes per person)

Terry McKinney spoke to the group in regards to facilitation of CMH services.
Ms. Cernac asked him if he thought it would be a good workshop topic?
Ms. George inquired as to how he felt CAC could be useful.

Ms. George wanted to publically say a very big Thank You to Dan as he leaves the SELPA directorship.

Morgan Autism Center Presentation – Jennifer Sullivan and Deborah Partain with Hal Ledbetter

Hal introduced Ms. Sullivan and Ms. Partain from Morgan Autism Center. The COE is entering into the 2nd year of a successful partnership with the program.

Jennifer spoke in detail about the daily activities and schedule of the program. She focused in part on the following:

- ❖ individualized speech therapy within the center
- ❖ 15 minute rotations
- ❖ OT as per IEP as part of the regular students day
- ❖ Regular meetings with parents both in groups and individually

Morgan Autism Center will continue the Preschool program and will add students into the program up to grade three.

Morgan Autism Center will also assist with support to staff for the post secondary program in COE. Morgan Autism Center has worked with this age group for quite some time.

Mr. Ledbetter apologized to the group that due to timing/scheduling he was not able to present the proposal that the Chrysalis program be expanded to grade five to CAC prior to the SECA meeting in March.

CAC members wanted to know what Plan B would be should the new building not be ready for Fall 2009. Mr. Ledbetter, while confident that the building and programs will be in place for Fall 2009 reported that classes will be located in the Struck center should the building not be ready.

Mainstreaming for the students in the newly expanded Chrysalis Center was discussed. There are classrooms of typically developing peers located on the campus at Green Acres school (across the parking lot). Some concern was voiced that this feels “exclusionary”. It was pointed out that the site is adjacent and appropriate for mainstreaming opportunities. Mr. Ledbetter reminded that group that there is currently and will continue to be mainstreaming opportunities for the Chrysalis students as appropriate. He does acknowledge that it is a challenge for the preschool program as the current typically developing preschool program on site is the State preschool which service primarily bilingual students. Additionally they (the preschool) has very structured limits on numbers of students allowed in the program. However, he and Carol Mulford are looking for a local preschool operator to house a typically developing peers preschool in the center.

A parent wanted to know if Morgan could support ED classrooms as well. Jennifer replied that is not their area of expertise. So, not so likely. Parents also wondered if Morgan Autism Center would be supporting “Sex Ed” for students. Ms. Sullivan replied that this is typically more appropriate to be coached 1:1.

Morgan Autism Center will also be available to coach staff throughout the SELPA to support autistic students in the mainstream setting. There was quite a bit of speculation as to how this would actually look. Ms. Merchant reminded everyone that SEC has not yet had the report back on this support service. Once SEC reviews this, they will develop a plan for implementation.

Directors will work out the details of how the service will be accessed. Ms. Sullivan pointed out that the goal of Morgan Autism Center is to support and facilitate not to DO the job. She reminded the group that challenges are often due to lack of training and environmental awareness.

Reports

Chairperson Report - Rebecca Cernac

- New Posters were handed out – please take some for your districts
- SECA – Ms. Cernac reports that she also was quite concerned that SECA had info to act upon prior to it coming to CAC for review. She reports that she feels confident that it was indeed due to an issue of the calendar and timing and does not feel that it is likely to be a systemic concern.

SELPA Administrator Report - Dan Cope

Mr. Cope was on Medical Leave and not able to be at the meeting.

SEC Liaison Report - Katie Merchant

- March 19, 2009 was the meeting prior to this CAC meeting
 - Many of the items were those that went to SECA in March
 - SELPA director position is being recruited. Interviews on May 15 with the expectation that a name will be brought to the Governing Board on May 28 for action.
 - Autism Task Force final report was presented and approved as put forward.
 - Expansion of the Chrysalis program to grade five was reviewed and approved to begin operation in Fall 2009. The Governing Board approved the expansion to grade three to begin in Fall 2009.
 - Although there are many referrals for grades four and five there was not enough hard data for the Governing Board to act upon at this time. They asked that it be brought back with more data on May 28.
 - The Governing Board approved the addition of one Post secondary one class for Fall 2009.
 - The contract for Fall 2009 to continue the partnership with Morgan Center contract was approved.
 - 09/10 preliminary budget was passed.
 - CCS medical therapy budget was reviewed and it is happily reduced due to the new building coming online in the fall. The Medical Therapy Unit will be housed in the new building when their Scotts Valley lease is up in the fall.
 - Annual Service Plan and Budget plan were reviewed in public hearing and approved as presented.
 - ED Middle School Facility for 09/10 was on the agenda. Currently we have two of the COE program on the NBMS campus, one SH and one ED classroom. The Governing Board discussed the level of impact the program has on the campus. It was asked that Mr. Cope and Mr. Payne (chair or SECA) work together to develop a formula for compensation to

the site that can be used now and in the future should this situation arise again.

- Post Secondary tuition and transportation are the responsibility of families
 - Bus passes are available thru metro
 - Board of Governors grant is available
- Prior Written Notice
 - Effective Jan 1 2009 parents can refuse SpEd services for no reason at all. Of course there are consequences and there is a strict protocol that must be followed. Interested families should contact their casemanager.
- Many administrators and staff attended the Positive Behavior Support workshop focusing on RiI (Response to Intervention). This workshop centered around the Behavior needs of the students that may be identified in the gen ed setting. RtI is just getting rolling in California while it has been very strong in the East. Some of the focus of the workshop was around community building and helping students develop language.

Discussion/Action Items

A. Membership

- ❖ Elect a “Member at large”;

Nominee: Sheryl Hagemann (in attendance), of HOPE Services was nominated and voted in unanimously. Ms. Hagemann is the manager of all the Vocational programs in Santa Cruz county.

They support many business with employees in the community, Gayles Bakery and Bay Federal to name a few.

(M/S/C) Rebecca Cernac/Carmel Weifert, all ayes

Welcome to our newest members who have recently been approved by their school boards:

- ❖ **Reba Patterson representing Scotts Valley School District**
- ❖ **Valerie Diaz (returning member), representing Santa Cruz City School District.**
- ❖ **Melanie Coons – Santa Cruz City School District**

Unfortunately our new members were not available due to a variety of reasons. We look forward to seeing them next year.

We continue to have one more position open for member at large. Ms. Marquart may have someone from SARC.

Appointment of CAC member to serve on interview committee to hire SELPA Director effective July 1, 2009

- ❖ Ms. Cernac opened this discussion commenting that while it will be hard to fill Dan’s shoes she would welcome the opportunity to be on the committee that attempts to do so.
- ❖ Ms. George supported Ms. Cernac in her self-nomination.
- ❖ Ms. Christensen also would welcome the opportunity to serve on this interview committee.
- ❖ Some members had some questions about the interview process. Ms. Knox, having served on interview committees with Soquel Union Elementary School District was able to explain the process as it has been in the past. She noted that she would expect it to follow roughly the same process for this position as SUESD continues to be the Administrative Unit for the SELPA.
- ❖ At this point a confidential vote was suggested.

- ❖ Some members wanted to hear more from each of the candidates enumerating what they felt each of them could bring to the process.
- ❖ Ms. Cernac and Ms. Christensen each gave a brief synopsis on what they expected they could contribute to the interview process.
- ❖ After this a confidential vote was held and Ms. Cernac was voted in (7:2)
- ❖ There followed a lively discussion of the attributes to look for in a new SELPA director.

Attributes to look for in a new SELPA Director

After quite a bit of collaborative discussion the group developed the following list:

- AB602 knowledge
- Comfort with public speaking
- Clone of Dan
- Collaborator
- Good negotiator
- Caring
- Creative thinker
- Able to look for resources
- Special Ed Budget Knowledge
- Nice to be familiar with our SELPA and how things work
- Ability to reach out to outside resources, HOPE, Easter Seals
- Knowledge of partner agencies, ie, CMH, SARC
- Writing skills regarding policies and procedures
 - CCR, Procedural Manuals, Policy making organization
- Ability to able to look at many diverse needs while maintaining neutrality
- Good listener
- Highly recommended by parent groups
- Legislative Knowledge

Update on Plans for Legislation Information Sharing Day

“Leg Day” is planned for May 6, 2009. Carmel and her son plan to attend with Laurie Lewis. Dan will of course be there with them. These parents and the student are very excited to participate in this program. They will report back at the May Meeting.

Recognition Update, Oscar Torres -

Oscar was not able to be here so Victoria reported on Recognition Day for May 16th

- Victoria needs volunteers for the day.
- Email her if you'd like to volunteer.
- We had many nominations
 - 3 teachers
 - 3 aides
 - 3 administrators
 - 1 student
 - Marilyn Torp received 14 nominations. Pretty amazing!!!

2009/2010 Meeting Calendar

- It was noted that members can call an emergency meeting should they feel the need.
- We need to look at the SECA meetings to coordinate the CAC dates with SEC and SECA dates.
- Spring Break was a calendar issue this year.
- This will come back for the May Meeting.

2009/2010 Workshop Topics

- ❖ This will come back for the May Meeting.
- ❖ A committee is needed. Ms. George and Mr. McKinney volunteered for this committee.

CAC Awareness Committee Report

Carmel reports that in general the committee came up with many great ideas. The challenge continues to be implementation. They want to address this at the next meeting. Some of the ideas include:

- Email distribution list
- Boiler plate letters
- Information sheets that would be good to have available to all staff SELPA wide, special ed and general ed as well as administrative and clerical staff. Ie, secretaries need to know how to direct families when they receive phone inquiries.

ESY

Ms. Merchant reminds the group that districts are responsible for ESY regardless of whether a district plans to hold summer school. ESY services are IEP team decisions. Ms. Merchant suggested that families contact their casemanager and/or special ed director for specific student needs.

Future Agenda Items

- Calendar for 09/10 school year
- CAC by laws-
- Workshops for 09/10 school
- ESY

(M/S/C) Carmel Weifert/Victoria George, all ayes

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm

*The next business meeting will be held on May 13, 2009, 6:30pm
at the Soquel Union Elementary School District in the Board Room.
This will be the last meeting of the school year.*

APPROVED: May 13, 2009 as presented