

Ventura County Special Education Local Plan Area Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

The Ventura County SELPA CAC fosters effective and positive parent-professional collaboration to continue improving the special education system in meeting the educational needs of students with disabilities.

2022-2023 CAC BOARD

Carole Shelton, Chair
Agency Representative
Rainbow Connection Family
Resource Center

LeeAnn Holland, Vice-Chair
Parent Representative
Conejo Valley Unified School
District

**Amber Christensen, Recording
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Parent Representative
Ojai Unified School District

**Myra Medina, Membership
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Agency Representative
California Children's Services

Amanda Alfred, Treasurer
Parent Representative
Pleasant Valley School District

Vacant, Parliamentarian

**Flavia Seawright,
Public Information Officer**
Parent Representative
Pleasant Valley School District

SELPA STAFF

Emily Mostovoy-Luna
Associate Superintendent
Ventura County SELPA

Regina Reed
Director of Personnel
Development
Ventura County SELPA

Joanna Della Gatta
Director of Technical Support
and Transition
Ventura County SELPA

Jeanine Murphy
Assistant Director, Family &
School Collaboration
Ventura County SELPA

Kim DeAnda
Program Specialist
Ventura County SELPA

MINUTES

April 3, 2023
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Meeting will be held in person
VC SELPA – Santa Paula Room
5100 Adolfo Road
Camarillo, CA

Operations Cabinet Representatives:

Neil Virani, Director, Ventura Unified School District
Holly Minear Director, Ventura County Office of Education

The CAC is a public meeting, and any information that members choose to share about their children is not considered to be confidential. However, members of the CAC are encouraged to show sensitivity when considering sharing information with others.

("HO" indicates "handout")

No translation/interpretation needed.

4:06 Meeting called to order

I. Welcome/Introductions.....**Carole Shelton, Chair**

II. Agenda – Additions**Carole Shelton, Chair**
Agenda was reviewed. Mayra Medina made a motion to approve. Seconded by Amanda Alfred. No suggested additions or changes. All in favor. Motion passed.

III. Public Comment

The Ventura County SELPA Community Advisory Committee (CAC) offers anyone with an interest in Special Education an opportunity to ask questions, voice concerns, share information, express opinions, or otherwise bring matters to the attention of the members of the CAC. Matters discussed in this meeting may

need further inquiry or verification in order for the committee members to have a more complete understanding of the issues involved. The CAC may direct the speaker to various avenues of recourse, or it may ask a member of the Special Education administration to follow up, or a member of the committee may be assigned to make inquiries. In most cases, an update on the issue will take place at the next CAC meeting.

Melissa McMurdo, Deputy District Attorney: "The Intersection of Domestic Abuse and Disability: Interrupting the Cycle" will be held on April 24 from 2-3pm at the Family Justice Center in Ventura. Informational session on facts and circumstances on victimization of people with disabilities and what we can do. Share what resources are available to people that have been victimized. Flyer distributed. If this session fills up, more will be offered. They are also available for public outreach if there are certain areas we would like to have more information on.

Carole Shelton, Resource Specialist (on behalf of Rainbow Connection). Her son is a High School Senior. She was shocked to find that there is no decision tree/best practice/guidance for a parent for what happens if their child doesn't finish credits to graduate by the end of 12th grade. CDE has no guidance. Need some sort of template for educators, parents, IEP team members. With rollout of new diploma there will be more questions and issues. This is an area of great concern that more people need to be aware of.

IV. Meeting SummaryCarole Shelton, Chair

- [November 7, 2022:](#) Mayra Medina made a motion to approve Meeting Summary as written. Motion was seconded by Katie Spore. No discussion/additions/changes. All in favor. Motion passes.
- [January 9, 2023:](#) After finding several issues with the meeting minutes, the motion was tabled for further review. LeeAnn made a motion to table the approval of the January 9, 2023 meeting summary. Motion was seconded by Katie Spore. All in favor. Motion passes.

V. Community Updates..... Joanna Della Gatta

LeeAnn Holland, Conejo. LeeAnn was excited to share that their district has proposed some moves of programs to different campuses to maximize inclusion opportunities. Also includes some Autism programs that will be split between campuses to provide more general education inclusion opportunities. Adding 1 program for behavior/social emotional needs, a therapeutic center.

Katie Spore, Fillmore. March 21: World Down Syndrome Day. The parent of a student in her class came to class and read a story, passed out stickers. Students were asked to wear crazy socks because under the microscope, the chromosomes of someone with Down Syndrome looks like mismatched socks.

Flavia Seawright and Amanda Alfred, Pleasant Valley: Flavia reported that the Parent Advisory Counsel Meeting met with the Special Education Director and Program Specialist and presented some material on Transition IEPs and Least Restrictive Environment. They were able to ask personal questions or get responses to questions/concerns from the community. Reading Across America went well across all schools. Saturday Academy Classes are offered for students that need extra help and support. It has been shared that students with disabilities are supported the same way they are in their regular school day.

Principals are working with campus supervisors on supporting them during inclusion recess and transition times. What do they need to offer to the Campus Supervisors to help support behaviors that they are already using with those students in other settings.

Amanda shared a bit about their Padlet and how great it is for access to resources. Contains resources for families, parents, caregivers. Helps them understand how to get information.

Monica Torres, VCBH: Providing lots of training opportunities. Discussed collaborating with agencies who have shared clients and families they are working with. Help support the family's needs across agencies: community-based partners.

Melissa Hannah, United Parents: Discussed all of the support groups that are currently happening. An all-Spanish group has grown from 9 to 24 families since November. There is free childcare and meals are also provided. Calendar on website with all dates/times of support groups.

Mayra Medina: California Children's Services (CCS): Conejo MTU moving to Glenwood. Looking forward to partnership with VCOE. They recently met with kids that had graduated to get feedback on things that the program would benefit from. Many suggested a mentorship program for families and kids. They are currently working with graduates on spearheading this. Partnering with sports groups, members at large. There is a needs survey out now. Cross train CCS supervisors, Mayra may be moving out of CAC, not sure if/when.

Jasmine Duron, Oxnard Elementary (pending board approval) and Autism Society: Aut2Run April 30th. Partnerships with Oxnard and Ventura Police Dept. @ Starbucks locations selling t shirts and patches. Lots of information on the website. Lots of great things going on: support groups, art classes (online still), advocacy program. They are also hiring 2 positions if you know of anyone that is interested in applying. More information is on the website.

Holly Minear, Director VCOE: Discussed the Bridge Credentials and most eligible teachers attended and obtained the Bridge Credential. Lots of Spring/Seasonal events going on at the sites. Safety series: law enforcement, groups from each school district, pull out priorities for schools and make sure discussed at staff meetings. Integrated Core Practice Model (ICPM) cross-system support. Alternate Pathway to Diploma. Partnering with other COEs to figure out how it is going to look for them. Already planning for next year. Students should have IEP meeting by 10th grade but really should be well before that since it discusses plans for 9th grade. Middle school is more appropriate.

Emily Mostovoy suggested that we agenzize the topic of Alternate Pathway to Diploma for a future meeting for a deeper discussion. Sometimes the law comes out and then we have to create a plan to look at next steps. Hopefully we will have an update at next meeting. They are working on developing a brochure. Districts are working diligently behind the scenes.

Amber Christensen, Ojai: Ojai has been through a lot this year in regards to schools consolidating and district uncertainty. Seems as though Leadership/Administrators, Teachers, Case Managers, and support staff are all trying to work collaboratively to make this as smooth of a transition as possible. Nice that Special Education is so involved in the discussion and how that will look for those students.

Carole Shelton, Rainbow Connection FRC FEC: Happy to announce that they have new amazing staff that are really running with it. Rainbow Connection Family Resource Center Family Empowerment Center is the new name. Amazing to now be called a Family Empowerment Center. FRC is age specific, anyone that is eligible for an IEP or if they think they are eligible for an IEP. FEC can service all students and their families. Carole reviewed upcoming events and support group details. Flyers were distributed for viewing. Please see Rainbow Website for dates/times. The best way is to get notified of these events and opportunities is to get on the email listserv or follow them on social media.

LeeAnn shared that the Family Empowerment Center is a huge deal! Lorie and Carole deserve huge praise. Melissa Hannah mentioned that up until now, the closest FEC was Fresno.

VI. Committee Reports

A. Executive Board.....**Carole Shelton, Chair**

- Carole shared the sad news that Darlene Williams, from the Autism Society, passed away recently. Carole shared a piece of the Autism Society's tribute message. More information will be shared at the next meeting. She will be sorely missed in our community. Jasmine shared that there will also be a memorial at the Aut2Run.
- ADR Conference was attended by members of the Executive Board. Was a great opportunity. It was shared that there was a great representation from Ventura County and it was nice to have parent involvement as well. All attendees expressed enthusiasm for what they took away and cannot wait to share more.
- April is Autism Acceptance Month: SELPA has changed the Autism Acceptance and Awareness image from the puzzle piece to a gold or rainbow infinity symbol. The puzzle piece implied that people with Autism need to fit into something to be whole, which is not the message we want to give. SELPA has developed some resources and support for this. Gold is Au on Periodic Table. Rainbow infinity symbol is used for Neurodiversity.
- Nominating Committee and Upcoming Election..... **LeeAnn Holland**
- LeeAnn reviewed the election process for the 2023-2024 CAC Officer Elections, including the positions and their duties. These are also listed in the CAC bylaws. Flavia shared about creating the CAC Newsletter and how that piece relates to the Public Information Officer duties.
Amanda asked for clarification on if you can be on the nominating committee for more than 1 year. It is not in the bylaws that you cannot be on nominating committee for 2 years, but it is best practice.
- Term of office is 1 year. Cannot hold the same position for more than 2 years. However, you can hold a different position.
- LeeAnn asked for volunteers and Mayra agreed to join the Nominating Committee. LeeAnn will be sending out a Google Form well to nominate. The Nominating Committee may only have to meet one time.
- Amber Christensen, Recording Secretary, is the only member that is eligible to hold the same position next year.

B. Parent Education and Training.....**Regina Reed**

- [CAC Survey](#)
This item was skipped due to Regina's absence but Emily confirmed that the CAC Survey will go out.

C. Public Information*Flavia Seawright/Joanna Della Gatta*

5:00 VII. Liaison Reports

- Operations Cabinet/Superintendents' Policy Council*Emily Mostovoy-Luna*

- Changes to Brown Act: Previously, when a member was to participate in a Brown Act meeting virtually, they would need to post the meeting publicly, wherever they are at, and leave the door open. Now, we just need to be able to state specific reasons why you are participating virtually. How this relates to our board: because we all have voting rights, it's the entire CAC, not just the executive board. We have the opportunity to participate via zoom, but it can't be everyone. There still must be a quorum in person and there needs to be a reasonings of why participating: emergency, work related, etc. There is a limit of the times that you can do this.

- Local Plan Annual Budget Timeline

Section D: Specific to the annual budget plan for 23-24 school year.

Section E. Annual Services Plan. Level of services that are available for students with disabilities. Full overview of different level of services per district, per school site. Chart is based on the date the report is run. Emily mentioned that it is Important to work backwards in relation when establishing timelines and due dates.

June 30: Turn in approved annual budget and services plan. Present to Directors, CBOs, and provide CAC an opportunity to have 30 day review window.

June 9: Presenting public hearing for annual budget and services.

May 25: All districts do posting for public hearing. Done 15 days prior to meeting.

May 1: Emily will present at CAC and open the 30 day review window.

Section B, which is the heart of the Local Plan will be done next year. The revision of this section is on a 3-year cycle. There will be a committee/work group developed for this. This is where there is more room for input.

- LCAPs and Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)

Recommending SELPA provide consultation for LCAP development. Trainings. By the end of next week all districts will have completed this. Discuss LRE. Comparisons of district's growth (or not) and how that can be looked at within their LCAP. LCAP team needs to have a parent rep for students with disabilities. Suggestion by SELPA is CAC Representative.

- Legislative Updates: Emily shared a few bills she would recommend keeping an eye on.

AB-1517: Gallagher. SELPA Governance. State SELPA proposing to codify what SELPAs are being asked to do.

AB-438: Rubio. Transition plans required beginning at age 14, instead of 16.

AB-87: Quirk-Silva. 504 Meeting recording.

SB-354: Ochoa Borgh. Inclusion/UDL

SB-691: Portantino. Universal Dyslexia Risk Screening. Would be required for students K-2. Concerns: potential overidentification in English learners.

SB-323 Portantino. Emergency safety procedures for students with exceptional needs. Comprehensive School Safety Plans to ensure that every school

district/site meets the needs of students with disabilities. This will be done with an Inclusive Schools Emergency Plan. If they don't have it in the comprehensive plan, they need to develop an Inclusive Plan and update the IEP. This is a bill that is taking off, lots of advocacy. Agree with the importance but there are a few areas needing clarification: no definition of what inclusive schools plan is or how to implement or give guidance. In addition, the Comprehensive School Safety Plan has a bullet for students with disabilities. There is already guidance on how to write that. How can CDE help support by developing a checklist, etc. Having 2 different plans could be problematic in a true state of emergency. "Plandemic". The Comprehensive School Safety Plan should be inclusive instead of having multiple plans.

There was a bit of discussion on how to support or follow bills and topics of high interest. A suggestion was made to incorporate/highlight information in the CAC newsletter.

- Budge Advocacy Letter: Emily is concerned that the current language problematic for many SELPAs across the state. Currently written, we would not be able to comply with the law. Would require all funding distributed to LEAs has to maintain for 23-24 school year (nothing less). Ensure SELPAs are distributing all funds. The challenge is that due to declining enrollment, even with new base rate, we are still seeing huge difference less. SELPA wouldn't be able to meet that level of the law with the amount allocated. Asking to revisit that language. Based on current ADA, our SELPA would have a \$10 million deficit.

- Interagency Transition Coordinating Council (ITCC)**Joanna Della Gatta**
Quarterly meeting. Transition to Adult Life. Thursday April 27, Zoom at 3. Contact SELPA for zoom link.
- Autism Steering/Conference**Regina Reed**
Skipped
- Carpe Diem**Regina Reed**
Requests offering more parent sessions. Regina will note for future
Skipped
- Early Start/Walking the Path.....**Regina Reed**
Skipped
- Ability Awareness**Regina Reed**
Look at and build padlet of resources for districts.
Skipped

5:35 VIII. Parent Leadership Development..... Jeanine Murphy

- Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Conference
Jeanine shared that it was amazing to have parents from the Executive Board attend and participate in this amazing conference. The members that participated all agreed and shared their appreciation of being included and would love to be able to attend again next year! They can't wait to share

more at another meeting when we have more time.

- [Operating from the 3rd Side: Supporting Others to Navigate Conflict](#)
Bridging and working together through conflict. Linked on Padlet May 18 and 19.
- Meaningful Participation Presentation Updates:
Jeanine has been to a few district's CDAC Meetings to present. Seems to be very well received. Ask Special Education directors to reach out to Jeanine to schedule. Should be advertised for all parents with IEPs.

5:50 IX. [Treasurer's Report](#)..... *Amanda Alfred, Treasurer*
No changes to report.

5:55 X. **Membership Secretary Report.....*Myra Medina, Membership Secretary***
No changes to report.

6:15 XI. Meeting Adjournment

In attendance:

Emily Mostovoy-Luna
Kim DeAnda
Joanna Della Gatta
Jeanine Murphy

Carole Shelton
LeeAnn Holland
Myra Medina
Flavia Seawright
Amber Christensen
Jasmine Duron
Amanda Alfred
Monica Torres
Katie Spore
Holly Minear

Melissa McMurdo, Deputy DA, attended for Public Comment