



COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
October 20, 2003
NCCSE Office Conference Room
570 Rancheros Drive, Suite 270
San Marcos, CA 92069
MINUTES



I. Welcome and Introductions- Kellie Dunn – CAC Executive Board Secretary.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30PM.

Kellie introduced herself and CAC Board member Patti Wiggins, P/R Liaison. Also introduced were: Linda Dinkel, NCCSE Program Specialist, Tara Lindhardt, new CAC representative from the EFRC, visitor Julie Kingsley, North County Coordinator for the EFRC, Jaime Michalski, new CAC representative from the San Diego Regional Center, and visitor Gloria King the TASK Native Outreach Coordinator.

II. Focus Session – Kellie Dunn – CAC Executive Board Secretary

Topic: Multi-lingual and Multi-cultural Issues in Special Education – Barriers and Resources for Families
Speakers: Mr. Oscar Medina, Bi-lingual Education Project Specialist, San Diego County Office of Education and Ms. Guadalupe Galindo, Parent Liaison, Fiesta Educativa, and First Five

Information: In addition to the challenges that all families have when their child has a disability, families who do not speak English and/or have recently immigrated to this country face additional challenges in many areas of their lives. Among these may be immigration issues and severe economic hardships as well as the barriers of language and unavailable or untrained interpretation services. Many recent immigrants also bring with them experiences of war or civil unrest in their home countries. Many families may not know that there are services for their children with disabilities in the schools or may fear that their children will be taken away from them, or are afraid that their immigration status will be questioned if they approach the school for services. English language learners are over-represented in certain special education categories based on language barriers. Other students of minority are over-represented based on the cultural bias of standardized tests. In California 67% of Latino students are English language learners. IDEA 97 requires that students whose primary language is not English be given instruction in their primary language and that the IEP contains linguistic goals, objectives and services. For more information in this area, email Oscar Medina at omedina@sdcoe.k12.ca.us.

In order to enroll children in public school, families do not have to provide any information regarding their citizenship or immigration status. They must provide proof of residence. Based on a recent ruling, only the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) may ask about citizenship and immigration status.

Resources for families who speak Spanish:

EFRC has a bilingual resource parent at the North Coastal office. 760-510-3994

First Five Outreach – home visitor will assist families with many resources – contact Lupe Galindo at 619-559-0109

Fiesta Educativa – support and information on special education rights and responsibilities for families who speak Spanish – also has a local parent conference – contact Lupe Galindo at 619-559-0109.

Protection and Advocacy, Inc. – San Diego office has bilingual service providers and materials explaining rights of individuals with disabilities and families under federal and state laws. Contact PAI at 800-776-5746.

TASK – has bilingual support and information for families. Contact Gloria King at 858-874-2386.

III. Approval of September Minutes-Patti Wiggins

Amendment to correct spelling of representative Dawn Redman's name on page two of September minutes. Move to approve by Stacy Begin, Oceanside and seconded by Dawn Redman. Passed unanimously as amended.

IV. Public Comment-Patti Wiggins

No public comment.

V. Follow up to Prior Month's public comments-Patti Wiggins

Comment by Sallie Hunt referring to 9-22-03 North County Times article in the lifestyle section-writer claimed there is no such thing as ADD, just bad parenting. Members were informed of this column and encouraged to write to the North County Times.

Comment by Walter Karshat, representative from San Marcos; the flow of information from districts to parents regarding NCCSE and the CAC needs improvement. This topic is being pursued by the CAC Communications Subcommittee – please see discussion under CAC Orientation below.

VI. Announcements-Kellie Dunn

Announcements will be e-mailed to CAC representatives shortly after the meeting, please e-mail to district contacts.

Announcements are attached.

VII. CAC Orientation (continued from September)

Discussion centered around avenues to make families aware of the CAC and it's activities.

Some ideas are:

Web site:

Link NCCSE website to school and district websites

Post a clear, concise description of NCCSE, what it does, the role of program specialists, and what resources are available for families?

Post of list of program specialist assignments and phone numbers (note: exists on current website, under "Personnel" link)

Brochures:

Put names and numbers of CAC reps on brochures and distribute:

Through NCCSE program specialists to families and to special education teachers

Through direct mail to special education teachers

In brochure racks at schools front desks

In brochure racks at special education departments in district offices

At IEP meetings (along with RSS information)

Introduce CAC representatives (including telephone numbers) in school newsletters and at school meetings

Develop a short (4-5 minute) standardized presentation about NCCSE and CAC (with overheads and handouts) for presentation by CAC reps to parent groups

Patti Wiggins, chair of the newly-forming Communications Subcommittee will call a meeting to discuss these and other ideas, prioritize, and report back to the Executive Committee for action on specific items.

VIII. Program Director's Report – postponed to November meeting

IX. Board of Governor's Report – postponed to November meeting

X. Legislative Report – postponed to November meeting

XI. Closure and Adjournment – Kellie Dunn – Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.