



COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
March 15, 2004
NCCSE Office Conference Room
570 Rancheros Drive, Suite 270
San Marcos, CA 92069
MINUTES



I. Welcome and Introductions—Lynne Bath, CAC Vice-Chairperson.

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM

- II. Focus Session:** Resolutions for Student Success— Susan Carlton Bahm and Tara Lindhart, both from Exceptional Family Resource Center, which will coordinate and implement this alternative dispute resolution program. The strategy statement for the RSS Process is: We will provide an impartial, collaborative forum to resolve differences and find common ground solutions that ensure educational services for children are provided in a timely manner. Mediators will be from families, district personnel and community. Agreements are voluntary and are binding for both parties. Attorneys and professional advocates will not be involved in the process. Does not preclude rights of families and districts to pursue other remedies, but is envisioned as a satisfying, neutral, safe environment which is not as hard on families, more cost-effective not only financially, but also in terms of anxiety and contentiousness. Fast & efficient with goal of 72-hour decisions. 50 people are being trained. Will start in May, and will be publicized through brochures, websites, newsletters, and announced at IEPs.

III. Public comment-none

IV. Follow Up on Prior Months' Public comments-none

V. Announcements-

See attached for further announcements.

VI. Program Director's Report- Joe Schwartzberg, NCCSE Director

1. Developments with San Diego County Mental Health funding issues. Counties are threatening to suspend funding of mental health services for students. State has not been providing adequate funding to the counties for last several years. Last year the state took IDEA money and gave it to mental Health. San Diego County is suing State of California over this. Counties have taken the position that school districts should fund. Creates contentiousness across the system. \$4 million will once again be budgeted for mental health, but it's not enough. Student who has mental health needs will still have them addressed. Even if County can't provide, local districts will have to provide because that's the way the law is written.
2. Quality Review of Regional Classes—This is first year of implementation of rubric for systematic review of classes for severely disabled students whose needs cannot be met in individual home district. Cost-effective, efficient, and can provide higher level of service. Meeting 3/18 to identify new needs. For example: Do we need new ED class at the Middle School level?
3. North County Regional Education Center will be new home for NCCSE, scheduled to open in summer of '05. Will include technology for state of the art staff development.

VII. Legislative Report. Legislative Report-Gary English

1. Gary wants input on his printed report. Can also contact at genglish@aol.com
2. Walter Karshat, NCCSE rep from San Marcos gave an update on IDEA reauthorization vote in Senate, urges reps to study the complex issues involved.

VIII. Annual Priorities

Joe Schwartzberg says the Annual Priorities process is opportunity for Parent Committee to identify what's important to them. It's a powerful lobbying mechanism. Each Superintendent knows it will be reviewed. It is accountability in the system. Vice-Chair Lynne Bath is Annual Priorities Committee Chair, and passes out signup sheet. Saturday, April 17th is tentative meeting date. Discussion of Annual Priorities: Each CAC rep should have had meeting with the Special Ed director in their district to go over current priorities. Written surveys will be incorporated into this year's priorities. Consensus from the group is that the following priorities should be included: Collaboration—including Standards-based testing, NCLB, and sharing best practices from each district; Social Acceptance; Personal Safety; Transitions—specifically need contact person because outgoing staff seems to do better job since they know student; Communication; Participation' Educators—Incentives/Accountability; Cultural Training.

- X. Call for Nominations for 2004-2005 officers** Nomination forms were distributed, to be returned before the April 19 meeting. One nomination has been offered as follows: Chairperson: Lynne Bath, Vice-chairperson: Patti Wiggins, Public Relations Liaison: Kellie Dunn, Secretary: Libba Jackson D'Ambrosi.

XI. CAC 2003-2004 Award Nomination Forms-Lisa Houghtelin

- A. Lisa has sign up sheet for award nomination and selection committee if missed when passed earlier.
- B. Lisa has sign up sheet for ceremony committee
- C. Date of the Awards Ceremony is changed to June 2nd, from 6:30 – 8:00 PM at the San Marcos Civic Center.

XII. Closure and adjournment.

Next meeting Monday April 19th, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Topics to be discussed: Award Ceremony Planning, Election of CAC Executive Committee. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.