

SUPERINTENDENT’S SPECIAL EDUCATION POLICY COUNCIL

September 17, 2020

Via ZOOM at 9:00 AM

Voting Members Present:     Luke Biesecker             Brooke Davis             Gayle Conway  
   Chris Hartley             Haley Jones (Proxy)     Craig Kimball  
   Tom Kissinger             Michael Quinlan         Glen Senestraro  
   Fred VanVleck

Voting Members Absent:     Beth Anderson             Heidi Moore-Guynup

Non-Voting Members Present:             Katie Cavanagh             Mindy Fattig  
   Gary Storts

Guests Present:             Carol Ingram             Heather Quigley-Cook     Michelle Roslosnik  
   Holly S             Patricia Sorci             Laura Walker  
   Corey Weber             Angela West

**1.0 CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Michael Quinlan at 9:02 AM.

**2.0 ADJUSTMENT OF AGENDA**

None

**3.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

May 28, 2020

The motion was made by Glen and seconded by Chris with correcting the date on the header. The motion passed with all in favor.

AYES:             Biesecker, Davis, Conway, Hartley, Jones, Quinlan, Senestraro  
NAYES:             None  
ABSTAIN:         None

**4.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**5.0 INFORMATION/ACTION ITEMS**

5.1 Director’s Report

Mindy announced that SELPA has received news that their office space is projected to be up for sale soon. The current lease is up June 2021. The current owner is willing to sell with existing and renewed lease in place. The committee voiced interest in possibly having the county or a district purchase the building and asked that Chris contact the owner for a purchase price. They also requested that SELPA send out a query to the LEAs with information on SELPA facility needs to gauge interest in any LEAs that may have options for SELPA facility.

Mindy gave updates on the committees she is involved with locally and at the state.

Announced that SELPA will be continuing to provide mental health services to students who continue to require it through the IEP and ERICS but will be providing group counseling with SELPA Behaviorists and SELPA Clinicians to any student regardless of IEP eligibility free of charge. Staff will be using evidence-based social emotional curriculum and can be delivered virtually or in person (if allowable by the LEA and DPH). This expands the needed mental health services in the SELPA in general under MTSS and immediately address increased mental health needs as a result of COVID and school site closures. SELPA will continue to coordinate with Peter Stoll, MTSS Prevention and Intervention Services at HCOE in coordination and expansion of mental health services for students, families and staff.

Mindy will provide an update on demand and progress at future Policy Council meetings. Heather is the SELPA Program Director who will oversee this program. Referral forms and process for request will be sent out to all Superintendents and Special Education Directors the first week in October.

Parent support groups will continue virtually as well free of charge for any parent that wants to participate. For any PD requests for LEAs, parents and/or community groups Laura Walker, SELPA Program Director, is the point person for any professional development requests for the SELPA.

5.2 2020/21 Budget Revisions including Low Incidence (LI) Funding Structure

Mindy explained increase in LI Funding in the 2020/21 Governor's budget and provided a historical comparison. Since LI will receive additional funds for 2020/21, she recommends freezing the historical \$65,xxx to continue purchasing LI equipment for the LEAS following existing SELPA Policy. The balance of new funds for 2020-21 of \$349,368 will be applied to reduce Off the Top (OTT) Low Incidence Services benefitting each LEA in a reduction of their OTT contribution for these services. A motion was made by Glen and seconded by Craig to follow the Director's recommendation. The motion carried with all in favor.

AYES: Biesecker, Davis, Conway, Hartley, Jones, Kimball, Kissinger, Quinlan, Senestraro, Van Vleck

NAYES: None

ABSTAIN: None

5.3 Policy Council Representative 2020/21 – Regional & Single District Members

Michael welcomed Gayle Conway as the new Northern Humboldt voting member and announced that there are at least two openings due to district staff changes. Due to changes in Superintendents, currently No Hum Feeder Schools has one open vacancy, as does Southern Humboldt region. Glen and Mindy will reach out to Mattole/Ferndale as Beth has been unable to attend and may choose another representative. Glen mentioned possibly combining the feeder vote for ERVA and will check with the region Superintendents regarding this and brought back to the October 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

5.4 Fiscal Ad Hoc Report

None as they have not met yet. SELPA will send out a doodle poll to schedule initial meeting prior to next PC meeting with recommendations at the October 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. The topics of discussion will be:

1. HCOE Chargeback model
2. TLC offsets to expire
3. Mental Health funds
4. RTC Reimbursement model

5.5 Policy Council Mission Statement, Norms & Procedures

Mindy explained that the completed SELPA Local Plan (including Section B) is required for all SELPAs in the state. Each member LEA Board will need to approve the Local Plan prior to June 30, 2021. Mindy will bring Section B of the Local Plan potential approval at the next PC meeting October 15<sup>th</sup>.

5.6 Legislative Advocacy Updates

Mindy said the session has ended until January 2021. She reviewed some state current events related services during COVID including compensatory education discussions and due process filings/rulings across the state. Mindy announced that she holds the Chair position with the

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SELPA Administrators of California for 2020-21 and has signed on to advocacy letters as the Chair both at the state level and locally. Letters that she signs on as the Chair of the State Association she will also forward to all member LEAs for their information. She encourages any Superintendents to contact her if they hear of certain Legislation or advocacy efforts that she can also assist in from a local perspective as well as a state perspective.

Mindy said there is a lawsuit where it seems all California LEAs are being served. She asked if anyone is served to please contact her. The SELPA continues to support the LEAs, community and parents by answering calls and providing dispute resolution where needed. Since March 2020 a dramatic increase in parent concerns to the SELPA office for requests for facilitated IEPs and information which was expected due to COVID. Currently those concerns from both parents and districts are being shared between SELPA Leadership staff of Mindy, Laura and Heather. The Governor's 2020/21 budget allots for an increase in Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) funds to SELPA to help in supporting LEAs and families in concerns that may continue to increase due to COVID and school site closures. Mindy is planning on applying for additional grant funds with applications anticipated to be released in the next few weeks from CDE.

Chris and Fred both gave current advocacy and updates and agreed to bring back information as they receive it from the governor and ACSA.

## 5.7 Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Report

None as they have not met yet. SELPA will send a doodle poll to schedule the first meeting and report to PC in October or November.

## 5.8 SELPA 2020-21 Training

Laura Walker, SELPA Program Director, is taking the lead with SELPA trainings and announced that the first of trainings have begun with a list of upcoming training opportunities being sent to the LEAs soon and posted in the Local News Banner of SEIS. If an LEA wishes to hold a specific training, they can contact Laura.

## 6.0 COMMUNICATIONS

None

## 7.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

## 8.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Best Practice for Distance Learning for Students with Disabilities Recommendations – Fred
- MTSS Intervention Strategy Model – Mindy
- CAC Report -
- Fiscal Ad Hoc Report -
- Local Plan (Section A) with mission statement – Heather
- SELPA facility requirement List & Purchase/Lease information – Mindy & Chris

## 9.0 COMMENTS

None

## 10.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:55. The next meeting will be October 15, 2020.