

**SELPA PROGRAM ADVISORY COUNCIL
Standing Committee of the Consortium**

December 8, 2022

**8:00 am – 10:00 am
SELPA Conference Room
1524 Magnolia Avenue; Redding, CA 96001**

MINUTES

1. Call to Order at 8:01 am

Christian Patz, SELPA Executive Director, called the meeting to order at 8:01 am.

SELPA Program Advisory Council members roll call:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| • REGION 1 – Rebecca Berg, SUHSD | Present |
| • REGION 2 – Brandt Shriner, Anderson UHSD | Present |
| • REGION 3 – Sue Cooper, Redding ESD | Present |
| • REGION 4 – Annie Payne, Enterprise ESD | ABSENT |
| • REGION 5 – Ray Witte, Mtn. Valley JPA | Present |
| • REGION 6 – Melissa Maderios, Gateway USD | Present |
| • REGION 7 – Brent Beyer, Fall River JUSD | ABSENT (<i>present at 8:06 am</i>) |

Others present were:

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Christian Patz, SELPA Executive Director | • Calli Coleman, SELPA Accountant / Data |
| • Gina Murphy, SCOE | • Autumn Ervin, SELPA Admin. Prgrm. Asst. |
| • Kristin Sigurdson, SELPA BCBA | • Nick Syrrist, SELPA Sppt. Svcs. Cons. |

2. Approval of the Agenda

Discussion: None.

ACTION: Rebecca Berg motioned to approve the Agenda as presented. Ray Witte seconded the motion. The motion passed by majority vote 5-0, no opposition, no abstentions, Annie Payne and Brent Beyer were absent.

3. Public Forum / Hearing of Persons Wishing to Address the Program Advisory Council

None.

4. Report of Closed Session

After discussion, the Program Advisory Council provided guidance to the SELPA Director.

(Brent Beyer present at 8:06 am)

5. Spotlight on Success – Ray Witte, Mountain Valley JPA

Discussion: Mr. Witte stated the Mountain Valley JPA is now up to 38 employees with 5 JPA classes – SDC, ERICS, and medically fragile, and would love to add more classes if they could find personnel. They have 2.5 speech therapists, a BCBA, 3 OTTs, and a school nurse – all great staff and interns are doing very well and working hard to meet JPA needs. Mr. Witte offered space and services to non-JPA districts when available.

6. SELPA Director’s Report

- 6a. SELPA Directors’ Conference - update
- 6b. Jan Tomsky, F3 Law – SCOE Board Room; December 14, 2022
- 6c. BIP Training (*rescheduled*) - SCOE PDC; December 16, 2022
- 6d. Every Child Counts Symposium – Palm Desert, CA; January 10-13, 2023
- 6e. ADR Conference – Riverside, CA; March 16-17, 2023

Discussion: Dr. Patz informed members that the SELPA Directors meeting focused mostly on equity and other previously discussed concerns, including the need to focus now on staffing instead of programs.

- 6b. Jan Tomsky, F3 Law – SCOE Board Room; December 14, 2022
- 6c. BIP Training (*rescheduled*) - SCOE PDC; December 16, 2022
- 6d. Every Child Counts Symposium – Palm Desert, CA; January 10-13, 2023
- 6e. ADR Conference – Riverside, CA; March 16-17, 2023

Discussion: Dr. Patz encouraged all to attend and spread the word of upcoming trainings.

Discussion continued with Dr. Patz informing members of his visit to Butte County’s BASES program that was quickly developed upon the closure of Butte County’s only NPS. Cost is \$250/day except transportation or speech/OT, but does include counseling. The BASES program opened with a GenEd principal with great leadership. Leadership and staff focused on staff training, and utilized power outage closures to continue further training. BASES adopted a non-restraint policy, elopement is deterred with perimeter fencing, and they use CPI instead of ProACT. Everything they do has baseball references - class periods = innings, classrooms = team names, etc. They have 1 teacher, 2 aides, behavior tech, 2 para educators, and 2 paras that float for additional class coverage. Suspension for only one day only for refocus. Curriculum is Why Try, Zones of Regulation.

Dr. Patz urged members to continue planning options for students attending IEP School.

7. Consent Items – (*These action items are of a routine nature or items for which no discussion is anticipated, and are acted upon by a single vote. Members may request that any item be removed and given individual consideration.*)

- 7a. Approval of Minutes for October 13, 2022
- 7b. Requests for ESY Waivers
 - 7b1. Fall River JUSD
 - 7b2. EXCEL
 - 7b3. Shasta UHSD

Discussion: None.

ACTION: Rebecca Berg motioned to approve the Consent Item as presented. Ray Witte seconded the motion. The motion passed by majority vote 6-0, no opposition, no abstentions, Annie Payne was absent.

8. Enrollment Update – Update / Discussion

Discussion: Dr. Patz provided members a slide presentation with current data concerning enrollment by disability, by LEA, unduplicated count for MOE 2017-2021 and by service. Mr. Shriner inquired about disability by district - too much for slide. RW - finding speech primary w/ autism as secondary is inaccurate, as it should be the other way around. Mrs. Maderios emphasized the need to change speech as the “give me”. Dr. Patz stated San Diego now incorporates speech into preschool program, no there is no serious need for an IEP, as speech is included as part of a GenEd function, although he’s seeing big increases across the board. Mr. Beyer indicated he is using groups successfully.

Dr. Patz continued his slide presentation regarding services - 66 kids for specialized DHH services, 39 for specialized VI. Interpreter services should be below the line. If just class aid change for student, then it goes above the line. If there is a dedicated person for a student, then enter below the line. Only 5 students with interpreter services. ERMHS to come in below the Dunamis contract, as we are averaging about \$80k/month, but should be closer to \$100k. IEP School is down to 24 students.

9. Fiscal Update – Update / Discussion 9a. AB 130 Update

Discussion: Dr. Patz provided members an AB 130 funds update handout. Calli Coleman, SELPA Accountant, stated these are not final numbers for reallocation proposed in January. Bundles were ordered for dramatic play. Just got final quotes for the sensory bundles and hope to order this week for delivery during spring break.

10. Off the Top Staffing (Itinerant)

Discussion: Dr. Patz inquired what districts REALLY NEED for staffing at this time, while the next meeting will be to discuss funding. Other interpreters are employed by SCOE who rents out to districts. Ms. Murphy, SCOE Special Education Director, stated SCOE has two deaf mentor positions created in 2016, who help with the lack of interpreters to substitute for teachers or interpreters, and act as a role model for deaf students and at-home connections. Deaf mentors also help with the culture piece to teach families what deaf students are going through. They also help ASL interpreters to clarify student needs, vocabulary, authentic language, etc., as well as assist with communication devices, and tutoring. Deaf mentors provide GenEd teacher support, prepare materials including visual supports and reading intervention; they help with specialized health care and parent support, have ridden the bus with students, and provide IEP and behavior intervention assistance. Interpreters are hearing, where deaf mentors are not necessarily. Mrs. Murphy shared 3 student profiles as success stories.

Dr. Patz inquired if members want to make changes to OTT staffing that SELPA pays SCOE from OTT funds. Mrs. Berg questioned the need for so many OTT teachers. Dr. Patz reminded members that if districts do have an urgent need, services can be available in an instant. Mr. Witte stated it’s nice to have when need arises and already paid for as insurance. If lost we may not get it back or will be expensive. SCOE is actively recruiting through the college, etc. Members agreed to make no changes.

11. SELPA Staffing – Discussion / ACTION

Discussion: Dr. Patz emphasized to members that this discussion surrounds district needs, not costs, and provided a ledger of the current SELPA staffing. Dr. Patz introduced Autumn Ervin, SELPA’s new Administrative Program Assistant. Ms. Ervin came to SELPA from Grant ESD, and is experienced in SEIS, CalPads, etc., and will take over data management duties, SEIS trainings, CalPads uploads, and more. Her position will be continued in budget to OTT from AB130 grant funds. Dr. Patz addressed all other current staff Positions and emphasized the BCBA

position is “non-negotiable” and paid from ERMHS funding, now but will need to fund from OTT. Data Analyst is a vacant, grant funded position and Dr. Patz will discontinue the position after funding runs out in June or sooner. The Support Services Consultant, Nick Syrrist, is also very important, as 15 districts within our SELPA have less than 500 students and consistently contact him for assistance, including help with IEE plans and AT support. His position is funded separately for Program Specialist Support per the state. Kristin Sigurdson, the SELPA BCBA, will also become AT certified for assessments and some service. Dr. Patz wants to add another position similar to Nick’s due to impending state budget constraints on districts, and estimates likely another 5% COLA, and anticipates the state to give less than projected. Dr. Patz wants this position for support with private schools, recruitment, mental health and foster youth coordination and requests PAC recommendation.

Mr. Witte inquired if Nick’s position is a separate line item, if the new position would require or be carved out of the same budget, and asked if foster youth already had a coordinator. Dr. Patz confirmed no funds would be carved out by allocation from the state due to valued roll, and is wanting the position to bridge coordination for IEPs, etc. and will have a better idea of funding streams in February. The previous SELPA OOH Coordinator position went away when North Valley Schools closed.

Ms. Berg stated SELPA will only be able to help SUHSD with legal fees due to students with extreme needs arriving from Open Lines who are still not appropriate placements for Spectrum and may cause serious legal liabilities, as most are in need of an RTC but SUHSD is still responsible. Youth Support Services is helping, but Open Lines has poor communication or response and is unilaterally enrolling their students at Pioneer High School.

Dr. Patz emphasized that the new position would help deal with member concerns. SCOE and Youth Support Services fill different needs and perspectives: SCOE is student centered, while SELPA’s would be program centered to build capacity for districts. Ms. Coleman added that data management is complicated on the private school side, and the new position could take private schools off the plate of data managers.

No motion was made to support this position.

12. ERMHS Planning for Budget

Discussion: Dr. Patz

Dr. Patz continued his slide presentation and stated we have nearly \$2m in ERMHS funding and need to discuss FRJUSD. Bridges to Success program will present at the Board meeting, and the remainder goes to the Dunamis contract. In 2023-24 state funds will be distributed directly to districts. Dr. Patz requests federal funds of approximately \$280k be distributed to the SELPA, which allows further employment of the BCBA and any other ERMHS related expenses.

ACTION: Brent Beyer motioned to keep federal funds at the SELPA level. Sue Cooper seconded the motion. The motion passed by majority vote 4-2. Rebecca Berg and Ray Witte opposed the motion. Annie Payne was absent.

Dr. Patz inquired if members want to maintain SELPA funding Bridges to Success program.

ACTION: Ray Witte motioned to discontinue support of Bridges to Success. Melissa Maderios seconded the motion. The motion passed by majority vote 5-0. Sue Cooper abstained. Annie Payne was absent.

Dr. Patz inquired if members want SELPA to manage counseling and recommended direct hire with options offered. All agree no counselors under SCOE. Dr. Patz inquired if it should be managed by SCOE, the new SELPA position, or put out to bid for an LEA to manage (JPA, SUHSD) and if SELPA should stay involved in counseling, or if districts contract for themselves.

ACTION: Rebecca Berg motioned for SELPA to be out of counseling. Ray Witte seconded the motion. The motion died by three votes in agreement, three votes in opposition by Brandt Shriner, Melissa Maderios and Brent Beyer. Annie Payne was absent.

Dr. Patz inquired if members want SELPA to maintain an NPA for counseling services and NPA master contracts. Members voiced support to keep NPA contracts, but no motion was made to contract with Dunamis.

Ms. Berg requested PAC wait until Annie Payne is present for this conversation as we need to further discuss large contracts that serve minimal students, and that SCOE already has foster youth department, and wants more discussion regarding Fall River's needs to look more closely at what and how many students are served.

Dr. Patz reminded members that Fall River JUSD receives approximately \$188k in mental health funds via the \$60k pass through and \$128k Hill Country Clinic contract, plus remote subsidies. The ERICS subsidy comes from OTT, not ERMHS - all equal about \$250k. The two funding sources for discussion are the \$60k remote subsidy and the \$128k Hill Country contract. If ERMHS funds go directly to Fall River, it would disallow the Hill Country contract. Ms. Berg voiced concern that FRJUSD receives more funding to serve less students than SUHSD since NPAs like IEP School are not available. She agrees FRJUSD has less resources, but SUHSD has not received additional high school resources either.

Discussion continued regarding counselors available for FRJUSD, as Mr. Beyer confirmed the current counselor has a full caseload. Dr. Patz emphasized when funding is distributed directly to LEAs next year, the SELPA won't have money to cover these subsidies unless pulled from another source. RB suggested OOH funds could be used to support FRJUSD in a process similar to the RRC process. Members agreed we need to clean up and use more appropriate fund sources other than ERMHS.

ACTION: Rebecca Berg motioned to not continue budgeting ERMHS funding for Fall River JUSD, and supports discussing other funding sources. Ray Witte seconded the motion. The motion passed by majority vote 5-1. Brent Beyer opposed. Annie Payne was absent.

13. SELPA Building – Update

Discussion: Jeanne Marleau, SELPA Administrative Program Coordinator, stated the escrows for the three Rancho Road properties will close this week.

14. Graduation Requirements (If CDE issues regulations) – Update / Discussion

Discussion: Dr. Patz informed members that there is nothing new concerning graduation requirements, though attorney Jan Tomsy may have more to present in her legal training December 14th. Ms. Berg emphasized her concern with new requirements, as there is a clear distinction between diploma vs. certificate of completion and is very frustrated with suggestions for military or university placement.

15. Future Agenda Items

Discussion: Ms. Maderios requested addition of ESY Waiver request for Gateway USD.

16. Next meeting: Thursday, February 9, 2022, 8:00 am – 10:00 am, SELPA Conference Room

Adjourned at 10:10 am.