

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

April 20, 2023

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

MINUTES

1. Call to Order at 8:00 am

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

SELPA Program Advisory Council members roll call:

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| • 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 | Present |
| • REGION 5 – Ray Witte, Mtn. Valley JPA | Present |
| • REGION 6 – Gina Murphy, SCOE for Melissa Maderios, Gateway USD | Present |
| • REGION 7 – Brent Beyer, Fall River JUSD | Present |

Others present were:

- | | |
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| • Christian Patz, SELPA Executive Director | • Gina Murphy, SCOE |
| • Nick Syrrist, SELPA Sppt. Svcs. Cons. | • Stephanie Constantinou, SCOE |
| • Calli Coleman, SELPA Accountant | • Carie Webb, SCOE |
| • Kristin Sigurdson, SELPA BCBA | • Kim Bryant |

2. Approval of the Agenda

Discussion: None.

ACTION: Rebecca Berg motioned to approve the Agenda as presented. Brandt Shriner seconded the motion. The motion passed by majority vote 7-0, no opposition, no abstentions, no absentees.

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

None.

4. Spotlight on Success – Brent Beyer, Fall River JUSD

4a. Next report: Sue Cooper, RESD

Discussion: Mr. Beyer shared that Fall River JUSD has a new sensory room in their elementary school. REEF program started to promote refresh, energize and focus. They have a new teacher in their mod/severe center. Three students graduated from mod/severe to SDC. Their SDC and RSD classes are now in a special education wing which has proven very successful.

5. SELPA Director's Report

5a. SELPA Directors' Conference - update

5a1. PreK and K-12 LRE Tools

Discussion: Dr. Patz shared PreK and K-12 LRE tool handouts with members.

5b. ADR Conference – Riverside, CA – update

Discussion: Dr. Patz informed members that he and Nick Syrrist, SELPA Support Services Consultant, attended the ADR Conference along with four members of Rowell Family Empowerment and two Community Advisory Committee (CAC) members, all paid for by SELPA and the CAC. Everyone really enjoyed the conference and found it a great resource to help reduce tension with parents.

5c. GoalBook training – Update

Discussion: Mrs. Berg stated Shasta UHSD bought separate licenses and will send staff to the SELPA training. Mrs. Cooper added that some of Redding ESD's staff is using the program and inquired if they can licenses to new employees.

5d. Service Tracker Trainings – Update

5e. Paraeducator Academy – Update

Discussion: Dr. Patz informed members that Mr. Syrrist and Mrs. Sigurdson, SELPA BCBA, presented along with other and provided a lot of great information to the many paraeducators in attendance who all gave great feedback and appreciated "having a support system".

5f. PreK Inclusion training May 24, 2023 – Shasta Hall, PDC

5g. F3 Legal Training - June 9, 2023 – Board Room, SCOE

Discussion: Dr. Patz informed members of the upcoming trainings and emphasized that executive functioning and goals will be included in the legal training in addition to hot topic discussion. Mrs. Berg inquired if legal will discuss the two bills regarding diplomas - profound students AND the alternative path to diploma for those who can't get through Algebra 1. She participated in Zoom call over Spring Break who were very surprised to be informed of this and it is now a two-fold issue regarding requirements and expectations, while the state is using the same words but talking about very different students. Dr. Patz recommended waiting until final language is out, and likely won't be signed by the Governor until the Fall, and unlikely F3 will address it until then. WestEd is pushing that agenda so more invested.

5i. Dunamis ESY

Discussion: Dr. Patz confirmed Dunamis ESY services are in place, with two therapists - one at EXCEL and 1one floating.

5j. RTC Placements

Discussion: Dr. Patz stated the SELPA has two students for potential RTC placement, while there are others also being considered. The OOH funding model has changed causing a loss of almost half OOH funding, and likely another \$100k loss coming due to state bed miscount. The SELPA will still get approximately \$1m/year, but pending placements are good reason for wanting to keep some OOH reserves.

6. 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.)*

6a. Approval of Minutes for February 9, 2023

6b. Requests for ESY Waivers

6b1. Anderson UHSD

6b2. Cascade ESD

6c. Meeting Schedules 2023-24

6c1. Director / Coordinator meetings (moved to 1st Tuesday)

6c2. Program Advisory Council meetings (moved to 2nd Tuesday)

6d. NPA/S Master Contract 2023-24

6e. *NPA Rate Sheets 2023-24*

6e1. Communication Across Barriers

6e2. Connecting to Care

6e3. Horizon Speech Therapy

6e4. Psyched Services

6e5. Talk Path Live

6e6. The Hello Foundation

6e7. Tiny Eye

6e8. Woods Family Speech Therapy

6e9. Presence Learning

6e10. Pristine Rehab

6f. RTC Form

Discussion: None.

ACTION: Rebecca Berg motioned to approve the Consent Item as presented. Brent Beyer seconded the motion. The motion passed by majority vote 7-0, no opposition, no abstentions, no absentees.

7. Fiscal Update – Update / Discussion

7a. AB 130 Update

7a1. Dramatic Play and Sensory Bundle deliveries – Update

7b. Reserves

Discussion: Dr. Patz confirmed all funds encumbered. Many SELPAS are sending funds back, but not Shasta County. Some bundle parts are still pending delivery.

Dr. Patz continued and provided a slide presentation stating Low Incidence and Medi-Cal reserves are being spent down, though he is still nervous about the economy. OOH now has beds in CA although twice that of Utah costs – though Utah is also increasing. There is becoming more students in need with increasing costs. Dr. Patz referred to his slide presentation and recommends not going below \$1m in general reserves, and may have to pause LI spend down. Mental health funds can only go down. He recommends holding M/Cal funds for future audits. Calli Coleman, SELPA Accountant, confirmed SELPA policy is to keep \$3m total for ALL reserves.

8. Spectrum Center Expansion – Discussion / ACTION

Discussion: Dr. Patz stated that Spectrum would like to continue their program next year with classrooms for K-5, 6-8, and 9-12, plus an autism class. Specific grades are to be determined for up to 12 students. They are limited to a 3 year grade span - 4-6, 5-7 possibly. Will have an IEP day prior to school starting so students who transfer can start day one. Spectrum is currently negotiating with the Presbyterian Church on Placer for classrooms. Dr. Patz continued his slide presentation stating SELPA will have to guarantee 40 students from day one. Base rate is estimated at \$250/day, although may start at \$300/day to rate smooth until 40 students are enrolled, but will reset to 250/day at that point. Costs will be shared among all districts, then give credits back if over pay. Dr. Patz will send requests for district interest once the SELPA Governing Board approves the contract.

Mrs. Cooper inquired about contract transportation terms. Dr. Patz confirmed districts are responsible for their own transportation. Spectrum will contract with a district to provide meals. Spectrum will also be partnering with a district for related services - OT, speech, nurse, psych, and counseling. Each district is responsible for their own students. Discussion continued regarding district placement of student and contract terms. Districts now have a choice how they will use their mental health dollars.

Dr. Patz suggested building ERMHS counseling and adjust daily rate into Spectrum contract. Mrs. Payne, Mrs. Berg and Mr. Shriner disagree. Mrs. Berg emphasized that she has had a very difficult year with Spectrum and without knowing what their staffing will look like for next year, we could be expecting too much too quickly with negative results. She stated Spectrum needs major improvements in leadership, training and staffing before they can best serve districts and doesn't believe they can meet our expectations.

Mrs. Payne voiced concern over a history of counselors entrenched in employer's ideology with no clinical expertise for the child and not trained for educational settings, although she does agree there should be therapeutic interventions, but too much history vs. MFT lens vs. school setting. Mrs. Berg reiterated the need to build slowly to avoid chaos. Dr. Patz appreciated the input and will continue communicating with Spectrum regarding those concerns and believes four classrooms should provide more structure/staff.

ACTION: Ray Witte motioned to approve the Spectrum expansion contract as presented. Sue Cooper seconded the motion. The motion passed by majority vote 4-2-1. Ray Witte, Sue Cooper, Gina Murphy and Brandt Shriner approved. Rebecca Berg and Brent Beyer opposed. Annie Payne abstained. No absentees.

9. Buses – Discussion / ACTION

Discussion: Dr. Patz informed members that SCOE plans to purchase nine buses for \$1.7m for next year and has asked the SELPA to contribute, although he is concerned to use any reserve funds. If SELPA contributes, there will be less cost per student for districts. If SCOE pays the full cost now, they will pass that expense on to districts per proportionate usage. More use = more cost to that district. Mr. Witte stated those districts who use SCOE buses should pay their portion with no rate smoothing and disagrees with use of SELPA funds.

Discussion continued with members requesting the SELPA Finance Advisory Council's (FAC) input, as SELPA's last bus purchase was upsetting to some districts and concern over taking funds from potential need for RTC placements. A request for made for clarification of the \$1.7m figure and if state is offsetting costs via grants, etc. Dr. Patz confirmed diesel buses would be purchased, as electric will not work effectively for Shasta County. Others voiced concern for districts who don't highly use SCOE transportation having to use a large portion of their funds. Dr. Patz stated all MAY attend FAC meetings. Dr. Patz does not recommend SELPA purchase due to RTC/OOH funding needs, COLA increases & labor costs.

ACTION: Annie Payne motions to bring the bus purchase proposal back for discussion after the Finance Advisory Council meeting. Rebecca Berg seconds the motion. The motion passes by majority vote 6-0-1. Annie Payne, Rebecca Berg, Brandt Shriner, Sue Cooper, Brent Beyer approve. No opposition. Gina Murphy abstains. No absentees.

10. Bullying – Discussion

Discussion: Dr. Patz provided handouts and an example of a bullying situation was read. Ms. Payne stated the solution would be to have the IEP team hold a meeting if the actions are having an impact on the student's accessibility to FAPE and all agreed. Dr. Patz emphasized the IEP should mitigate the impact of bullying. Gen Ed teams should be addressing the action, while the impact on FAPE is the IEP Team's responsibility (see IEP strategies slide). Bullying is harassment. OCR Dear Colleague letter still intact. Ms. Payne indicated parent concerns with morality free zones, etc. and the anti-discrimination zone bill with parents saying its anti-morality. Students on autism spectrum doesn't mean they are mentally unwell. Same with gender - correlation not causation, not a disability. Ms. Payne stated she's hearing concerns with all as one - autism, OHI and gender are all one conversation now. Pacer a great source. Dr. Patz emphasized speaking with the IEP team regarding bullying / harassment issues as it is very important to make parents feel heard.

11. Regional Resource Committee – Discussion / ACTION

- 11a. 2022-23 RRC Meeting Schedule
- 11b. RRC Policy
- 11c. RRC Procedure

Discussion: Dr. Patz reminded members the RRC meets four times per year, and the SELPA needs referral request packets no less than ten days prior to the meeting. Goal is to get students to RRC sooner rather than later. Funds available are a set amount. Timely submission allows us to be transparent as to how much in funds are available. Mr. Syrrist is working to make the proposed new form made available on line. Dr. Patz wants more representation of large and small districts. The revised policy would be effective next year.

Ms. Payne suggests virtual attendance be acceptable to increase participation. Ms. Berg indicated the funds available in subsidies is not enough to eliminate the need for placements, and emphasized the need for districts to still build program. Discussion continued regarding the percentage of kids with high needs being geographic, and that while small districts can be more selective of students, the two high school districts have no choice. Previously some students were brought to RRC THEN found eligible. Dr. Patz emphasized RRC meets to discuss the various levels of care attempted and failed prior to placing in a restricted environment, as inclusion is always preferred, AND districts must strive to meet the unique circumstances of the individual student. All agreed foster placements DO need to be part of the conversation.

No action taken. Dr. Patz to pull item from both FAC and Board Agendas

12. DHH Itinerants – Discussion – Gina Murphy, SCOE

Discussion: Dr. Patz confirmed this discussion relates to Interpreters specifically. Ms. Murphy introduced Stephanie Constantinou, SCOE Lead Interpreter. Ms. Murphy suggested we create a way to build the interpreter pool using interns AND those hired on waivers. SCOE currently has three interpreters with a need for seven. There are three students with virtual interpreters using iPads, which is very challenging.

Ms. Constantinou confirmed there is only one ASL class at Shasta College, not interpreting. The closest is in Sacramento, and outside Salem OR. SCOE does EIPA testing. Nationwide we are VERY short of educational interpreters. Ms. Berg had two students with challenging course work whose parents complained the interpreters were not qualified so she likes the idea of “growing our own”. Ms. Constantinou confirmed California has one of the highest skill testing requirements of 4.0 or above, while most states accept 3.5 or above. SCOE will take waivers at 3.5 and support until they get 4.0. Ms. Constantinou confirmed we are achieving 4.0 certifications with those on waivers. Dr. Patz suggested the intern could be paid as a paraeducator to act as in person staff to ensure proper interpreting is happening during virtual sessions.

13. Support Services Consultant Position – Discussion / ACTION

Discussion: Dr. Patz stated the SELPA currently has 1.0 FTE for Nick Syrrist’s position as Support Services Consultant and informed members that Mr. Syrrist is moving to work with SCOE in Differentiated Assistance who allocated 100k in general, plus 100k per district. 14 districts involved for a total of \$1.4m. SELPA will share in a position as 1/4 are students with IEPs. Mr. Syrrist will fill the SpEd needs and split his position between the SELPA and SCOE. This opens 50% of his SELPA position. Dr. Patz inquired if members would support the split of his position with SCOE. Discussion continued regarding SCOE funding half of his position and concerns for SELPA having less availability of his services, including AT services, though Dr. Patz emphasized Ms. Sigurdson will still be available for AT services for the SELPA. Ms. Berg confirmed the state and grant funds are only good for three years, so we could ultimately lose that position. Dr. Patz agreed and suggested a reevaluation of the position at that time would occur anyway as good practice.

14. Itinerant Staff – Discussion / ACTION

- 14a. Low Incidence Providers
- 14b. Interpreters
- 14c. Administration
- 14d. Funding

Discussion: Dr. Patz informed members that Ms. Murphy is leaving SCOE and has been asked by SCOE to take over management of the Low Incidence Itinerants. He continued his slide presentation and provided information on the current number of certificated and classified staff. In addition, Shasta UHSD has .3 ASL interpreter positions vacant that they would like SELPA to take over as well. This provides SELPA the remaining .5 from Mr. Syrrist’s position and .2 from SELPA. The SELPA already pays for these funds “off the top” through SCOE, and would just shift that expense to the SELPA side of ledger.

Dr. Patz stated the SELPA would need another staff member to manage the new Low Incidence Itinerant staff and would have the option to charge districts for itinerants, though not full freight. SCOE didn’t notify in March of discontinuance, so will continue next year. SELPA can take over. This helps SELPA keep Mr. Syrrist supporting the SELPA 50% if the Governing Board approves. Dr. Patz indicated that if the Board does not approve Mr. Syrrist’s split position the SELPA will likely lose him. Ms. Payne voiced concern and emphasized the need for SELPA to build support capacity as they are seeing increases in difficult IEPs and RTC needs while SCOE is growing their team for

Differentiated Assistance and added that SCOE already has Jeremy Sawtelle on the Differentiated Assistance team who is a SpEd teacher. Ms. Murphy respects Mr. Syrrist's work, but believes they could keep the current hiring model and not keep 50% of his position.

Dr. Patz recapped the requests discussed and asked for action on:

1. Bring Low Incidence Itinerants under SELPA management?
2. Split the current Support Services Consultant position 50/50 with SCOE
3. Add new Support Services Consultant position to support the Low Incidence Itinerants?

Mr. Witte voice support of both due to the growing needs in the county.

ACTION: Ray Witte motioned to approve 1/ bringing the Low Incidence Interpreters under SELPA management, and 2/ splitting the current Support Services Consultant position with SCOE, and 3/ adding a new Support Services Consultant position to support the Low Incidence Itinerants as presented. Brent Beyer seconded the motion. The motion passed by majority vote 4-2-1. Ray Witte, Brent Beyer, Brandt Shriner, and Sue Cooper approve. Rebecca Berg and Annie Payne oppose. Gina Murphy abstains. No absentees.

***Quorum lost. Meeting adjourned at 10:20 am.
No further discussion on Agenda items.***