

**SELPA Governing Board
Minutes
October 24, 2023
8:00 AM – 10:00 AM**

**SELPA Conference Room
3570 Rancho Road, Ste. 9; Redding, CA 96002**

1. Call to Order, Roll call.

Heather Armelino (Region 4), Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Roll call:

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| ● Jim Cloney, Shasta UHSD - Region1 | Present |
| ● Brian Parker, Anderson UHSD – Region 2 | Present |
| ● Cynthia Bishop, Redding ESD – Region 3 | ABSENT (<i>Present at 8:01 am</i>) |
| ● Heather Armelino, CHAIRPERSON, Enterprise ESD – Region 4 | Present |
| ● Doug Geren, Cottonwood UESD – Region 5 | Present |
| ● Judy Flores, Shasta COE – Region 6 | Present |
| ● Rebecca Torgrimson for Greg Hawkins, Fall River JUSD – Region 7 | Present |

2. Approval of Agenda

Discussion: None.

ACTION: Jim Cloney motioned approve the Agenda as presented. Brian Parker seconded the motion. The motion passed by majority vote 6-0-1, no opposition, no abstentions, Cynthia Bishop was absent.

3. Public Forum / Hearing of Persons Wishing to Address the Shasta SELPA Governing Board of items off and on the agenda.

Discussion: None.

(Cynthia Bishop present at 8:01 am)

4. Director's Report

4a. Spectrum Update

Discussion: Dr. Patz was impressed with Spectrum's efforts to hire staff and increased corporate support. James Glover, SELPA Support Services Consultant, stated he visits Spectrum daily and remains cautiously optimistic. Dr. Patz emphasized the current Director is getting lots of Training and support, but is having difficulty keeping staff due to difficult environment and student profiles. Attendance has decreased from 30 to about 20 students due to parent pulls, a few transitions, and a few district pulls.

4b. Reach University

Discussion: Dr. Patz informed members of Reach University's offer to school employees for a bachelor's apprenticeship to help build staffing pools in Shasta County. The Bachelors degree would be in Liberal Arts with two

year programs for those with Associates degrees, or a three year program for those without and must be currently employed in schools as work based program. Dr. Patz will act as liaison and October 31st is the deadline to apply. Cost is \$75/month (\$900/yr) including books and class materials. SELPA will stay out of the credentialing option since multiple other programs are locally available.

4c. Preschool Responsibility

Discussion: Dr. Patz confirmed this matter was Requested by Program Advisory Council (PAC) members regarding options and concerns related to assessing children when the district of residence (DOR) has child find responsibilities, though the student is not always enrolled in the DOR.

4d. CAC Resource Fair / Open House 10-28-23

Discussion: Dr. Patz informed members of the upcoming Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Resource fair / open house with a Halloween theme being held at the SELPA offices on Saturday, October 28th as a low sensory, allergen aware event coordinated by the CAC members.

4e. Upcoming Trainings

- 11-1-23 - How Do I Change This Behavior?, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm; SELPA Conference Room
- 11-9-23 - Paraeducator Training, 8:00 am – 2:00 pm; Shasta Hall, PDC
- 11-13-23 - How Do I Change This Behavior?, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm; SELPA Conference Room

Discussion: Dr. Patz requested members forward any concerns about the new Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP) form to him, not the SELPA BCBA, as SEIS won't allow a Word formatted form which would allow expanded fields as needed. Dr. Patz promoted Mr. Glover as a curriculum expert for teacher trainings on NY2 and TeachTown curriculums, in addition to setting up SDC classrooms.

5. 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.)*

5a. Approval of Meeting Minutes from 8-22-23

5b. MOE Policy

5c. Low Incidence Equipment & Reimbursement Requests *(pgs. 18-34)*

5c1. LI Equip. Request #72 – Fall River JUSD – Fall River Jr High, HH Equipment	\$1,723.15
5c2. LI Equip. Request #73 – Shasta UHSD – Enterprise HS, VII Equipment	\$ 323.12
5c3. LI Equip. Request #74 – Anderson UHSD – Anderson HS, VI Equipment	\$1,235.06
5c4. LI Equip. Request #75 – Shasta UHSD – Foothill HS, HH Equipment	\$ 663.49
5c5. LI Equip. Request #76 – SELPA – SELPA stock, HH Equipment	\$ 86.20
5c6. LI Equip. Request #77 – Fall River JUSD – Burney Elem – Deaf Equipment	\$2,653.46
5c7. LI Equip. Request #78 – Fall River JUSD – Burney Elem – Deaf Equipment	\$2,653.46
5c8. LI Equip. Request #79 – Shasta UHSD – UPrep – Deaf Equipment	<u>\$ 438.64</u>
TOTAL:	\$9,775.98

ACTION: Jim Cloney motioned to approve the Consent Items as presented. Doug Geren seconded the motion. The motion passed by majority vote 7-0-0, no opposition, no abstentions, no absentees.

6. Fiscal Staffing – Discussion / Direction

6a. SELPA Accountant – Hilary Schwartz

Discussion: Dr. Patz introduced Hilary Schwartz, our new SELPA Accountant, who will be doing her onboarding with De’An Chambless of SCOE for SpEd finance training.

7. Local Plan, Service Plan and Allocation Plan / Subsidies – Update / Discussion

7a. Driving Principals “Success Equals Local Control Powering Action”

Discussion: Dr. Patz informed members of the general consensus among councils is to have local control, as reflected in the new SELPA motto of “*Success Equals Local control Powering Action*” and appreciates Directors collaborating together to serve student needs.

7b. Local Plan (Part 1)

7c. Service Plan

Discussion: Dr. Patz stated the PAC and FAC have discussed moving some services from the county office to SELPA. Specific names of schools (IEP School, EXCEL, etc) will be revised to only reference program types.

7d. Budget Plan

Discussion: Dr. Patz confirmed the budget plan needs an update, as it currently pools funds to committees to allocate.

7e. Low Incidence Funds

Discussion: Dr. Patz recommends that districts directly purchase low incidence equipment to save processing and delivery time, as the 2022-23 low incidence equipment purchases median was \$645. Dr. Patz continued his slide presentation describing the 2023-24 allocation of \$611k in low incidence funds last year. Districts could purchase qualified equipment under \$1k, and higher cost items could be purchased by the SELPA, or brought to the extraordinary cost pool. PAC had concerns regarding internal purchasing processes, while FAC supported the \$1k limit. All members supported the idea.

7f. Regional Resource Committee (NPS, Countywide, ERICs)

Discussion: Dr. Patz stated the SELPA current reimbursement is up to \$25k of the cost, with a total of \$800k allocated per year. Discussions with PAC and FAC include changing the policy to allocate 25% for the 1st calendar year, with concerns regarding tracking start year vs. end year. Dr. Patz referred to his slide presentation for a proposal to reimburse districts on a tiered program to promote students returning to their home site. FAC suggested 25% first 2 years, then zero. PAC liked the idea and agreed all schools are vastly different among districts.

Discussion continued regarding out of home (OOH) students and the current reimbursement to districts up to 100% of costs AFTER LCFF funding. Dr. Patz suggested to reduce that to 75% the first year, 50% second year, 25% third year as most would move and/or age out. The process starts over if student moves to a new district. FAC likes the option to eliminate LCFF / RRC, but add in cap of 75% for first 2 years to promote budgeting and building internal programs for students.

Mr. Geren voiced concern that funds distributed to districts is being further reduced, as large districts can afford to lose, while smaller districts cannot. Dr. Patz stated the hope is to reduce the \$800k set aside and pass it through to districts on both the OOH and in-home placement side, as the goal is to pass through more funds to districts off the top instead of withholding, and will present it for FAC to consider reducing to \$500-600k. Trickle down does affect districts, but could move into extraordinary cost pools to cover. Further discussion included impact to group homes and the option for a flat subsidy.

Dr. Patz reminded members the goal is more about eliminating the RRC committee and for districts to work together to build and evolve programs as needed. The new plan would allow more funds to be distributed out. Shasta County bed counts reduced OOH funding from \$2m to \$1m last year. Current OOH reserves would allow for a few years at 100% funding but will need to be evaluated. Dr. Patz reminded members of his goal to distribute more funds out to districts, and remove the Regional Resource Committee (RRC). Members agreed some districts have very high needs, and it is important to keep the SELPA healthy as insurance for all districts in case of need. Mr. Cloney would like to see the extraordinary cost pool dependent on district financial circumstances, making the RRC address more of the math and less about program decisions. All members like the idea of moving away from RRC and more towards local decisions, though more information is needed concerning who will make decisions for extraordinary cost subsidies.

Mr. Geren requested the proposed ERICS policy add a requirement for a student to have an IEP. Dr. Patz agreed to add it to the new policy and bring back for Board consideration.

7g. Extraordinary costs and Legal fees

Discussion: Dr. Patz explained that the \$25k legal fee subsidy has been unclaimed for several years as it must benefit all SELPA and proposes to combine the funds into the current \$200k extraordinary cost pool. A committee of FAC and PAC members with set criteria would decide funding that would be reset annually with no carry over. Dr. Patz agreed to create a model with PAC and FAC, set how much to pass through on ADA and provide the Board a proposal.

7h. Court School

Discussion: Mr. Cloney reiterated his position that the SELPA should not be subsidizing Court School, as SCOE receives about \$5k more in LCFF funds, plus ADA, plus per student funding, and is required to provide it. Ms. Flores confirmed court school currently has 37 students, over half are special education, with a teacher and BMA in every classroom. One small class size limited to 9 as court placement, with two staff and .6 teacher. Dr. Patz requested guidance and Mr. Cloney emphasized no changes for this year but should be discussed for the 2024-25 school year. Dr. Patz confirmed the SELPA funding is not fixed and is paid off the top while also serving some out of county students. SCOE also receives ERMHS dollars for ERMHS clinician NOT included in funds from SELPA. No guidance provided.

7i. Remote

Discussion: Dr. Patz reminded members that Fall River JUSD doesn't use any SELPA services provided, including SELPA purchased busses, or have ability to apply for subsidies and promotes keeping the remote subsidy for their use.

Dr. Patz emphasized his goal for the SELPA is to eliminate bureaucracy and committees, distribute funds to districts, and streamline processes.

8. Suggestions for Future Agenda Items

Discussion: Ms. Bishop suggested updating the IEE policy regarding allowable costs of assessments and updating the list of providers.

9. Next meeting date: December 19, 2023 – Regular meeting - 8:00 a.m., SELPA Conference Room; 3570 Rancho Rd., Ste. 9; Redding, CA 96002

10. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 9:32 a.m.