

**SELPA Governing Board  
Minutes  
December 19, 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                   | Present |
| ● Heather Armelino, CHAIRPERSON, Enterprise ESD – Region 4 | Present |
| ● Doug Geren, Cottonwood UESD – Region 5                   | ABSENT  |
| ● Judy Flores, Shasta COE – Region 6                       | Present |
| ● Greg Hawkins, Fall River JUSD – Region 7                 | Present |

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Discussion: Dr. Patz will be requesting an edit to Consent item #5d to change but will not pull it.

**ACTION:** Jim Cloney motioned to approve the Agenda as presented. Brian Parker seconded the motion. The motion passed by majority vote 6-0-1, no opposition, no abstentions, Doug Geren 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.

**4. Director's Report**

4a Spectrum Center – Update

Discussion: Dr. Patz indicated Spectrum is providing many assurances they are still in the building process. Struggles continue with cost and administration, but students still need a place. James Glover, SELPA Support Services Consultant, continues to visit often. The Finance Advisory Council (FAC) wants to discuss billing and enrollment in February. One classroom changed structure from ED to a functional class (verbal/non-verbal) with 8 students committed, but only 6 enrolled. There are approximately 26-27 total students in the program due to parent pulls, schools hesitant to place, and neighboring counties not fulfilling placement obligations. All agree there is no other place for the students who ARE enrolled, so keeping program for now. Spectrum just hired new paras and a teacher, but often lose staff as well since there is no anchor teacher yet.

#### 4b. ERICs

Discussion: Dr. Patz stated all rooms authorized by the Board have not been filled. Job-a-Likes indicate this should be a service not a location, and are looking for committee to expand classes with a new model with supplemental funding. Dr. Patz also wants Fall River to start an ERICS Program for elementary and high school students.

#### 4c. ESY Waivers

Discussion: Dr. Patz stated districts should schedule ESY for the full 20 days for continuity. The waiver process is still available and will be brought to the SELPA Board for Consent approval. Directors and IEP teams are encouraged to see if the student requires ESY, or if they need the routine. If only scheduled for 14 days in all of June, concerns are if we are capturing continuity for the student. Mr. Cloney specified 19 days available, with only 17 in seat due holidays. Dr. Patz informed members of two districts sharing successful ESY last year by partnering together and pooling staff.

#### 4d. Alt Path to Diploma

Discussion: Dr. Patz confirmed we still await guidance from the state, although the CSBA just released a draft. The plan is to provide continuity for transition between high schools as the first step to a broader path. This is anticipated to be equivalent to a high school diploma, but doesn't end the special education disability so the student would remain eligible for 18-22 year old programs. This program comes from Every Child Succeeds, not IDEA.

#### 4e. Data – Update

Discussion: Autumn Ervin, SELPA, informed members that all LEAs certified on time, and praised all data teams for working so hard to meet the deadline. Ms. Ervin will review all submissions to see if any corrections or updates are necessary. The February 1 DRDP deadline is anticipated to be met as well. Dr. Patz praised Ms. Ervin's hard work and long hours in assisting multiple districts in meeting their deadline, and thanked members for allowing the SELPA to have a team member focused specifically on data instead of having a split position.

#### 4f. Upcoming Trainings

- 1-10-24 – ACSA Every Child Counts Symposium – Palm Desert, CA
- 1-24-24 – How, When and Why to Write Amendments – 2:00-3:00 – SELPA Conference Room
- 2-21-24 – All About Accommodations – 2:00-3:00 – SELPA Conference Room
- 3-7-24 – CalECSE Symposium - San Diego, CA
- 3-13-24 - Private School & ISPs - 2:00-3:00 – SELPA Conference Room
- 3-14-24 – ADR Conference – Riverside, CA
- 4-24-24 – Progress Reports for IEPs - 2:00-3:00 – SELPA Conference Room
- 5-1-24 – Legislative Information Sharing Day – Sacramento, CA
- 5-6-24 – Determination of Manifestation - 2:00-3:00 – SELPA Conference Room

Discussion: Dr. Patz promoted the upcoming SELPA trainings and encouraged districts to staff. The Community Advisory Committee (CAC) will be sending parents to Legislative Information Sharing Day at the state capitol.

**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 10-24-23

5b. Low Incidence Equipment & Reimbursement Requests

5b1. LI Equip. Request #80 – Pacheco ESD – Junction ESD – OI Equip (HiLo chair)	\$4,993.56
5b2. LI Equip. Request #81 – Cttnwd Crk Chrtr – Cttnwd Crk Chrtr – HH Equip	\$1,623.54
5b3. LI Equip. Request #82 – SELPA stock – VI Equipment	\$ 541.43
5b4. LI Equip. Request #83 – SELPA stock – VI Equipment	\$ 811.83
5b5. LI Equip. Request #84 – SELPA stock – VI Equipment	<u>\$ 338.50</u>
TOTAL:	\$8,308.86

- 5c. Student GPS Tracker Audio Device Policy
- 5d. IEE Policy Update
- 5e. Restraint and Seclusion Transparency Policy (AB 1446 Weber)

Discussion: Dr. Patz stated the FAC inquired about item 5d IEE policy rate adjustments, and confirmed the SELPA team researched local and neighboring rate structures and increased or decreased rates to keep consistency. The FAC also requested replacing “district(s)” to “LEA(s)” as the policy also applies to charters.

**ACTION:** Jim Cloney motioned to approve the revisions to the IEE policy as discussed and remaining Consent Items as presented. Cindy Bishop seconded the motion. The motion passed by majority vote 6-0-1, no opposition, no abstentions, Doug Geren was absent.

## 6. Local Plan – Governance and Administration – Update

Discussion: Dr. Patz reminded members the Local Plan Governance and Administration document was previously shared and included changes suggested in October and removed repetitive entries. No real fundamental changes other than to the Regional Resource and Low incidence funds to reflect the SELPA’s priority to flow funding to districts.

## 7. Subsidies – Discussion / ACTION

- 7a. Regional Resource (NPS, Countywide)

Discussion: Dr. Patz stated the new focus for the Regional Resource subsidy is to move away from the committee structure. If student lives at home and attends a county program or Nonpublic School (NPS), previously the SELPA supported with a 25% subsidy. CP presented a revised policy as a step-down process to incentivize bringing students back to comprehensive sites, which keeps placement short term and allows districts to adjust budgets accordingly. Both PAC and FAC want to keep the 25% as long as the student is placed, as high school students will likely stay in placement and not return to the comprehensive site.

Mr. Cloney favors removal of the committee, as the proposed policy only provides oversight to ensure districts have considered all options, not judging IEP team decisions. Ms. Armelino agrees. The proposed policy removes LCFF consideration and provides a flat 25% subsidy. Ms. Bishop agrees with the 25%, as decisions made by the IEP team are based on student needs. Clay Ross, Superintendent Columbia ESD, stated the purpose of the RRC committee was originally to determine like-for-like placement, as there are some districts who DO just want to place students, and believes there should be a review if a student truly doesn’t belong off site. Dr. Patz referred to criteria 4e on page 43 where requests can be brought to the PAC for review if SELPA finds too many placements or too little information has been provided, giving an opportunity for the district to address concerns.

**ACTION:** Jim Cloney motioned to revise the subsidy to 25% in perpetuity without LCFF consideration and approve the proposed Regional Resource policy as otherwise presented. Brian Parker seconded the motion. The motion passed by majority vote 6-0-1, no opposition, no abstentions, Doug Geren was absent.

## 7b. Out of Home Policy

Discussion: Dr. Patz emphasized this policy is for students NOT living at home and is almost identical to the proposed RRC policy. Funding would allow for a 75% subsidy without LCFF consideration for students with the highest level of need and most disrupted lives. Ed. Code changed to make a NPS the school of origin, so when a student changes foster homes, they have the right to stay at their school of origin to maintain continuity. The proposed policy provides a step-down subsidy of 75%, 75%, 50% to promote return to a comprehensive site. Both PAC and FAC recommend a 75% subsidy as long as the student is placed, without LCFF consideration.

Dr. Patz confirmed a loss of \$1m in revenue due to a revised bed count, but the SELPA has building reserves, which can be revisited each year. The number of residential treatment centers (RTCs) has increased in California, but are costly. More are finding home based needs. Residential placements can be reviewed and prorated.

**ACTION:** Cindy Bishop motioned to revise the subsidy to 75% in perpetuity without LCFF consideration and approve the proposed Out of Home Subsidy policy as otherwise presented. Jim Cloney seconded the motion. The motion passed by majority vote 6-0-1, no opposition, no abstentions, Doug Geren was absent.

## 7c. Extraordinary Cost Pool

Discussion: Dr. Patz informed members the newly proposed Extraordinary Cost Subsidy pool will absorb the \$50k funds into the extraordinary cost pool for a total of \$250k. Legal fees could still be considered under the extraordinary cost pool. FAC will consider the requests in closed sessions regarding unplanned expenses, due diligence of a legal impact, or outside impact on the budget. All applications will be considered by FAC. Dr. Patz will specify excluded items. Any tie votes by FAC will be decided by the SELPA Director or the Governing Board. The \$250k is replenished annually as needed.

**ACTION:** Jim Cloney motioned to include specifically excluded items and approve the Extraordinary Cost Pool as otherwise presented. Brian Parker seconded the motion. The motion passed by majority vote 6-0-1, no opposition, no abstentions, Doug Geren was absent.

## 7d. Low Incidence

Discussion: Dr. Patz proposes the SELPA no longer maintain a \$50k set aside to purchase equipment, as reserves are sufficient. Funds will be distributed to districts and applied to their low incidence costs. All equipment under \$1k can be purchased by districts directly, while purchases over \$1k will be made by the SELPA. The FAC requested item #3 be revised to include *“Low Incidence requests are reviewed, and approved or denied by the SELPA Director, and brought to the FAC for transparency.”*. The SELPA will continue to bring requests to the Board for approval under the Consent agenda. Both PAC and FAC recommended approval of the revised policy with the above changes.

**ACTION:** Jim Cloney motioned to revise item #3 to include *“Low Incidence requests are reviewed, and approved or denied by the SELPA Director, and brought to the FAC for transparency.”* and to approve the Low Incidence Equipment Policy as otherwise presented. Brian Parker seconded the motion. The motion passed by majority vote 6-0-1, no opposition, no abstentions, Doug Geren was absent.

## 7e. Remote District

Discussion: Dr. Patz indicated he could not locate a policy for the current remote subsidy paid to Fall River JUSD. “Remote” is determined to be over 50 miles away from the current Shasta COE offices on Magnolia Avenue in Redding.

Previously, \$40k was 75% general subsidy, 25% for transportation including bus aides. ERMHS funds paid to Hill Country Clinic were added to provide services by a local entity. SELPA now only gets federal dollars, as state funds are now paid directly to LEAs. The PAC acknowledged the need for Fall River to keep the remote subsidy with no stepdown. FAC agrees with the general subsidy but wants more time to budget for the other.

CP only wants guidance for the February budget meeting. They did get a COLA last year or so for subsidy as well. Fall River currently receives \$83,500 added to their state mental health dollars. The \$40k general subsidy is embedded in the \$83k. Their \$14k in federal funds is not allocated to the SELPA like all other LEAs.

Mr. Hawkins voiced concern with Fall River JUSD's ability to serve their students and stated they should be requesting additional funds. Mr. Cloney inquired what the increase should be if their \$60k in ERMHS is coming out versus what the local LEAs receive, and how that equates to funding. Mr. Parker agreed. Dr. Patz will confirm Fall River's direct allocation for state ERMHS funds and per student allocations for the budget meeting, and emphasized the increased SELPA assistance and staff visitations to Fall River, including the BCBA, Support Services Consultant, and data assistant. Fall River cannot utilize the busses the SELPA contributed towards, nor do they use any of the transportation or county programs available to local districts.

## **8. Potential SELPA Services – Discussion**

Discussion: a/ Dr. Patz stated the PAC has voiced concern regarding services for children attending preschool outside their district of residence (DOR). Of the estimated 300 PreK students in the county, a large portion attend outside DOR boundaries who require services - mostly speech, and the DORs are having staffing challenges. Dr. Patz proposed the SELPA could employ multiple providers to serve these students. The highest estimated cost is \$360k per year for a caseload of 40 students (\$9k per student per year, estimated at approximately \$200 per hour). A commitment of 30 PreK students is required to begin planning, including Fall River, and would be a direct bill to LEAs only (including the JPA), not a subsidized program by the SELPA. The PAC agreed the idea of county wide PreK system would be beneficial, but would need commitments before any action could proceed. Ms. Armelino stated Enterprise ESD has more than 30 PreK students receiving speech services and is fully staffed and likely not to participate, but believes in having a county wide program.

b/ Dr. Patz suggested data services as another potential SELPA service, as districts struggle with high demands on data teams. This would not replace district data staff, but help current staff have time to address other tasks and allow consistent oversight and quality control. Data services would also be a direct bill option, not a SELPA OTT cost. The SELPA would hire an additional data person to help provide ongoing service to districts. The estimated costs would depend on ADA. SELPA would require a commitment of LEAs that have a combined ADA of 4k, or \$28 per ADA. The more participating LEAs would reduce the cost.

Dr. Patz encouraged members to discuss the option with their data teams and if interested, the SELPA will bring back for consideration of creating a new data position. Dr. Patz emphasized that all districts certified due to Ms. Ervin's extensive efforts and commitment in working with LEAs to ensure all corrections and deadlines were met. Mr. Cloney suggested that the cost to assist with data for 6k-6500 students seems attainable, though Shasta UHSD would likely not participate. Dr. Patz emphasized the ability to negotiate costs due to Shasta UHSD's numbers.

## **9. Budget Planning Preview**

Discussion: Dr. Patz informed members he will provide a Google sheet instead of printed binders for the budget meeting, and will align ERICS funding from OTT to mental health funds dollars and reduce other subsidies to align with current programs. SELPA will do spreadsheet for a single GANS for federal funding, and will also align other SELPA staffing costs appropriately.

Additional considerations will include the remote subsidy and ERMHS funding. The \$69.5k current Bridges program funding is half of previous year. Dr. Patz will be requesting guidance for the step-down amount from federal mental health dollars.

Mr. Cloney inquired about what services the local LEAs can benefit from if the SELPA continues to fund the remote subsidy and the Bridges program, especially since Bridges is a general education program, not special education. Ms. Armelino and Ms. Bishop agree the need for Bridges will only increase with growth of TK. Dr. Patz inquired what percent of the Bridges budget is SELPA's contribution and will prepare the 2024-25 budget for a step down to \$50k. EXCEL is 100% mental health funds, and Spectrum is 50% mental health funds.

## **10. Suggestions for Future Agenda Items**

### 10a. Court School

Discussion: Dr. Patz will add Court School to the budget meeting agenda.

## **11. Next Meeting Date**

- February 9, 2024 – **Budget** meeting – 8:00 a.m., SELPA Conference Room
- February 27, 2024 – Regular meeting - 8:00 a.m., SELPA Conference Room

## **12. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 9:49 am.