

**SELPA Governing Board  
Minutes  
February 9, 2024  
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:

- |   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| ● 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                          | Present                              |
| ● Kyle Turner, Gateway USD for Judy Flores, Shasta COE – Region 6 | Present                              |
| ● Greg Hawkins, Fall River JUSD – Region 7                        | ABSENT ( <i>present at 8:03 am</i> ) |

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Discussion: None.

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

*(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.)*

4a. Approval of Meeting Minutes 12-19-23

4b. Low Incidence Equipment & Reimbursement Requests

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 4b1. LI Equip. Request #85 – SELPA stock – VI Equipment         | \$ 270.00                             |
| 4b2. LI Equip. Request #86 – Columbia ESD – Junction – OI Equip | \$9,526.05 (Rifton chair & gait trnr) |
| 4b3. LI Equip. Request #88 – Columbia ESD – Junction – OI Equip | <u>\$ 84.77</u>                       |
| TOTAL:  | \$9,880.82                            |

Discussion: None.

**ACTION:** Cynthia Bishop motioned to approve the Consent Items as presented. Jim Cloney seconded the motion. The motion passed by majority vote 6-0-1, no opposition, no abstentions, Greg Hawkins was absent.

## 5. Special Education Funding Overview – Discussion

*(Greg Hawkins present at 8:03 am)*

Discussion: Dr. Patz referred to a slide presentation illustrating how California Special Education Funding works and that it costs three times more to educate students who have an Individual Education Plan (IEP). AB602 funding is based on the best average daily attendance (ADA) over the last three years, taking the highest of each LEAs ADA. The budget was drafted using best estimated figures, as this year's ADA is still unknown. Dr. Patz stated the Governor settled on a .76% COLA, so staffing salary increases and steps in column may present challenges to districts.

## 6. SELPA Budget 2024-25 – Discussion / ACTION

- 6a. Funding Streams (Revenue)
- 6b. Expenditures/ Subsidies
- 6c. Reserves

Discussion: Dr. Patz continued his slide presentation and informed members that “restricted funds” will now be referred to as “specific use funds” for Low Incidence, Out of Home Care, Educationally Related Mental Health funds (ERMHS), alternative dispute resolution (ADR), preschool grants, or other funds with a specific purpose.

**REVENUE** – Dr. Patz indicated the AB602 ADA has a \$893 base rate projected for 2024-25, up from \$887 last year. OOH funding dropped last year, although we may capture more funding when new homes open. State ERMHS funds are now distributed directly to LEAs, creating a \$1.5m change in funds no longer coming to the SELPA. Distributable base is built into the AB602 in addition to the \$19.9m. ALL are in AB602. Federal funds are still pending the Grant Award Notification (GAN) for IDEA. Overall, the SELPA revenue includes approximately \$28m with all funds, with MediCal funds still included in reserves. ADR funds are still specified use only. Members agreed attendance is better, but overall enrollment is down. Total revenue is estimated at \$28.8m, while the projected distributable base is estimated to be about \$23m, or approximately 80% to LEAs.

**EXPENDITURES** – Dr. Patz stated there are no capital purchases anticipated this year, with the majority of funds passed through other than off the top (OTT) expenses. Custodial costs will not increase with itinerant move to Rancho location, while utilities will increase. The Community Advisory Committee (CAC) has grown, so Dr. Patz is requesting additional funds. All other increases for operations are fixed or step in column. BCBA expenses were moved out to ERMHS but same overall. Increase CAC but save money overall.

Dr. Patz continued his slide presentation and review of operations and Itinerant expenses. ASL Interpreter services are billed to applicable districts which offsets the low incidence costs. Districts pay full freight for ASL interpreters. SELPA is recruiting for interpreters as districts do not have their own staff.

ERMHS funds are used to pay the BCBA, Bridges and Fall River subsidy. If reduced, the SELPA could utilize those federal ERMHS funds for future use. Sub-committees of members from FAC and PAC could determine best use.

OTT funds include combined extraordinary and legal pools. Dr. Patz would like to increase the ERICS subsidy from \$35k each to \$50k each.

Fall River JUSD general remote subsidy – Dr. Patz informed members the PAC recommended keeping as is. The SELPA has been more proactive in assistance, but still having challenges to get there during Winter. CP supports continuing subsidy since they can't use any local services – especially the transportation portion. FRJUSD ADA is estimated to drop to 1064 next year. 20% of students have an IEP, with 25% of that for ERMHS counseling. They get about 90k in total funding for mental health, \$80/student, \$35/IEP student, where they would receive approximately \$126/student with the subsidy. Mr. Hawkins confirmed use of tele-services, but the challenge is to keep current employees hired and Fall River has contacted retirees to assist them. Fall River keeps their federal funds, and SELPA backfills the remainder of the subsidy. Mr. Cloney voiced concern for the SELPA equally benefiting from the subsidy, as funds are taken from AB620 which reduces the distributable base and takes approximately \$2/student from each LEA to support the remote subsidy. Mr. Hawkins stated he would inquire about MediCal billing for students with IEPs to offset costs. Mr. Cloney supports a remote district subsidy step down for 24-25 and using federal dollars to support the SELPA as a whole. Members agree. Dr. Patz reiterated an overall member consensus to maintain the \$40k general remote subsidy, but to continue the step down of the \$50k ERMHS subsidy to \$40k for 2024-25.

OUT OF HOME (OOH) – Dr. Patz confirmed \$4m in OOH reserves. OOH costs have increased to approximately \$350/year for one placement, and the SELPA MAY have 3 placements. One RTC has opened in Auburn, but will still be very expensive. Mr. Cloney emphasized OOH funds are SELPA's insurance policy for all member LEAs should they have placements and encouraged preservation the residential placement budget.

Carie Webb, SCOE Executive Director of Student Programs, addressed the Board on behalf of SCOE SpEd Court School. – Ms. Webb indicated the SELPA pays the full cost of SpEd services for students in court school, AFTER the county's AB602 allocation. The county gets \$131k in AB602 distribution based on ADA for students in Court school and independent study. Mr. Cloney reiterated county funding amounts without CUs or food costs and inquired why the SELPA is contributing \$100k to this program from OOH funds, when they should be held in reserves as insurance for the SELPA LEAs. Ms. Bishop stated court school serves students aged 12 and over, with 41 in custody. Total enrollment 132 = 39 SUHSD, AUHSD and fewer elem. Discussion continued regarding enrollment and education responsibility. Dr. Patz emphasized members have discretion to determine the amount and method of funding options. The \$108k allocated for 24-25 is a placeholder at this time due to unknown actuals. Mr. Cloney was firm in his position the SELPA no longer funds court school, as they receive AB602 and LCFF funds for support. All members agreed to discontinue the subsidy.

Mrs. Armelino voiced concern regarding the \$10k Fall River JUSD transportation subsidy portion, as LEAs who utilize SCOE transportation still pay per student to use busses even though SELPA funds were used to purchase busses. Mr. Cloney reiterated that SELPA used reserves and put in transportation so LEAs pay both ways, but still didn't benefit Fall River. Members further agreed to keep the \$40k portion in place which includes transportation, and step down the ERMHS portion.

BRIDGES – Dr. Patz reminded members of their election to step down ERMHS fund of the Bridges program by 50% last year and proposes continuing the step down. SELPA subsidized \$64k this year, and projects \$37.5 for next year from ERMHS / federal mental health funds. SELPA could keep funds and LEAs would maintain their fed dollars to avoid GANs. April Matthews, SCOE Program Director of SEL Community Schools, shared that from July to Dec 2023, 200 students grades TK-12th with IEPs were referred to the different Bridges programs, which include Community Connect, Therapy, 8 Week Model, and Triple P. She also shared that the Bridges program, a 12-week program working with student, family, and school staff, uses SELPA funding to partially cover the FTE for the 12 mental health clinicians providing services through those programs. In the case of students on an IEP who are referred for this support, partial

funding currently comes from SELPA off the top. All members agreed to continue a step down in SELPA funding.

Dr. Patz requested guidance as to how the SELPA could use retained funds from stepped down subsidies, and suggested members of FAC and PAC participate in subcommittees to discuss ideas including pass through of funds to LEAs, build support for 1/1 aides, and IEP needs of students in CDS. Ms. Bishop suggested behavior tech management teams and using BCBA's to hire using goals for students. The SELPA would provide an ongoing coaching model and would train and continue support with the BCBA or behavior tech.

Dr. Patz continued discussion regarding reserves confirming the \$105k SELPA office carryover will be applied to next year's operation costs, estimated to increase from \$750k to \$1m. The SELPA has been paying down low incidence reserves, and no longer holds the \$50k set aside. Low incidence reserves will be used to purchase equip over \$1k for districts next year per the new adopted policy. MediCal continues to be held due to audits. The mental health reserves were accumulated when all funds were distributed to SELPA. SELPA will continue to find programs for LEAs for use of the \$1.9m in mental health reserves.

Ms. Webb inquired how SCOE can take advantage and have a voice regarding their generated \$140k ADA contribution towards SELPA. Dr. Patz verified SCOE is represented in Region 6 of the SELPA Governing Board and emphasized SCOE's participation in SELPA trainings, etc.

**7. Next Meeting Date**

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

**8. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 am.