

Tulare County  
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
For Special Education

MINUTES  
October 2, 2008

The Tulare County Community Advisory Committee for Special Education met in the Board Room of the Tulare County Office of Education at 1:30 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dana Collins, Shelly Dever, Stephanie Caldera, Gary Kenny, Tim Perrotta, Jeff Higgins

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Randi Kestner, Connie Acevedo, Ramon Cervantes, Filomena Rocha, Amy McMahan, Claudia Garcia

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Brenda Beatty, Renae Bendix: Parent Liaisons/Tulare County Office of Education, Tiffany Stark, Eric Sinclair

**WELCOME / INTRODUCTIONS:** Chairperson Stephanie Caldera welcomed CAC members and everyone introduced themselves.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** No members of the public were present to address the Committee on agenda items.

**PROJECTS: C.O.S. “Disability Awareness Day”:** Dana Collins reported on the C.O.S. “Disability Awareness Day”. Dana stated she had received miscellaneous brochures for the display and a tablecloth for the table. Stephanie brought a display board featuring Bright Start and Brenda reported a display board had been ordered to feature CAC. Dana stated she needed at least one other member to assist at the table during Awareness Day. Shelly Dever volunteered to assist Dana.

**2009 “Meeting Challenges” Calendar”:** Brenda Beatty reported progress was taking place with the yearly “Meeting Challenges” Calendar. Brenda reported that six of the required twelve pictures have been taken. They included various pictures of Bright Start mothers and their children visiting the COS Farm where they viewed animals being cared for by COS students. Other pictures included mothers and children of the Bright Start “Mommy

and Me” group, a mother assisting her son as he learned to ride a tricycle, a father and son playing golf at Plaza Park, a mother and son shopping for fish at the Visalia Pet Store, a mother and her daughter viewing the student’s drawings, a mother and son shopping for sport clothing. Additional pictures have been scheduled for the next two weeks.

**D.O.S.E. Report:** Jeff Higgins reported on the topics discussed at the last D.O.S.E. meeting. Included were the referral process for school districts when referring to Severely Handicapped Programs within Tulare County Office of Education and the process to follow when parents decline to sign their child’s IEP at the IEP meeting. Also included in his report were the reimbursement process for hearing impaired services and trainings available from Tulare County Office of Education, and the upcoming monitoring of seven school districts, including Farmersville. Jeff reported on additional topics discussed at the DOSE meeting including low-incident expenditures, private schools and who provides assessments and services, misidentification of students and the Response to Intervention Model (RTI).

**STUDY TOPIC: Preschool Programs for Children with Special Needs:** Cara Peterson, Preschool Coordinator, was the guest speaker. Cara reported her staff has grown since last year and she now has two program specialists and two teachers. Cara presented information on preschool services provided by TCOE to the larger school districts. Cara reported the Bright Start staff begins preparing for the transition of children from their program at the age of two years and six months. They consider the following: 1) child is on target - do nothing; 2) child has disability - an IEP is developed; 3) for children who do not fit into the first two categories, the staff requests an RTI assessment at age three. Cara reported the Bright Start Program works closely with the Tulare County Child Care Education Program to provide appropriate services to the children. There was discussion about labeling children especially the use of the MR label. Shelly Dever stated that society uses the MR term in a demeaning way and would like to see another term used. Cara explained that MR is the term used in the California Education Code.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** The CAC members were given updated copies of the Community Advisory Committee mailing list. There were no announcements.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.