

MINUTES: SELPA1 and Palo Alto CAC General Meeting

Thursday, Oct.11th, 9:00-10:30am

Location: 25 Churchill Ave. Palo Alto

I: **Attendees:** Leo Mapagu/SCCOE SELPA Director, Christine Case-Lo/SELPA1CAC/MVWSD, Cristina Murata/LASD Special Ed Coordinator, Mary Vincent/PAUSD, Alison Biggs/LASD, Kimberly Eng Lee/PAUSD, Angie Foster/PAUSD, Jane Hayes/PAUSD, Christine Baker/PAUSD, Alison Guan/PAUSD, Yuri Chang/PAUSD, Sara Akhav/PAUSD, Yuexing Shen/LASD

II. **Past Minutes:** Postponed approval of Palo Alto's September minutes pending Quorum

III. **SELPA1 Update - Leo Mapagu** presented the role of the SELPA Director and objective of SELPA Operations Meetings. He is new to role, and described most SELPAs as being similar even though they are comprised of different districts serving a target population of students with disabilities. Like an extension of CDE, SELPA (Special Education Local Plan Area) were formed in the 80s. Because of the growing size of the population, California politicians realized there was a need for regional coordination. In other smaller states, there are no SELPAS, though they may have regional programs. There are 130 SELPAs intermediaries between the state department of education (CDE) and various districts. They provide general oversight and collaboration between districts, or support for laws that impact districts. Large districts have their own SELPA's like San Francisco School District. While smaller districts combine into one SELPA to get leverage.

Community Advisory Committees (CACs) by law needs to be part of each SELPA. CAC serves as advisory group for the SELPA. SELPA receives input from CACs, Special Ed directors, General Ed teachers, Council of superintendent, basically all stakeholders. Has not been revised since 2007. A new Trailer bill (AB1497) from CDE may require new template, and revisions of the Plan every 3 years. Action Item: Leo to advise if needed.

Operations committee (Thursdays at 1:30pm) provides advice to SELPA, put systems in place. CDE reports up and down, transitioning into CALPAC. SELPA is here to advise, assist, and collaborate. It forms relationships and inter-agency contacts like early start at regional center. (Between 3 and 22 years of age, individuals are served by the school district. After 22 years of age, individuals will transition back to regional center as needed.

Dispute Resolution: If there is continued tensions and both parties agree, SELPA can be contacted to help clarify, or to provide a third party for facilitated IEP meeting. A parent to parent facilitator may be able to explain and offer differing perspectives. There could also be telephone facilitators. Sometimes facilitator is a staff member from another district or may request a neutral, 3rd party professional facilitator who is independent and objective. Circulated [San Mateo County ADR brochure](#). Leo will follow-up with SELPA1 protocol. **ADR conference coming up.**

Another important role of SELPA is conducting monthly operations meeting where there are directors or staff representatives from each district. Purpose to review timely submission of data, and coordinate submission fiscal data. SELPA receives and manages grants from state, provides staff training/professional development, recommends budget priority for council of superintendents, develops forums, coordinates transport, shares district program that have space, implements policy, ensures parent policy procedures, and provides whatever is needed or asked from Superintendent. CAC also provides a monthly report.

IV. **Key initiatives/concerns of 4 SELPA1 districts**

Christina Murata, Los Altos Elementary Coordinator: There is an effort to expand capacity for co-teaching in elementary/Jr High in Los Altos. Training and coaching teachers by the Inclusion Collaborative before implementation. They're getting good inputs from school community. New terminology: Special Academic instructions rather than SPED teachers to reset culture of inclusion. Co-taught classes were driven by an

elementary teacher requesting to have co-teaching in the 3rd and 4th grades. There are 3 SPED teachers, now 1 of 3 are co-teaching. This started with cohort of students who would work well together. There is no shift in number of aides, although they are seeing a slight decrease of aides as there is already a SPED teacher in the classroom. Each district has different focus on where to implement co-taught classes, elementary vs high school. At Los Altos, focus is in the elementary, and in PAUSD this is introduced in high school and middle school.

There is also some collaborative training in conjunction with inclusion where both GENED and SPED are trained. There is a state conference for inclusion with experts on 10/24 meeting. This is a multiple day conference with different training day for different topics.

Mountain View/Los Altos: High schools have issues with parent/district communication. There was a Communication Specialist who was just hired to address this and increase transparency. Mountain View/Los Altos has 2 different entities with different structures. Disruption is mainly due to turnover in district personnel (new Special Ed Director and Asst. Director) rather than transitioning from primary to secondary school.

PAUSD: District personnel has been actively reaching out to family communities. There have already been two PTA outreach events since beginning of school year. In the last monthly "Meet the staff" meeting, district personnel shared various brochures for services delivered by SPED. Brochures are also on line at: <https://www.pausd.org/programs/special-education#special%20education-information-and-brochures>

V. **Educational Event Updates**

A. **PAUSD School Board Candidate Forum: Equity & Access, 10/14**

Will co-host with PTAC and PASS. Working with PTA VPs of SPED and HUD representatives. 40% of SPED students are Hispanic or African American. Trying to ascertain if this is a problem of over-identification or if SPED is the only intervention program that is available. Is this proper classification?

B. **IEP SMART Goals & Assessments w/PHP, 11/3**

Every year there should be an IEP parent workshop. PAUSD's is co-sponsored by the PTAC. There was request to have video recordings for those who could not attend. Christine Case-Lo willing to start a YouTube channel for videos. Action item: We need to ask if PHP is agreeable being recorded, otherwise we need to look for existing instructional videos. Flyers were available and Alison Guan will email PDFs to Christine Case-Lo for distribution to all SELPA1 districts.

C. **Workshop for Teens and Parents: Time, Money, Emergency w/Silicon Valley Independent Living Center, 11/3**

Target audience: kids who are higher functioning (Mild/Moderate) who are not exposed to living skills training, eg. checking if getting right change for purchase. *Still has space for more attendees. More workshops in the spring.*

D. **Parent Support: School Site Reps, Coffees/Meet-Ups**

MTV has a vacuum of knowledge with parents who have 'retired' and no longer in the district. Currently recruiting new parents, 2 new reps from Bullis charter school. There are 10 new reps for 19 schools. Seeking more robust relation with PTA, statewide there can be 1 or 300 parent CAC members depending on districts.

Palo Alto CAC provides copies of it's promotional brochure in 3 languages. Suggest handing out CAC info during initial IEP meetings. Individual reps trying to change image to be more collaborative (e.g. in PAUSD role transitioned from CAC rep to PTA rep as families and needs became more included). Action Item: Palo Alto CAC will schedule a session to help train new SELPA1 CAC reps being recruited in Mountain View & Los Altos.

VI. CAC Collaborations & Partnerships

A. *National Unity Day: bullying prevention, 10/24*

Unity Day (from pacer.org) was started 6 years ago as a CAC event in PAUSD, but now is a district-sponsored event for bullying prevention. In Mountain View it is part of Project Cornerstone Project with 'Say Something.' October is national bullying prevention month.

B. *Special Olympics of Northern CA School Partnership*

Adaptive PE instructor, Angel Sheridan, is leading this event again. Hosted by PAUSD, but schools throughout the SELPA could take a field trip to participate. Christine Case-Lo requested contact info so Reps at other SELPA1 schools can invite teachers to attend. 11/26 at the Grendell soccer field (students in Greene Leadership program will participate.) <https://www.sonc.org/schools-partnership-program>

C. *Inclusive Camps, Activities & Resources Fair, 2/7 -- Announced and open to all*

D. *Adult Transition Fair w/SantaClara County SELPA CACs, TBD - Postponed*

VII. Advisory to the School Districts

A. *District-approved School Board Reps*

CAC bylaws require 2 or more reps from each district to be voted in by school board. District Reps who have been approved by each district's School Board are officially authorized and needed to vote on the SELPA1 Local Plan. SELPA1 needs reps for Los Altos, and MtnView Whisman districts. Palo Alto has nominated Kimberly Eng Lee and Adriana Suvaiala (pending School Board meeting).

B. *Abilities Awareness Program: Update*

Championed at school level. No program in Los Altos yet, so recruiting for more volunteers.

C. *Dyslexia Awareness Month; PAUSD Dyslexia Working Group*

1 in 5 students have Dyslexia. It is a hidden disability. There are real impacts to SEL and student well being. California guidelines came out in 2017. Palo Alto CAC is working aggressively push awareness in General Ed and facilitate siloed efforts working together. Addressed PAUSD School Board last week about funding needs and individuals responsible to cross SPED and Gen ed. Los Angeles ahead of PAUSD, but seen as model of what can be. Board is fully supportive to fund, if staff returns with data to demonstrate return on investment.

VIII. New Business & Additional Questions

A. *Parent Ed: Conservatorship*

There needs to be more information for parents who have children who are 'in between' abilities. It is not clear if parents need to pursue conservatorship, or how, or what kinds of options are available. Would be helpful to have guidelines for decisions like creating a trust, altered power of attorney (eg signing rental agreement and other fiduciary contracts), etc. Action item: *Lien Vu to circle back with Christine Case- Lo for follow up*

B. *Mary Vincent provided update on Mental Health:*

There is an inadequate number beds for adolescence. Closest facility is in Sonoma. Stanford has added beds, but 0 is for adolescent mental beds. Need for formal letter to advocate. Action item: *Christine Case-Lo will connect Mary with Sarah Gentile, SELPA1CAC alumni parent.*



www.SELPA1CAC.org *special needs awareness & education
in Los Altos, Mountain View-Whisman,
Mountain View Los Altos High, and Palo Alto Unified*

Next SELPA1CAC Meeting: Thursday, November 1,
9:30-11:00am @1299 Bryant Avenue, Mountain View



www.CACPaloAlto.org *a SELPA1 CAC sub-committee
Helping parents in Palo Alto since 1988*

Next Palo Alto CAC General Meeting:
Tuesday, November 13, 9-10:30am @25 Churchill