



CAC Connections

Newsletter of the Stanislaus SELPA Community Advisory Committee

A Note from our CAC President:

CAC President:

Traci Trujillo

Welcome to Everyone,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of our new and returning families and share a little about myself and how I became involved with the CAC.

SELPA Director:

Regina A. Hedin
541-2944

I am the mother of three beautiful children, Zackary, Zoey, and Haleigh and have a wonderful husband, Daniel. About 11 years ago I attended Zackary's first Tri-Annual/Transition to kindergarten IEP. I left scared, angry and unsure about my son's education and knew I needed to get involved to educate and prepare myself for Zackary's educational journey .

Transportation:

541-2940

I was introduced to the CAC by another parent. Going to the first CAC meeting was the best evening my husband and I could have shared and it was there we learned how to be the parent advocates we are today! For families of children receiving special education services, CAC meetings are the place to become involved. The largest percentage of members are parents, care providers, guardians, and family members of children receiving services from the Stanislaus SELPA (Special Education Local Plan Area). The SELPA Director along with the Program Specialists and other community agencies are also members of our CAC.

Parent Groups

Parent Support Group—
Oakdale Area, Contact
847-5121 Ext. 204

The CAC is here to educate, advocate, and offer educational trainings/workshops for families of children within our SELPA. I feel the most important service offered is the chance for parents to meet other parents that are dealing with similar daily challenges. The door is always open and new members are welcome. Working together we can make great things happen! Warmly,

Parent Support Group—
Modesto Area, Contact
577-2122 ext. 131

Parent Support Group—
Turlock Area, Contact
667-7123

Traci Trujillo
CAC President

Families Resource
Network
800-847-3030

Parent Partnership
Project
558-8550

A Note from our SELPA Director:

Our CAC Connections Newsletter will be sent to parents at least twice a year. Included in the newsletter will be in-service/workshop dates, CAC meeting dates, information from the CAC President and SELPA Director, transportation updates, and other items of interest. These newsletters will be posted on the Stanislaus SELPA web site as well. The web site address is www.stanselpa.org and includes menus for CAC, transportation, general information, and contact information for individual districts.

Attendance at the CAC meetings ensures you receive the most up-to-date information on happenings within the Stanislaus SELPA. Our SELPA includes all districts within Stanislaus County with the exception of Modesto City Schools which has their own CAC. Parents are welcome to attend either meeting and we often co-sponsor in-services and trainings with the Modesto City Schools SELPA.

If you would like to be added to our CAC mailing list, please email me at rhedin@stancoe.org and include your first and last name, your student's name, your mailing address and your district of residence and you will receive agendas for meetings and other information regarding the CAC and the services we provide.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our CAC meetings!

Regina A. Hedin
SELPA Director

A Note From the Transportation Department

This year we are providing transportation to 1,512 students routed to 102 school sites. After a hectic start, we are pleased to be at 5-7 school days for routing students.

A recent survey for Stanislaus SELPA district classes has been completed with approximately 39% of bus riders responding. Based on the information provided, a few issues regarding ride times were reported. Those issues have been brought to Storer's attention and they are in the process of re-routing those students to shorten their ride times.

The Parent Not Home issue has increased tremendously this year. Please be sure you have a responsible adult available to receive your student in the afternoon at the address you provided. Due to possible routing changes, bus arrival times may vary so it's best to always have someone available as if your student is the only one on the bus.

Please call me if you have any questions.

Christi McCarthy
Transportation Specialist
Phone: 209.541.2940

The CAC

Who We Are

The Community Advisory Committee (CAC) is made up of parents with children in general and special education, educators and representatives of local agencies who are interested in quality education for the disabled.

What We Do....

The CAC works with the Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA):

- To develop and review programs and services outlined in the local plan
- To assist in parent education
- To raise community awareness of the needs of individuals with disabilities
- To support activities on behalf of children with exceptional needs
- To facilitate communication between schools, parents and the community

Where We Fit In....

The Community Advisory Committee meets directly with the SELPA Director to provide input, air concerns and learn what's new. The SELPA is a regional agency that oversees special education. The Stanislaus SELPA includes all the school districts in this county (except for Modesto City Schools, which is its own SELPA) and the Stanislaus County Office of Education.

The Way We See It

We recognize that placements in special education are the result of both the child's ability to learn, and the ability of general education to serve the child's needs. Therefore, it is imperative that general and special education forge a strong partnership, for each is an essential element of the other. We must build bridges between the generalists and the specialists, and pull down walls of bureaucracy and prejudice.

Our goal is to form a united educational community, so that children with learning difficulties can get the immediate intervention and continuing support they need without losing the developmental, social and vocational benefits of a mainstream education.

Legislative Day

On Wednesday, May 7, 2008 the SELPA Directors of California and their Community Advisory Committees will meet with their local legislators. This has been an annual event for several years. The committee meets with local representatives from the California State Assembly and California State Senate. The CAC representatives will share the special photo album of our children and will discuss any concerns the parents have with special education legislators..

JOIN US!

If you're interested in becoming a member of the CAC, mail this form to:
SELPA, 1100 H Street, #841, Modesto, CA 95354 or call 541-2944

NAME _____ SCHOOL DISTRICT _____
ADDRESS _____ PHONE/E-MAIL _____



SAVE THE DATE

Community Advisory Committee Stanislaus County Office of Education CAC 2007-2008 Meeting Schedule

CAC meetings are held at 1100 H Street, Modesto unless otherwise noted.

.....

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| January 30, 2008 | Parents' Rights Training
Presenter: Ann Cirimele
Program starts at 6:00 p.m. |
| February 27, 2008 | Business Meeting
Meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. |
| March 5, 2008 | Grieving Training
Presenter: Ann Cirimele
Program starts at 6:00 p.m. |
| April 23, 2008 | Preparation for Legislative Day
Meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. |
| May 3, 2008 | Autism Collaborative Forum at the Sheraton Hotel in Stockton
Sponsored by Region 6 Autism Connection |
| May 7, 2008 | Legislative Day in Sacramento |
| June 18, 2008 | Business meeting and end of year potluck.
Meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. |

**For more information about any of these events, please contact Angie Van Wagoner
Stanislaus County SELPA at 541-2944.**

Stanislaus SELPA
1100 H Street, Route #841
Modesto, CA 95354

Post this flyer as a reminder to attend the
Community Advisory Committee meetings each month.