

Coordinating Council Meeting 11/14/2014

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 on 11/14/2014 by Lindy Khan. The following were in attendance:

John	Angell	John Swett USD
Sean	Brown	Oakley UESD
Barbara	Byrd	WCCUSD
Pete	Cardinale	Liberty UHSD
Alejandra	Chamberlain	CCCOE
Adam	Clark	Liberty UHSD
Laura	Delahunt	DA's Office
Steve	France	Acalanes UHSD
Patrick	Gaffney	Clayton Valley Charter
Scott	Gerbert	SRVUSD
Greg	Hetrick	Brentwood USD
Lindy	Khan	CCCOE
Lynn	Mackey	CCCOE
Bob	Sanchez	Antioch USD
Cardenas	Shackelford	Antioch USD
Sunny	Smith	Probation Dept.

Welcome and Review Agenda

- District Personnel Changes? (update contact list)
The current coordinating council list was passed around for the group to make edits or additions to.

District Sharing

- **Introductions**
There were no new attendees at the meeting
- **Start of year – hot issues**
Many districts have expressed a lack of communication between families and site administrators regarding attendance issues. Some members indicated their frustration in learning of issues at SARB hearings that could have been addressed at a much earlier level if the lines of communication were more effective.
There was much discussion regarding the indifference of parents/students due to the ‘lack of teeth’ of the SARB process. Many would like to see

Coordinating Council Meeting 11/14/2014

increased penalties to make parent/students take the process seriously.

- **District Updates**

Sean Brown of OUESD praised the efforts of County Office in providing the toolkits and in meeting with the district administrators. He also expressed appreciation for the wealth of resources on the Attendance Works website. In his district, TK and Kindergarten have the highest absence rate, so Oakley is looking to focus their efforts on this group in order to improve attendance. Oakley is hoping to start their own SARB panel in the 2015-16 school year.

John Angell said JSUSD is changing their SARB process to model it after the SRVUSD's. They have removed attendance clerks from meetings, so as to minimize the adversarial relationship between attendance clerks and parents. They want to encourage a positive, open-door relationship instead. Since the clerks are not attending the meeting, John is printing out the notes section from Aeries and bringing them to SARB hearings to show clearer information on student attendance. JSUSD is considering offering SARB meetings at night to encourage community members to join their panel, and to allow for increased parent participation. He was very pleased to announce the best September attendance rate at Rodeo Hills Elementary. He praised the diligence of the school's attendance clerk and her initiative in creating an attendance poster campaign at the school.

Bob Sanchez and Cardenas Shackelford of Antioch USD shared that their district is holding principals accountable for chronic absenteeism and encouraging more home visits and parent outreach. They expressed their concern over increased violence in their middle and high schools. They asked for recommendations from the group on campaigns or programs. Laura Delahunt with the DA's office is currently working with 2 of their middle schools to improve the situation.

Pete Cardinale and Adam Clark of Liberty UHSD advised the group that LUHSD had revised their attendance handbook to make it easier for clerks. They are increasing the volume of letters and phone calls to parents. Students are being tracked on a monthly basis after the SARB process and congratulatory letters are sent to parents/students who improve their attendance. Adam is working with administrators to offer incentive programs at schools, such as T-shirt raffles and lunch for students with improved attendance. He is also discussing attendance issues with school counselors to make improved attendance a team issue.

Barbara Byrd of WCCUSD said that parents are not attending WCCUSD SARB meetings. She asked for suggestions from the group and mentioned she would like to attend other districts' SARB meetings.

Scott Gerbert of SRVUSD was pleased to share they had held their first district-level SARB and their entire panel, including members of police and sheriffs' departments, mental health organizations, nursing and PTA, were in attendance. Laura Delahunt also attended and Scott said her discussion with the students of the potential consequences of continued truancy seemed very effective.

Lynn Mackey said the court and community schools have been having difficulty with parents not showing up to SARB meetings. Chronic

Coordinating Council Meeting 11/14/2014

absenteeism is a problem due to lack of parent control over their children. Lynn has been working on parent outreach. They have been offering parent open houses and pancake breakfasts. Parenting classes have been started and parents are offered a \$25 incentive for attending these classes. The schools have also been working on student engagement by having “poetry slams” and arranging basketball tournaments with other community schools.

State SARB Updates

- Lindy talked about the CDE Webinar: Addressing Chronic Absence in the LCAP held on November 13th. She was one of the panelists and was able to talk about the COE efforts to support districts in the Attendance Awareness Campaign and briefly discuss the work of the Attendance Learning Network.
- State SARB is attempting to push out the message that the role of SARBs should include a system for analyzing attendance data, not just dealing with students who are referred
- Lindy shared that the State SARB is in the process of revising the handbook, and it will include information that SARBs should be looking at attendance, not just dealing with referrals.

Legislation Updates: The following information was shared with the group:

Passed

AB 420 (Dickinson): Willful Defiance (K)

AB 420: no longer suspend for willful defiance for students in grades K – 3 and cannot ever expel for K only in grades K - 12

AB 2141(Hall & Bonta): Reporting Outcomes of Truancy

AB 1643 (Buchanan): Addition of County & District SARB members

AB 2382 (Bradford): Limiting CalWORKs Reductions for Poor Attendance

AB 2195 (Achadjian): Juvenile Hearing Officers for Habitual Truancy Cases

SB 1111 (Lara): Involuntary Transfer to County Community Schools

SB 1111: Places restriction on involuntary placements to county community school, based on a SARB referral. SARB can still make a recommendation, if parent objects for one of four reasons, they must offer other alternatives within the district, and if those are refused, then you can refer to community school. It also stipulates that the student is eligible to return to prior school, or other school within the district, after one semester. If they choose to stay they can – if they choose to return they must be given that option. This does not apply to students who are expelled.

Vetoed

AB 1866 (Bocanegra): State Collection of Attendance Measures in CALPADS

AB 1672 (Holden): Expansion of County SARB Reports

Model SARB Recognition

Coordinating Council Meeting 11/14/2014

- Applications released soon and due in February
- Revised sections
- Must include steps to address chronic absence
- Lindy or David Kopperrud of CDE are willing to help district SARBs with this process
- Awards presented at CASCWA in Napa in April
- Lindy will send out link when it becomes available.

Mental Health & Wellness

- A Guide to Student Mental Health and Wellness in California
PCOE as part of their mental health grant has created an Educator's Guide to Mental Health (new California edition)
- \$29 for Guide and the factsheets are free and downloadable
<http://www.macmh.org/macmh-pbublications/>
- Promote Each Mind Matters (green ribbons)

County Office Updates

- County SARB – will begin in January
Body will hear cases from COE authorized Charter schools and Community Schools. Mental Health, DA's office, Probation Dept. and other community resources have committed to participate.
- Attendance Initiatives are going strong (Attendance Awareness Campaign, Keeping Our Kids in Schools, and Attendance Learning Network)
Principal Honor Roll: Lindy passed out a sample Principal checklist survey that was distributed in the toolkits and via Survey Monkey and asked for assistance in getting principals to complete and return these forms. To date, almost 50 forms have been returned.
Keeping our Kids in School: A draft mission statement with key messages has been created, it can be modified based on the target audience.
Steve France asked for the group to email a 'wish list' of services/support that are not available, or that districts currently do not have access to, in order to share this with community partners as they seek funding/assistance for this program.
- Mental Health Trainings: EBL & NAMI on Campus
Lindy passed around flyers and encouraged the group to send representatives from their district to these trainings.

District Attorney's Office

- News from the DA's office

Coordinating Council Meeting 11/14/2014

Laura Delahunt has been meeting with Judges Laettner and Hardie to discuss starting a parent truancy court in January. The format will be similar to the Alameda County truancy court. She shared that both of these judges have been extremely great advocates with the presiding judges in moving forward with this new program. There will be future meetings to discuss the details, but the intent is to focus on parents with children under the age of 14. In addition, the District Attorney's office will begin a pilot program with 10 students wearing ankle monitors. The probation department has agreed to monitor this pilot group. She hopes the program will be a success so that the number of students being monitored can increase.

The DA's office is continuing their efforts with the gang intervention group.

Laura encouraged the group to continue to reach out to her if they have parents in their districts with habitually absent children.

Court & Community Schools

- Expelled Student Plan
The Expelled student plan is supposed to be updated every 3 years, the process will have to be started soon. Will discuss at next CC meeting
- Other
Regarding transitions from Golden Gate: Staff will be following up with districts on the status of students.

Upcoming Events

- **Eliminating Barriers to Learning**
Early identification of student mental health
Dec. 4, Mar. 5, Apr. 16 – CCCOE
- **Acalanes Trainings**
Student Records/Custody – Dec. 8th
Receive guide on laws and sample forms

Suspension/Expulsion Issues – Dec. 9th
Discuss "other means of correction" in light of 420 passage
2 days of training for \$180 at Del Valle Education Center in Walnut Creek

Next Meeting & Suggested Topics

- 2014-15 Meetings – 2nd Friday every other month
(1/9, 3/13, 5/8)

Lynn Mackey would like an agenda item added at the end of the next session regarding Independent Study and Transition students.