

### Agenda Item

#### Welcome and Review Agenda

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 by Lindy Khan. The following were in attendance:

- John Angell, John Swett U.S.D
- Pete Cardinale, Liberty Union High School
- Alejandra Chaberlain, CCCOE, Student Programs
- Laura Delehunt, District Attorney's Office
- Steve France, Acalanes Union H.S.D
- Scott Gerbert, San Ramon Valley U.S.D.
- Greg Hetrick, Brentwood U.S.D
- Lindy Khan, CCCOE
- Lynn Mackey, CCCOE
- Lori O'Connor, Martinez U.S.D
- Linda Pete, Mt. Diablo U.S.D.
- Cardenas Shackelford, Antioch U.S.D
- Recorder: Karen Gordon, CCCOE Student Programs
  
- **District Personnel Changes? (update contact list)**
- Lindy asked everyone to make appropriate updates and/or additions to the sign-in sheet.

#### District Attorney's Office Update

- **Teen Truancy Court:** Judge Baskin temporarily replaced Judge Laettner who is on a trial until February 2016. Ankle monitors have been attached to 8 students. They are used on the more chronic cases – most from Mt. Diablo District and some from Richmond. They have been very effective. If the student is out of bounds, the DA's office will pick them up and take them back to school. Attendance has improved 90%. If they are out of compliance during that time, three weeks will be added.
- **Parent Mediation Court:** The biggest challenges have been finding the parents' addresses and whether the parents attend court hearings. Certified mail is sent to them and if they miss two court dates, a warrant is issued. Generally parent mediation occurs for families of kids 12 years old and younger; however, when the parents are clearly responsible for the truancy, mediation may occur for older kids depending on the individual circumstances of each case. Parent mediation gives parents an opportunity to turn the situation around before action is taken. If the parents miss two court dates, a warrant is issued. Parent mediation is effective for parents of multiple children, so numerous issues are addressed at once.
- **Trainings:** Upon request, county personnel will perform Child Abuse Prevention Training.

- **Mandated Draft Reporter Handbook:** Has not been finalized.

## **District Sharing**

### **Attendance Awareness and Incentives**

- Cardenas Shackelford from Antioch is recognizing the teacher/classroom with the highest attendance.
- Greg Hetrick from Brentwood has displayed best attendance banners..
- Lindy Khan from CCCOE mentioned that winter messaging kits are good resources to avoid excessive absences during the holidays.
- John Angell from John Swett uses Aeries Analytics. The upside is parents receive instantaneous positive feedback for their efforts. The schools use the information and have games, contests, etc. The High School message board posts attendance statistics. Home visits to be effective.
- Linda from Mt. Diablo sent letters from the principals stating the importance of attendance. Will get on the principals' agendas to share data and highlight positive improvement resulting from efforts.

### **SART & SARB**

- Cardenas Shackelford from Antioch spoke about the importance of research and interventions. There are many foster youth and homeless and many issues can be resolved prior to referral to SARB.
- Pete Cardinale from Liberty Union stressed the importance of consistency and follow-up. Parents know the principal is serious. Principals need to look at interventions before referring to SARB. Parents can be charged with a misdemeanor for missing school and can spend up to a year in jail.
- Pittsburg Elementary brings parents with truancy issues together to address all issues at once. Students' attendance records are handed out at the meeting. DA is willing to attend these meetings.
- Scott Gerbert from San Ramon provides a small summary of previous cases' to show results and/or improvement so the SARB can see the positive results.

### **Court Referrals**

- Steve France from Acalanes stated that it is important for the judge to know the cases/history. Interventions have been effective because they have stressed that Judge Laettner means business. The Community knows the judge is holding the parents accountable, which has resulted in decreased SARB hearings and positive results.
- Scott Gerbert from San Ramon stressed the importance of frontloading and providing the judges with information outlining the case history prior to the court hearing to improve productivity.

### **Other**

A discussion was held regarding translators and the cost for the school districts. The court is required to provide a translator upon request depending on availability. In addition, the schools discussed setting up a meeting with Judge Laettner to review cases to improve efficiency of the court hearings.

### County Office Updates

**Golden Gate Community School:** During the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter the absentee rate was 68%, and during the second quarter it has dropped to 41%. Registration has dropped to 70 students enrolled (120 is capacity). This is due to the increased funding in the schools which has resulted in a decreased need for service at the Community School.

**Youth Development Services:** Alejanra Chamberlain is meeting with the district liaisons and designing programs to be more meaningful. YDS will provide services for students who were not in school during the last quarter. The plan is to assign case managers to students to get them back in school and monitor them until they graduate or obtain a high school equivalency. Additionally, case managers will provide career exploration, including Career Pathways and ROP. Kids on probation, in foster care, or who are homeless automatically qualify for program.

**AB 2276: Transitioning from Juvenile Detention Facilities** Prohibits students coming out of juvenile hall from automatically being referred to a continuation school - must be allowed to go back to the same school they left (unless they request otherwise). In some cases the students' parents prefer to go back to a continuation school, but they cannot be required to do so. Decisions are made on a case-by-case basis.

**Civil Grand Jury Interview:** The interview was confidential and cannot be shared; however, Lindy commented that as she was preparing for it, she reviewed the Attorney General's report on truancy. The report was helpful, as it discussed best practices and has many embedded links that are useful resources. Lindy noted an interesting fact that Contra Costa County lost \$35 million in the 13-14 school year due to truancy, and the statewide districts lost \$1.5 billion. When capturing data to show success stories, it is important to document the savings that resulted from reduced absences.

**Get Schooled – 2016 College Challenge:** Lindy handed out flyers for high school students.

### 2015 Attendance Awareness Campaign

- 2016 Calendar
- Monthly Themes & eBlasts: Issues have been resolved. Changed the publication schedule to end of month to coincide with principals' newsletters. Previous newsletters have been archived.
- Principal Honor Roll & Recognition: Lindy ordered gift cards from Amazon to present to Principals at district meetings.
- Banners: Additional banners were handed out during the meeting.

### State SARB

- **Legislation:**
  - SB 277 (effective July 2016) requires that students without required vaccinations enroll in independent study program without options of classroom learning. Schools currently allow students who have independent study to use their facilities. With this new law, schools will have to revamp their on-line programs.
  - **AB 306** amends education code relating to school districts, including intradistrict transfers. It has revised the residency requirement to include the d

<p>the place of employment by a student's parent when the parent as worked there at least three days of the week. This becomes effective July 2017.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ <b>AB 1101</b> requires that districts must have a board policy regarding investigations related to residency verification. It requires the investigator to truthfully identify him/herself, to pre-notify the resident prior to home visits, and to prohibit the surreptitious photography of children.</li><li>○ <b>Draft Recommendation to SPI re: role of supervisors of attendance:</b> California Education Code Section 48325(c) states that the State School Attendance Review Baoard shall make recommendations annually to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. A copy of the recommendation was distributed at the meeting. The changes include expanding the role of attendance supervisors to include raising awareness of the importance of attendance and tracking chronic absences in addition to truancy.</li><li>○ <b>Model SARB Applications</b> – none submitted this year</li></ul>
<p><b>Other Potential Items of Interest</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ School district was asked to administer medical marijuana prescribed by student's physician for seizures. The school was conflicted, as it is not legal to have marijuana on school campus.</li></ul>
<p><b>Meeting Dates for 2015-16</b></p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> Friday every other month</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <b>March 11<sup>th</sup></b></li><li>○ <b>May 13<sup>th</sup></b></li></ul>