

**LOS MEDANOS COLLEGE
DISABLED STUDENTS PROGRAMS & SERVICES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2010
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

Attendees

Anne Banks, Resource Specialist, Liberty High School
Sylvia Benzler, DSP&S Administrative Assistant, Los Medanos College
Pat Engle, Workability, Mt. Diablo Unified School District
Elizabeth Gonzalez-Sidrian, Pittsburg Unified School District
Marie Karp, Counselor, Los Medanos College
Frances Krohn, Transition Specialist, Gateway/LUHSD
Kristen LaFollette, Transition Specialist, Gateway/LUHSD
Annmarie Maione, Psychologist, Pittsburg Unified School District
Robin Maldonado, Living Skills Instructor, ALIVE Program
Ruth Masayko, Resource Specialist, Live Oak High School
Penny Musante, Program Director, ALIVE Program
Gail Newman, Senior Dean, Student Services, Los Medanos College
Sandy Overly, Special Education Case Manager, Liberty High School
Monica Potter, Rehabilitation Counselor, Department of Rehabilitation
Ginny Richards, DSP&S Coordinator/LD Specialist, Los Medanos College
Gwen Turner, Workability, Mt. Diablo Unified School District
Liz Wilson-Palmer, Transition Program, c/o Marchus School

Unable to Attend

Wendi Aghily, Coordinator, Special Education, Antioch Unified School District
Carol Aines, Heritage High School, Transitional Partnership Program
Heidi Branson, Manager of Accessible Services, Tri Delta Transit
Terri Chandler, Resource Specialist, Deer Valley High School
Eileen Chen, Assistant Principal, Pittsburg High School
Susan Crowell, Rehabilitation Counselor, Department of Rehabilitation
Doug Dildine, Youth Coordinator, Independent Living Resource, LMC & DVC
Leslie Duncan, Cal State University, EB
Phil Gottlieb, Counselor, Los Medanos College
Jennifer Garcia, DSP&S Instructional Assistant, Los Medanos College
Blas Guerrero, Dean of Student Development, LMC
Jim Kolthoff, DSP&S Program Alt. Media Specialist, Los Medanos College
Frances Levisay, Resource Specialist, Independence High School
Dennis Luquet, Resource Specialist, Deer Valley High School
Lura Milner, Resource Specialist, La Paloma High School
Frances Moy, DSP&S Counselor, Los Medanos College
John Saylor, Director Special Services, Liberty Unified High School District
Laura Subia, Counselor, Los Medanos College

Opening Remarks and Introductions

Ginny Richards, DSP&S Program Coordinator/LD Specialist, welcomed everyone and stated that she was pleased to have the opportunity to share ideas about how we can help our students. Ginny requested that all attendees sign the sign-in sheet and include their email address for future mailings. She also inquired if anyone needed a temporary parking pass for their vehicle. Following Ginny's opening remarks, members of the Advisory Committee introduced themselves.

Committee Purpose

Frances reviewed the committee's purpose. The DSP&S program is mandated to have an annual Advisory Committee meeting to discuss what the community would like to see LMC include in their DSP&S program and to identify how we can work together to provide services and address student concerns and various issues that arise. Frances also announced that the Annual High School Counselor meeting will be held this week in the LMC Library Community Room from 9am – 2pm on December 3, 2008.

DSP&S Program Overview

Program Growth and Demographics

Frances stated that LMC has seen a huge increase in enrollment this past year. Sylvia Benzler, DSP&S Administrative Assistant, shared that student participation in the DSP&S program has also increased significantly during the past year. For the fiscal year 2007-08 the weighted student count for DSPS allocation for LMC was 714 students who are receiving services and we expect to serve over 800 students through the program by Spring 2009.

The primary disability of the DSPS students was reported as follows: Hearing 12; ABI 27; LD 211; Vision 12; Mobility 62; Other 247; DDL 59; Speech 9; and Psych 76. The majority of student disabilities continue to be in the LD and Other categories.

LD Specialist Report

Ginny Richards spoke with regard to LD testing being done at the high schools. She stated that LMC requires students to take the adult version of cognitive testing (WAIS3/WIS3). She also requested that the high schools include raw scores/standard scores. Both the WRAT and WAIS will have new versions in the coming year. LMC only uses the WJIII; the WJ-R is no longer used.

The list of students being placed in the Other disability category continues to grow significantly because we only receive the student's IEP and this is not enough to qualify them as LD at LMC without their test scores. Students therefore are required to test at LMC. Currently we only have one full time LD Specialist, Virginia Richards, but we have hired a part time LD Specialist, Sophia Ramirez, to help with the backlog of students waiting to be tested.

In Spring 2009, DSPS will also begin to offer LRNSK 903, a learning skills eligibility assessment course which will include intensive diagnostic and one on one assessment to identify

learning strengths and weaknesses, as well as study skills strategies to help students succeed. Students will learn about learning disabilities, campus services for students with disabilities, and their learning style and realistic accommodations.

We analyzed other campuses that offered a learning disabilities assessment course and found that they do not have a wait list for students requesting LD testing. It is our hope that by offering this course numerous times throughout the semester, we can provide LD testing for all the students requesting it each semester. Preference will continue to be given to transferring students.

2008-2009 DSP&S Budget

The DSPS budget does not look very good as we approach the mid-year point. We have been in contact with President Garcia and the Business Office to let them know we need help. Steps are being taken to streamline services. Only those services which are absolutely required will continue to be offered but we will continue to serve all our students.

Beginning in January there will not be any new equipment, printers, or software. We will minimize spending in the areas of travel and supplies. The bulk of our budget will go towards salaries for classified staff, full-time faculty, and interpreters. We have hired an office assistant who will help out with clerical tasks 20 hours per week. This will allow Sylvia to focus on MIS reporting as this reporting is critical to our funding from the state.

Remodel of Student Services

According to the architects blueprints, the following square foot allocations have been given to the various student services: Admissions and Records 2400 sf; Financial Aid 2000 sf; Transfer/Career Centers 1800 sf; Counseling 2700 sf; and DSPS 3500 sf.

Frances stated that Dorrie had the foresight to anticipate growth and worked with the architects to combine all DSPS services in the same area. The High Tech Center will have 12 stations. Jim will have his own office. There will be one DSPS counselor located in the DSPS area and 1 DSPS counselor located within the counseling area. There will be 12 stations each for testing and tutoring. These stations will be soundproofed to provide students with a quiet environment.

The current DSPS offices will have to be relocated temporarily during the remodel. At present we expect the remodel to begin in 3-3.5 years. The remodel is being completed with bond money so we do not foresee any delay in remodel at this time.

General Discussion

Kristin Lafollette, Transition Specialist for the Gateway Program, reported that there are currently 50 students in the Gateway Program at Liberty High School between the ages of 18-22. A growing number of students in the program are now attending LMC as part of their work in transitioning students to continue their education at the college level and seek employment in their community.

Ruth Masayko, Resource Specialist at Live Oak High School reported that the students in the Special Day Class and Resource at LOHS mostly have learning disabilities and attention deficit

disorder. She stated that she provides students with transition plans, test scores, IEP and transcript for their meeting with a DSPS counselor at LMC.

Dorrie stated that in our experience athletic students who have been in the SDC at their high school do not want to use DSPS services at LMC. Student advocacy needs to start in high school. It would be helpful to bring students on a tour of LMC. This way the student can put a face on their counselor. When the LMC counselor reviews accommodations with a student, the student needs to let instructor know early in semester what accommodations they are eligible for through the DSPS program.

Anne Banks, Resource Specialist at Liberty High School, gave a profile to both instructors and students beginning in their freshman year of those students with accommodations.

Terri Avalos mentioned that she gives all of her students an information folder to bring to LMC when they sign up for DSPS services. She also stated that in her experience students struggle with Algebra I.

Marie Karp, LMC Counselor, stated that starting in 2009-2010, the math requirement will be raised to Math 30 or Algebra 2 for degree programs. She felt it was important for counselors to encourage high school students to work on algebra in high school. Student must either assess into Math 30 or complete Algebra 2 within the past two years for an AA degree.

Monica Potter reported that the Department of Rehabilitation has already seen 11% cuts in their program and that they expect continued cuts in February of 2009. They are currently serving those clients in the severely disabled category and may need to go to the most severely disabled category if cuts continue. There has been a freeze in the workability program with no change at all at the program level. If clients come through TPP, they automatically become DOR clients. She requested everyone continue to refer students to DOR on a case by case basis.

Doug Dildine states that all programs will feel the pinch. Regional Center of the East Bay may take a big hit. The most severely disabled take the largest amount of money. The Independent Living Resource is a free program that is for life from birth to passing. He felt it was important for students to step up and take personal responsibility.

Mt. Diablo Unified School District has a TOPS program for Asperger's. This is for academically strong students who only need a backdrop of support.

Liz Wilson-Palmer announced that the Annual Transition Conference will be held on January 6, 2009. She passed out a brochure for all attendees regarding the conference. They expect 250 attendees, good keynote speakers, and four breakout sessions. She conveyed that this was a good opportunity and hopes everyone encourages parents to come. The fee is \$30 and there are scholarships available for those who cannot afford to pay. Early registration is recommended.

Doug Dildone also made several announcements regarding the status of various programs. The current social security turn down rate is 80%. There is currently no list for Section 8. There were 35,000 applicants who applied when they opened and closed the list in just 3 days. SDI finds it is cost saving not to give out information regarding how to get the maximum. Please refer students to Doug Dildine that need assistance. He tries to find a way to serve consumers and has had

success in getting funds from the Office of Education and the Office of Rehab. There have also been significant cuts in the mental health program. With 8,000 homeless people in Contra Costa County, the Marchus Program has seen more and more individuals come through their program.

Tri-Delta has been offering free bus passes to students registered in classes for the current semester. We expect that Fall 2008 will be the last semester this program will be offered to students.

Transition to LMC

Frances stated that she felt it was important for the high schools and various programs to bring prospective students on campus to meet with the DSPS Counselors. LMC does a college night each Fall and everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. Please contact Virginia Richards to schedule a tour. In addition, Jorge Cea, LMC's Outreach Coordinator, goes out to visit all the high schools and conducts presentation and assessment testing while he is there. Students should bring their assessment test scores with them to their LMC counseling appointment.

Liz-WilsonPalmer stated that she toured students through the Occupational Education programs including appliance repair, automotive technology, welding, etc. They are all great programs which students who need hands on type of study enjoy seeing and visiting the labs. LMC has a great brochure that tells students all about these occupational programs.

For their appointment with a LMC Counselor, students should bring their IEP, transition plan, psychology report, test scores, and high school transcripts. LMC does not have a GED or high school exit exam program.

Encourage students to come in soon for SU09/FA09 enrollment. For their first meeting in the transition process it would be okay for the students to come in with a parent. However, we try to make sure that the student has a voice in the meeting. If a student is over 18 we can request them to give us permission in writing to give status reports to their parents.

The assessment testing has been set up with large print for those students with low vision. Students must show that they have the ability to benefit in order to be eligible for financial aid. DSPS has a brochure to help students with getting started at LMC.

Learning Skills Courses

We continue to offer LRNSK 50 and 51 for reading, writing and spelling, LRNSK 80 is a math course the lets student works at their own pace. LRNSK 70 is an adaptive computer class where student can either learn basic computer skills or focus on learning adaptive software. LRNSK 903 is our testing class to assess if student have learning disabilities.

All of the computer labs on campus have one or two computers located within the lab which offer specialized software to students.

Adjournment and Next Meeting

Frances thanked everyone for attending and stated that the next annual DSPS Advisory Committee Meeting is planned for December 6, 2010.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM.