



CAC  
Chairperson's Report

Meeting Date: December 16, 2020

Chairperson's Name: Lisa Mosko

**Meetings/Trainings attended:**

12/08/2020 Officers Planning Meeting

Dear Membership:

Welcome, everyone! For our meeting today, the Division of Special Education will be presenting on the Early Childhood Education. The impact that lack of in school instruction and in person services is having on our youngest students with special needs is immeasurable. We know anecdotally that students with (dis)abilities are losing critical skills and regressing during the campus closures. For our youngest learners with disabilities who are missing out on crucial services during their most formative years, the impact may be even greater. Let's keep this in mind during our presentation today, and inquire about the "how". How will Early Childhood Education programming service these students during campus closures? How will the programming be effectively implemented, so our youngest students can build a strong foundation learning that will set the course for the rest of their lives?

As I write this, I have just heard the testimony at the LAUSD school board by one of our older students with a (dis)ability, a very well spoken young man of 14 years who goes by the name of Jonathan Fratz. He's only been receiving 1.5 hours a day of synchronous instruction and his aide has been participating in some of his classes virtually, but this has not helped him as "he is just another face on the screen". Jonathan also spoke about the social and emotional impact not going to school in person has had on him and stated that he worries about his fellow students with special needs and how they need access to services guaranteed to him by federal law.

Before our last meeting, LA County had announced that districts may bring back 25% of the highest needs kids. LAUSD had also recently announced that in person assessments will be made available. Now, pandemic rates have reached an all time high, and that access has been newly eliminated. However, the LA County Department of Public Health has not backed away from its decision to allow schools to offer services to 25% of L.A.'s highest-needs kids on campus right now. Students continue to regress to the point of self harm, and the loss of learning and skills they're experiencing is irreparable. We should be asking how the district plans to meet the needs of students who cannot learn via distance learning if they don't intend to follow through with county guidelines and IDEA during the pandemic.

Also on the agenda for today is a visit from Ms. Kelly Gonez, a member of the LAUSD School Board. She joins us on the one year anniversary of her resolution dedicated to improving awareness and increasing funding for moderate to severely impacted students with (dis)abilities. Ms. Gonez and her fellow board members represent families in LAUSD to create policies that support our kids, and also to look carefully at the



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district budget to ensure that funding is properly allocated to all areas of need. Let's give her a warm welcome, and let her know what our students with (dis)abilities' biggest challenges are during school closures and the pandemic.

Thank you, everyone! I'm so grateful for everyone's point of view and look forward to working with all of you today. Now, let's get to work!

Sincerely,

Lisa Mosko