CSU East Bay Special Education Programs
Advisory Committee Meeting
May 14, 2015

Meeting Summary

Please see full Participant List attached.

10 Districts were represented from 4 counties: Berkeley, Fremont, Hayward, New Haven, Newark, Ravenswood, San Francisco, San Lorenzo, San Ramon Valley. West Contra Costa USDs; also University Fieldwork Supervisors and TED Faculty

1. Welcome and Introductions; Agenda review; no additions. Many thanks to all who were able to participate! We all very much appreciate your involvement, feedback and input.

2. Update on and feedback from districts on CSUEB Education Specialist Preliminary Credential programs and graduates. Faculty provided brochures and summarized current programs. Faculty updated all regarding the College decision to admit to the area of Moderate-Severe Disabilities only every other year, as a result of low numbers in 2014 and 2013 cohorts. District personnel expressed their dismay about the decision given extreme shortages.

Existing programs, SPED website fro more information on all: http://www20.csueastbay.edu/ceas/departments/epsy/SPED%20Degrees.html

~Dual TED-SPED and SPED Mild- Moderate and Moderate-Severe Disabilities (Winter-Spring admission for Summer start. All application processes are online.)
~Masters in Special Education degree: typically Fall or Spring admission under current quarter system. Maters overlaps with credential significantly.
~Education Specialist Internship in MM or MS Disabilities (June 30 deadline for admission for Fall, but individualized as well: one can apply through faculty later than deadline. For this year (Mild-Moderate disabilities admissions only in 2015) contact Linda, Coordinator of MM Disabilities area. There are currently LEAs in CSUEB CEAS internships; more can be added. New, more intense support is being provided by LEAs and CSUEB, as the 2014 CTC dictate requires. The 20 current Partner Districts and 4 charters are listed below under #5.
~Early Childhood Special Ed authorization (in Continuing Education). Linda Smetana encouraged districts to invite their credentialed specialists in MM or MS Disabilities who wish to teach at preschool level to look at the added ECSE authorization now in continuing ed at CSUEB, and explained the framework. She will email information on this to all.
~Admission change for 2015: See notes above. New applicants in M-S Disabilities will start being accepted in Winter quarter 2016 for Summer 2016 start.in TED SPED, or Fall for “SPED –onlies” who possess a general ed credential.
Ed Dialozo (SLZUSD) asked about Single Subjects authorization. Linda discussed the ways a teacher can qualify under VPSS; faculty also shared that building an added SS authorization onto Multiple Subjects (and vice versa) is a short process and one which we advise candidates about, especially as they complete their dual credentials and are working on the Masters research piece.

Dean Carolyn Nelson joined the group during the meeting and districts shared with her their concern about the new admission policy of alternate years for admission of candidates in M-S Disabilities, given the numbers of positions in their schools. The Dean addressed the need for better recruitment to build numbers and what the numbers need to look like. Participants also asked about when there would be more SPED faculty positions. Dean Nelson emphasized the relationship of numbers of candidates to this as well and making plans for enhanced recruitment in 2015-16. Faculty shared that currently, 32 units of SPED coursework (8 courses; 36 units is a FT faculty load) in the Ed Specialist programs are taught by part-time lecturers, and this will increase by at least 12 units (3 courses) in 2015-16, as Ann Halvorsen is moving toward retirement with teaching half time, which is Jacki Anderson’s current status. Most of the SPED university supervision of our student teaching and Intern candidates is also provided by lecturer-supervisors. The lecturers are a strong complement to the faculty as each is a practitioner-teacher concurrently or in the very recent past.

3. Discussion/updates on the status of District programs, needs and services, including Induction programs for 2015-16.

Induction: Margaret F noted that SFUSD is planning to develop a program document for SPED Induction and submit to CTC. Other programs are moving ahead in implementation. Leonar Rebosura, Barbara Bashr and others are closely involved with this. There is a monthly meeting of the East Bay Induction programs. Contact: Lydia Schneider at lschnei@srvusd.net>

Paraprofessional Supervision and Support: Discussion occurred around how we prepare candidates for this key area of competence. Assignments and classroom based expectations were discussed. Resources for professional development were highlighted and Ann will be attaching to the email a pdf of a Staff Handbook prepared by one of our lecturers and a colleague during their years as middle school sped inclusion support teachers for several years in SFUSD (Cindy Sawchuck, SPED Inclusion support Teacher, SFUSD, now at G. Washington HS, SFUSD.) Ann will also attach a Resources page for Paraprofessional Development to the email.

4. Information about our initial transformative planning for CSUEB conversion from a quarter to a semester-based system in 2017. Linda and Ann shared that semester planning for the 2018 full Fall conversion is very much
underway. They will be at work on this over the Summer and will continue the current emphasis on a strong joint core that addresses the common areas and competencies across student needs that are addressed within each Specialist credential. They will also be working on the transformation with TED so that TED SPED can serve as a ‘lab’ for initiating the incorporation of the upcoming changes in Multiple Subjects that will support the preparation of general educators to address all students’ needs, such as a greater focus on UDL, multi-tiered systems of support and intervention, PBIS, co-teaching and other collaborative service delivery approaches, etc. Shira Lubliner (TED Faculty and CEAS Accreditation Coordinator) noted that not only is this a focus of our work, but of the full College itself, as our graduate exit survey data had already led us to see the need for this enhanced preparation of Multiple and Single Subjects candidates in this area. Toward this end, we are also planning cross-department collaborative seminars that will include prospective administrators, general and special educators, and set candidates on the path to collaborating as a given of their roles in schools.

5. Implementation of the new Internship support and supervision requirements. There are currently 4 public charters and 20 LEAS partnering with CSUEB for TED and SPED Internships: Alameda USD; Alameda County Office, Acalanes HSD; Bay Area Tech Charter; Benicia; Castro Valley; Clayton Valley; Edison Charter; Emery; FAME Public Charter; Hayward; Liberty Union HS District; Livermore; New Haven; Newark, Oakland Center HS Charter; Oakland USD; Pittsburg; Pleasanton; San Francisco, San Leandro; San Lorenzo; San Ramon Valley, and West Contra Costa USD.

6. Recommendations and implications of the Statewide Special Education Task Force work. Ann Halvorsen shared highlights of the 2014-15 statewide SPED Task Force initiated by CTC and the State Board of Ed with CDE in 2014 with recommendations completed early in 2015, to improve outcomes for students with disabilities in CA. The slides Ann shared and the ‘Live links’ page to each report will be attachments in the email with this Meeting Summary. Discussion followed regarding districts’ needs to move toward increased LRE and supports for doing so, e.g. Wested (former home of LRE Resources Project of CDE; still working with schools and LEAS on this. Contact Dona Meinders dmeinde@wested.org) and the recently CDE-funded “Inclusion Collaborative” located at the Santa Clara County Office of Education (contact Janice Battaglia at Janice_Battaglia@sccoe.org).