



SAN LUIS VALLEY BOCES

May 2022 Newsletter

Executive Director Message

Dr. Jacque Phillips

Big shout out to our Team Leaders! **Michelle Sisneros** – SSN Teachers, **Jordan Curtis** – Audio, PT, OT & Vision, **Laura Barr** – ECSE, **Marci Limtiaco** – Paras, **Nastasha Carizal** – Speech, **Rae Jean Maestas** – Psychologists, **Angela Hintz** – SWAAC for all their work this year! Several teams have gone above and beyond to cover the shortage of providers. BOCES takes care of students with disabilities and, even during the pandemic shortage, has been able to collaborate with parents and schools to benefit students.

We appreciate CDE (Colorado Department of Education) and the ARC for their work with BOCES this year. The BOCES SEAC (Special Education Advisory Committee) is still being built and we plan to explore options for as much parent involvement as possible next year. Some parents state that their voices have not been heard and BOCES strives to include parents in decisions made for their children. We will continue to have monthly SEAC meetings and to invite parents, educators and community members. We would like to have one parent representative from each of the 14 school districts in the valley. Please reach out to Stacey Holland (sholland@slvboces.org) if you are interested.

BOCES has 2 new programs that are being implemented. Transition for 18-21 year old students with disabilities and ESY (Extended School Year, typically summer school). Contact us for more information. Our focus is student achievement.

We're busy wrapping up this year, planning for summer, and can't wait for August to start again!

Important Dates

May 10	SAC Meeting
May 11	Board Meeting
May 13	Staff Development/Work day
May 20	Timesheets Due / End of the year BBQ
May 25	Last day of 155 days
May 30	Office Closed
May 31	Last day of 159 days
August 15 & 16	Staff Orientation / Boot Camp

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National Training Institute on Effective Practices



The Early Childhood Team attended the “Addressing Challenging Behavior” conference in Tampa, Florida. The Team learned a lot of good social-emotional strategies to help support our little people.

Barbara Marquez—My experience at the ECSE Florida conference was great. I feel it was not only an experience of learning but also a time to spend with my team and bond in order to become a stronger team. We had the opportunity to meet Tucker Turtle, a character we often use to teach children about self-regulation and Social Emotional skills; now, I can tell all my students I personally met Tucker how cool is that. I learned at least one new thing from each session but my favorite part of the conference was the opening ceremony, where we learned about Racial Equity from Rose Maria Allen.

Lara Barr - I am so grateful for the opportunity to attend a national conference with such a great team! It was an uplifting experience and I really enjoyed sharing laughs with my fellow early childhood special education teachers. We were gifted the opportunity for team building and to network with a variety of professionals from across the nation. It was a heartwarming experience to share successes and struggles that every educator is facing these days. I walked away with some more understanding when dealing with children experiencing tantrums, different effective coaching models and other strategies to help support student social-emotional learning.

Margaret Shawcroft - I would second the words of Laura as well and it was a great opportunity to bond with our team and gain understanding together while attending similar classes. As we had time to just reflect on our new learning, we wondered if we could bring the same type of training to SLV BOCES to include our general education teachers as well as ECSE or special education teachers such as the tantrum training (PBIS), or the conscious discipline training to benefit all educators across the board. Thanks for the opportunity for new learning as well as reminders of what we do daily and how we react to children really does count.



Stacey Holland, Special Education Director, and Jacque Phillips, Executive Director, attended the National LRP Conference in Kentucky. This conference is to learn the most effective ways to serve students with disabilities while maintaining compliance with special education and disability laws. BOCES serves 800 students with disabilities, as well as many other Valley-Wide programs. The hot topics at the conference included: correct procedures for suspending students with disabilities providing Compensatory Services to students when there are no providers (due to nation-wide shortage) correct assessment for students with disabilities and how to monitor student progress and post-COVID issues for students with disabilities. They are excited to share what they learned at our next Professional Development Day.



Health Insurance Update

After multiple meetings with Insurance Representatives, Valley School District Superintendents, BOCES Steering Committee, BOCES Team Leaders and BOCES Staff, the BOCES has terminated our agreement with the BEST Health Plan. The BOCES will be joining the Colorado Employer Benefit Trust (CEBT) effective July 1, 2022. Enrollment will take place in May 2022. CEBT has guaranteed a rate increase cap for the 2023/2024 of no more than 10 percent. They currently have 83 Colorado School Districts, 83 Municipalities and 245 Special Districts with over 20,000 employees participating.

Through CEBT, we will be offering two health plans – a PPO plan and an HDHP (high deductible health plan). Employees will have the option to choose which plan is best for them individually and/or their family. The BOCES will finance the Employee Only premium for either plan at no cost to the employee. Employees must work a minimum of 30 hours/week to be eligible.

CEBT's PPO plan is comparable to BEST Health's coverage, but is more affordable and provides additional benefits. CEBT will continue to provide Delta Dental, as BEST Health Plan did, but at a lower cost to the employee for most plans. They will also provide a \$20,000 Life and AD&D (Accidental Death and Dismemberment) policy, which is paid by the BOCES for eligible employees, at a rate that is lower than currently being paid to BEST Health.

Monthly premiums are as follows:

CEBT PPO4 Plan

Employee - \$631
Employee + Spouse - \$1,324
Employee + Child(ren) - \$1,135
Family - \$1,561

CEBT HDHP3 Plan

Employee - \$555
Employee + Spouse - \$1,165
Employee + Child(ren) - \$999
Family - \$1,387

Delta Dental

Employee - \$28
Employee + Spouse - \$58
Employee + Child(ren) - \$79
Family - \$107

Life and AD&D

Employee - \$2.80

BEST Health Plan (Current)

Employee - \$692
Employee + Spouse - \$1,384
Employee + Child(ren) - \$1,205
Family - \$1,622

Delta Dental (Current)

Employee - \$34.03
Employee + Spouse - \$64.46
Employee + Child(ren) - \$78.24
Family - \$112.25

(Current)

Employee - \$3.46

Anyone with questions or interested in additional information may contact
Cindy Squires
at 719-587-5408 or csquires@slvboces.org.

Focus for the 2022-2023 School Year ~ Transition ~

Transition services come into play when special education service providers collaborate with students and their families in planning and preparing for post-school environments. It is used for students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) in grade 9 or higher or ages 15 - 21. The services come into play in school and/or community settings when appropriate.



Key components of transition planning and services include:

Assessment, Post-School Goals, Planned Course of Study, Transition Services and Activities and Annual Goals

Why

Transition services are in place because numerous follow-up and follow-along studies of youth with disabilities have shown that, when compared with youth in the general population, individuals with disabilities do not succeed as well in post-school environments.

How

The services work by identifying desired outcomes and then designing school and community experiences to ensure that the student gains the skills and connections necessary to achieve those outcomes. Transition planning and services required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) are based on individual student preferences, interests, abilities, and needs and promote successful movement to the following post-school settings:

Education and/or Training, Employment, Independent Living, Community Participation



Special Education Teachers

Paraprofessional

Occupational Therapist

Physical Therapist

School Psychologist

Speech Therapist

Teacher for the deaf and hard of hearing

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Job descriptions can be found at SLVBOCES.org;
[Employment Opportunities](#)

[Certified](#) application—Providers, teachers

[Classified](#) application—Paraprofessionals, support staff

*All positions are for the
2022-2023 School Year!*

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