



# SAN LUIS VALLEY BOCES

October 2022 Newsletter

## *Executive Director Message*

*Dr. Jacque Phillips*

First quarter is almost complete here at SLV BOCES. Team BOCES has so many exciting things to share.

We are fully staffed (except for an audiologist)! New teams are in place and we continue to update and change to be the best we can be.

We serve over 1000 students with disabilities and received almost 400 referrals last year for elementary school students. The need is great and the work is hard but it is always worth it.

We continue to focus on purpose and passion so we thrive in a positive, productive workplace.

The Transition House is running a Snack House and I highly recommend the egg sandwich. Seeing these young people at work is one of those moments that make me know we are doing great things at BOCES.

We have all seen the face of a child that lights up when they are learning and the face of the teacher that does the same. It is in these moments that we know that we are making the world a better place.

Thank you, Team BOCES, for all the moments you create for kids.

## *Important Dates*

October 14	Staff Work Day
October 20	Timesheets Due
October 31	Pay Day
November 1	Mileage Due
November 8	SAC Meeting
November 11	Staff Work Day
November 16	Board Meeting
November 21-24	Office Closed
November 30	Pay Day

Don't forget to visit us at:



facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/sanluisvalleyboces>

[www.slvboces.org](http://www.slvboces.org)

## **Update from the Motor Team:**

Virtual occupational therapy and physical therapy is off the ground and running! We are seeing students across the whole BOCES and having a lot of fun and a lot of success! Our teletherapy team includes: Tanya Mander, OT, Cecilia Kumar, OT, and Nancy Nesbit, PT. We are also so happy to have our three traveling paraprofessionals: Hayley Ryker, Alexandria Harrison, and Jane Archuleta. They are our feet on the ground and we couldn't do it without them! We also are happy to have our other professionals in person: Talon Carver, COTA, Thomas Deyton, PT, and Schonett Young, OT. Also a big thank you to Tara Marquez for leading us and supporting us! Thank you to everyone in the San Luis Valley BOCES for your help and support!



# SLV BOCES Transition Program

Amiel Victor B. Ariota, Dennis Van, Lori Torres

San Luis Valley-BOCES has returned and restructured the transition program for 18-21 years old students. The program was relaunched August 29, 2022. The program consists of 5 students (as of now). The program does accommodate the students from all over San Luis Valley. The students are doing leisure we teach our students on how to be aware to their community by giving them a tour around town such as College Buildings, Grocery Store, Library, Bookstore, Police Station, Fire Station, and other places around town. We are also doing volunteer work in some offices around Alamosa. So far, my students volunteered to do some office work in San Luis Valley-BOCES. We're still reaching out to the other establishments around town to do more volunteer work. Our students just launched their small business what we called (Transition Snack House or TSH). They sell some snacks, sandwiches and drinks. The students in transition program is still receiving services from (Speech Language Pathologist, Psychologist, Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy). San Luis Valley BOCES established a house with complete appliances that will help our students to live by their own. We're training our student to know how to cook, clean, wash dishes, laundry and other things that can help them to be independent.



## *Transition Snack House*

### Menu

To place your order call (719) 587-6868 or

Email [aariota@slvboces.org](mailto:aariota@slvboces.org)

#### Snacks:

Pringles Small can- \$2

Lays Chips- Sour and cream -\$1

Barbecue Chips -\$1

Doritos Chips - Nacho Cheese \$1

Cool Ranch Chips - \$1

#### Main Course Sandwiches:

Egg Sandwich \$2

Ham Sandwich- \$2

Ham and Egg Sandwich-\$3

Ham, egg and Cheese \$5

Ham, egg, bacon and cheese-\$7

Hotdog-\$3

#### Drinks:

Water Bottle -\$1

Mountain Dew 500ml-\$2

Orange Juice-\$1

Gatorade-\$2

Apple Juice-\$1

Strawberry Juice-\$1

## SWAAAC

Team BOCES represented at the SWAAAC Expo in Thorton. We had the pleasure to talk with people in the field of some cutting edge technology and get ideas of how to support some specific students. It was time well spent learning about Robokind, how 3D printing could open the doors for some of our students with physical limitations, and spending time with great SLV BOCES educators!



### *Significant Support Needs Tidbits*

We have had a busy beginning of the year in the classrooms of Significant Support Needs! We would like to WELCOME our new teachers Dena Salazar, Jennifer Atizon, Wendy Perola Barrier, and Tom Mendoza! They have come in ready to jump in and get to work! We are so excited to welcome Tom and Jennifer from the Philippines! What a pleasure it has been to meet them and work with them. We are working on many things within the classrooms and we are happy to see students working and enjoying their time in school! As Parent teacher conferences occur please remember to THANK your teacher for all their hard work!



Wendy Barrier  
Alamosa K-2 SSN Teacher



Tom Mendoza  
Alamosa 3-5 SSN Teacher



Jennifer Atizon  
Bill Metz SSN Teacher



Dena Salazar  
Monte Vista Middle School  
SSN Teacher

# SWAP and Workforce Center Host Resource Fair

SWAP and the Colorado Workforce Center hosted a Resource Fair in September. Over 30 agencies were represented and they had a great turnout. Great networking!



## Meet the Motor Team's Traveling Paras



Everyone my name is Jane Archuleta I am a traveling paraprofessional that will be Supporting occupational therapy and physical therapy services for our students throughout the San Luis Valley. I live in Antonito Colorado with my husband. I have 2 girls and one boy and six beautiful Granddaughters who I enjoy spending time with. I enjoy camping and spending time with my family.



Hello! My name is Alexandria Harrison. I am a traveling para and an ECSE para for Sanford Pre-K. I am from Saguache, where I live with my boyfriend and our cat Odie. I love reading, painting, and candles.



Hello everyone, my name is Hayley Ryker and I'm a traveling paraprofessional that will be supporting occupational therapy and physical therapy services for our students throughout the San Luis Valley. I enjoy hiking, camping and fishing with my kiddo!

# Meet the Motor Team



Hello everyone, my name is Talon Carver, I am a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant at BOCES. I like to garden, adventure, and spend time in the mountains fishing, camping, and kayaking. I am excited for our motor team to do great things this year!



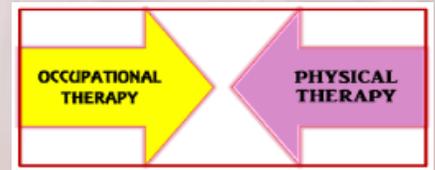
Hi! I'm Ashley Spain, a pediatric occupational therapist with experience in the school, outpatient, virtual, and home setting. I attended University of New England in Maine for my Masters in OT and Middle Tennessee State University for my Bachelors in Education. Before becoming an OT, I was a 7th/8th grade ELA teacher. My spouse and I grew up in Tennessee and have lived in Colorado, Nevada, Maine, and currently, Minnesota. I'm excited to be a part of the San Luis Valley BOCES team for OT evaluations!



I'm Tanya Mander and I have been a school-based occupational therapist for 7 years. I currently live in Longmont, CO. I went to school at Colorado State University in Fort Collins for both my Bachelor of Science in Human Development and Family Studies and Masters of Occupational Therapy. I live with my husband, Luke, and my dog, Remy. I am looking forward to working with all of you in the San Luis Valley BOCES! Thank you for welcoming me to your community!



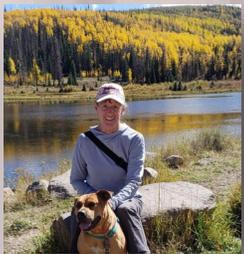
Hello everyone, my name is Cecilia Kumar and I am an occupational therapist. I live in Columbus, Ohio with my husband and our golden retriever. I attended the Ohio State University for my bachelors degree in Psychology, and masters degree in Occupational Therapy. I have been working in the schools as an occupational therapist since I first started my career, which would be around 5 years ago. This year, I'm super excited to be working with the San Luis Valley BOCES and the schools that they work with in the area.



Hello! My name is Nancy Nesbit. I am so excited to be a part of the San Luis Valley BOCES team! I have been a PT for over 32 years and have 15 years of that time treating school age kids in the local school where I live. I currently live in Phillips, WI, a small town of 1400 people in Northern Wisconsin. I went to school at Rosalind Franklin University/Chicago Medical School, North Chicago, IL for my Doctorate in Physical Therapy. I live with my husband, Jim, and have 2 children (college age) and 2 hunting dogs. Thank you for welcoming me to your community!



Hi, my name is Thomas Deyton and I have been a Physical Therapist for just over 40 years. I have worked at SLV Boces for 7 of the last 9 years covering the PT needs of the valley kiddos and currently I am working 2 days per week primarily performing "catch up" sessions for the Alamosa schools for PT missed the past school year. I also help with involved cases using my knowledge, skills, and family interventions from the 7 years at Boces to address various situations that arise. I am from southern Virginia and North Carolina and I currently live in Salida, Colorado. I worked in outpatient therapy clinics primarily and worked in travel therapy about a third of my career. I enjoy live music, dancing, hiking, skiing and rafting. It is exciting to be back as part of the BOCES team!



Hi, I'm Schonett Young, OTR/L. I've been an OT for nearly 40 years, the better half of these years in schools and Early Intervention. I've been living in Creede full time since Covid, though I was a summer resident for 15 years prior. I'm excited for the opportunity to serve students and their families in my new community home. I live with my husband, Jeff, dog Libby, and cat Ralph. I like to cook, bake, garden, knit, and explore. Our home is 100% off-grid and we heat with wood, so I spend a fair amount of time cutting firewood – an activity I enjoy with my husband. I also go on frequent road trips to

# Welcome to the Records Dept.



A few things about me...I grew up in Del Norte, I am again living in my childhood home. I have two sisters, two nephews, one niece, two beautiful daughters and one precious granddaughter who is absolutely perfect!! :) We are a small close knit family, my dad taught us "Family is everything!" I worked at BOCES many years ago before moving to San Antonio. I lived there for about 6 years before my mom became ill (who also worked at BOCES for many years as a PT, OT and Speech Para). I then worked at SLV Health as an Accounts Payable Specialist for 3 years. I have returned to SLV BOCES as a Records/Finance Clerk. My experience with the people at BOCES has always been fond. I greatly appreciate the dedications to the kids who require a little more help in life. I am excited to begin this new learning journey!

## Speech Corner

### *One Hundred Words from your Speech Team*

Welcome to our mini column in the newsletter. Look here for research, success stories, and basic knowledge to help those we serve with communication. This month the focus is on early language development and recent research that explains a lot, while alarming educators everywhere.

A review of 12 studies concluded that screen time with young children, especially before developing oral language skills, delays their language development. Children who utilized screen devices for an average of 30 minutes a day were 49% more likely to be at risk for expressive language delay. The more screen time, the more risk, regardless of content. Alternately, the longer children wait before being exposed to screen time, the more protected they are to develop normally. Language delays are one of the most common early childhood eligibility categories. What are your ideas to help parents with this new challenge?

## Meet our North Conejos SSN Staff

Crystal L. Mares—I have worked several years as a daycare teacher and working in direct care with disabled adults for 12 years. I have been a para for two years now. I enjoy traveling especially to Europe and have seen Rome 3 times now. I enjoy going to concerts and meeting famous people. Last fall, I got to meet my favorite comedians George Lopez, Paul Rodriguez and Angelah Johnson. My favorite seasons are spring and summer, I enjoy going hiking and riding my bike. I enjoy spending time with my family and friends. I also donate time to several committees that give back to the Conejos County community. Education has been embedded in me because my mom and most of my family are educators, I enjoy making a difference in our students' lives and seeing them every day.

Steve Sowards—I am 5th generation in the valley. Grew up on the family ranch. I have 4 children. My first is a machinist in Idaho. Second is in the Marines and the younger two with me. Third a junior and the fourth is a freshman at Centauri.

John Finehout—I have been the classroom teacher for several year now and enjoy coming everyday to see our students!

Lisa Quintana-Scheibe.—I am a mother to four girls ages 24, 21, 18 and 12. I've been with my husband for 26 years. I attended college online to earn my BA in special education and have an AAS in Early Childhood Education. I taught in early childhood for many years and have been a paraprofessional for 6 years. Currently I am a teacher in North Conejos SSN room. When I have free time... not too often, I enjoy motorcycle rides, rides to the mountains and spending time with my family. I enjoyed taking trips to Arizona and Nebraska this summer.

Janna Robinson - After a long day, I like to just relax, find the perfect spot on the couch, wrap up in a blanket and watch a Hallmark movie. My favorite color is purple. My favorite food is spaghetti. One type of food that I will not eat is seafood or anything fish. I enjoy spending time with my family. I'm married and have four kids. My favorite season is fall. I just love how the leaves on the trees change color and the mornings are cool and the afternoons are warm. I enjoy being a para and working with the kids and seeing them smile.



# Welcome to the Behavioral Health Team!



Donald Romero, LPC. Born and raised in Alamosa, US Army veteran (2 deployments). After my enlistment in the Army, I returned to Alamosa and attended school at Adams State. I have a bachelor's degree in Psychology (minor in US History) and a Masters degree in Community Counseling. I have been a licensed professional counselor for 17 years, working with children, adults, couples, and families. I am passionate about serving my community and trying to help others. I am a single parent, and proud of my son, who is attending college at Metropolitan State University of Denver. I enjoy travelling, outdoor activities (hiking, camping), attending conventions, attending concerts, and reading. You can usually find me hanging out with my dog Loki.

# Welcome to the Speech Team!



I graduated from Fort Hays State University in 2002. I have 20 years of experience in the field of speech pathology. I have worked for the past 10 years for the Medical Center of the Rockies in Loveland CO with adult trauma patients. My husband and I relocated to Creede CO over the summer as both of our kids are now in college. I am looking forward to working in the school setting again.

# Welcome Dr. Paula Conroy

Teacher of the Visually Impaired



Welcome Therese Samson  
To the Speech Team!



# Welcome to the ECSE Team!



I'm Oleva Lierman and all my kiddos call me Ms. Oly. I've been in early childhood education for over three years and super excited to start this new adventure path into ECSC. I have lived mainly in the west for most of my life, the mountains are where my heart is. I love hiking and exploring, sewing and crocheting, and enjoying time with my little family! Although I wasn't born in the Valley, I find it quickly becoming home.

# Welcome to Team BOCES!

- Mary Lou Braw—Paraprofessional
- Jessica Brown—Paraprofessional
- Steven Sowards—Paraprofessional
- Catherine Sura—Behavioral Health
- Rachel Friedberg—Behavioral Health
- Jazmine Pena—Paraprofessional
- Alyssa Vargas—Paraprofessional
- Nette Archuleta—Paraprofessional
- Brandi Cisneros—Paraprofessional
- Peggy Williams—Paraprofessional