

REPORTER

East Kern Charter Meeting Focuses on Student Mental Health

Lisa Decker, Principal, Gateway Elementary School, Sierra Sands Unified School District, was the featured presenter at East Kern's Charter meeting. It was held at Bernardino's Restaurant in Inyokern on December 2, 2013.

Decker's presentation addressed the current mental health situation and the focus on what schools can do to help.

"12% of students under the age of 18 have diagnosable mental illness,"

Decker said in her opening remarks.

"They are difficult to diagnose. There are no conclusive blood test's or x-rays that are available at this time."

The seven major categories of mental illness according to Decker are: APH/ADD, ODD/Conduct Disorder, Major Depression, Bipolar, Anxiety Disorder, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder and Schizophrenia.

"50% of adult cases had signs and symptoms by age 14," Deckers said. "If left untreated can lead to more severe, more difficult to treat the illness."

"With 12% of children under 18 being diagnosed with a mental illness, there are many parents and teachers who are overwhelmed by the diagnosis and struggling to cope," Deckers said. "Mental disorders are neurobiological brain disorders caused by chemical imbalance in the brain and are medical illnesses just like cancer or diabetes."

It is difficult to diagnose and define what is normal or typical. Differentiating between willful behavior and symptoms is also difficult. It is inexact science.

She shared with the administrators in attendance that the most difficult part of mental illness is often times there are no physical symptoms seen with the naked eye. Often these behaviors are looked at like a student is just not following the rules.

Kern County is addressing this problem with a grass roots volunteer organization of families and individuals whose lives have been affected by serious mental illness. NAMI, National Alliance on Mental Illness mission is to provide support, education and advocacy.



Lisa Decker, Principal, Gateway Elementary, Sierra Sands USD (L) was the featured speaker at East Kern's December 2nd Charter Meeting held at Inyo/Kern. Melissa Christman, Charter President, introduced Lisa.

Decker concluded her presentation by stating, "the main hope is that early detection will lead to accurate diagnosis and appropriate treatment."

Melissa Christman, Charter President, conducted the business meeting which included:

- Appointment of Susan Marvin, Assistant Principal, Murray Middle School, as the East Kern Charter's Director on the Region XI ACSA Board, replacing Paul Pressley who is now located on the Central Coast.
- Report given on ACSA updates by David Tonini, Region XI Executive Director
- Report on Middle Grades Education Council given by Clara Finneran, Charter, Past President
- Scholarship program
- Administrator of the year nominations
- Legislative Action Day, April 6-7, 2014

The Charter's next meeting is scheduled for March 3, 2014 at 58 Cafe, Tehachapi.

Presidents Message



As we enter the midyear point of the school year I hope everything within your district is proceeding well.

As of this writing, Gov. Brown just released his projected state budget for the 14-15 school year with some promising highlights for K-12 education during this upcoming school year.

It has been a very long drought in K-12 education with cutbacks, furloughs, salary rollbacks, increasing health-care costs, but most of all the reduction of services to our children. Hopefully, in California we have begun to turn the corner and will begin to rebuild successful programs with positive aspects for the students. I would encourage you to keep your eye on Washington as well, to maintain vigilance on the national front with the continuing resolution of the budget deal and the continuation or reduction of sequestration.

During the coming months for Region 11 we have some wonderful opportunities for involvement with our membership. Several Council and committee representative slots are vacant for the 2014 school year. Charter presidents have been notified of these vacancies to secure nominations for replacement.

Also, in January we will be joined by the incoming state president Randy Delling who will address our delegate assembly, and provide an update on the Strategic Plan, the present status of our organization, and his thoughts for his coming term as our State President. In March we will be joined by Ralph Porras who is running for state vice president. Lastly, we eagerly anticipate a visit in April from our State Executive Director, Wes Smith.

Thank you for all each of you do to contribute to the continued success of Region XI.

Tom Addington
Region XI President

Region XI Membership Scoreboard

Charter	Dec. 2012	Dec. 2013	(+/-)
East Kern	63	60	(-3)
West Kern	308	304	(-4)
Kings	101	104	(+3)
Tulare	309	381	(+72)
Inyo/Bodie	20	25	(+5)
CSUB Student	4	4	(0)
Non-Assigned	10	6	(-4)
TOTALS	815	884	(+69)

Congratulations to Tulare Charter for its membership increase of 72 members (23%) and also Inyo/Mono Charter for its 5 member increase (25%)

“WHAT THEY SAID”

“Kids need to come to school to your class and get a pat on the back and know you, as a teacher enjoy them. Call parents and tell them how great their kids are.”

Tim Bedley, *Keynote Speaker*
Region XI ACSA / CUE Annual Conference
Bakersfield, October 19, 2013

“We had a great Region XI Social Networking event at this year’s Leadership Summit in San Jose. It was a great conference, good speakers and workshop sessions.”

David Tonini, *Region XI Executive Director*
Region XI Board Meeting, Bakersfield, November 21, 2013

“There are key warning signs of early on set mental illness and if parents and teachers work together, help can be made available. The frequency, duration and intensity of symptoms should be considered along with the severity and whether they impede social or academic progress for a child.”

Linda Decker, *Principal, Gateway Elementary, Sierra Sand USD.*
Presenter, East Kern Charter Meeting, Inyokern, CA Dec. 2, 2013

AN ACSA REGION XI PUBLICATION

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AROUND THE REGION

- Susan Marvin, Assistant Principal, Murray Middle School, Sierra Sands USD, has been appointed East Kern's Director on the Region XI Board. She is replacing Paul Press who has moved to Paso Robles.
- Bill Woolley, former Kings Charter Treasurer, passed away in October 2013. Bill was a very active member of the Kings Charter Board. He had retired as an administrator in the Reef-Sunset School District.
- Tulare County Charter will hold its annual conference on Tuesday, February 18, 2014 at the Edison Educational Center in Tulare. Tim Kanold, award-winning educator, author and consultant, will be the keynote speaker. Robert Groeber, Charter Vice President and Assistant Superintendent, VUSD, is this year's conference chairperson. The conference cost is \$35.00, late registration is \$40.00
- West Kern Charter is sponsoring its annual golf tournament on April 5, 2014 at the Sundale Golf Course. Terry Wolfe is this year's chairperson for the event. Last year's tournament had a profit of \$4,200 which was used for student scholarships.
- Wes Smith, our State ACSA Executive Director, is planning to attend Region XI's Board Meeting scheduled for April 17, 2014 at Hodel's Restaurant, Bakersfield.
- Kings County Charter and Tulare County Charter each held a Fall Retiree Breakfast. Bill Black heads up the Kings Charter group while Ned Kehrli, Bob Line and Wade Rawford coordinates the Tulare Charter retirees. These charters will also sponsor a Spring Retiree Breakfast.

COMMENTS FROM YOUR REGION XI EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Happy New Year! Hope you had a restful Winter Break. Your professional association is strong and getting stronger. Membership has increased close to seventy members over the last year with a number of superintendents making the decision to pay for all or a portion of ACSA dues for their school administrators, recognizing the benefits of membership. Our new Executive Director, Wes Smith, is innovative

and energetic. With the adoption of the association's new strategic plan and his leadership, you will see many changes that will make the organization stronger and more supportive of your work as a school leader.

Networking socials are a focus of your region this year as well as legislative advocacy. Kings and Tulare chapters have already had one social and are planning another one for the coming year. Inyo/Mono chapter have a charter meeting/social planned. West Kern charter and East Kern charter includes professional learning activities at each charter meeting. An ACSA Academy for principals and aspiring principals is being held in Visalia and a Technology Academy is being held in Lemoore. Academies are being planned for the next school year. Let your Charter President know what

Academy you would like to attend and if there is enough interest, an Academy will be scheduled in the Region. There are professional scholarships available through the Region for ACSA members.

Some dates to mark your calendar are February 18, the Tulare Charter Conference, April 17 Wes Smith, ACSA Executive Director, speaks to the Region Board and all interested ACSA members, and May 1, the Region Delegate Assembly where the Region ACSA State Board member will be elected and the Award Luncheon for Region Administrator of the Year. Do you want to get more involved in ACSA? There are many opportunities. Apply to sit on a state committee/council by February 28. Your Charter President has applications. Volunteer to be a delegate for your charter at the Region Delegate Assembly. Attend charter networking activities and conferences.

It is a pleasure serving you as your Executive Director. Please contact me at davidto02@comcast.net or call me at 559-280-6228 if you need more information on how your professional organization can support you or if you want to get involved in your organization.

David Tonini
Executive Director - Region XI

REGION XI CONDUCTS BOARD MEETING BY VIDEO CONFERENCE

Tom Addington, Region XI President, conducted the Region XI ACSA's Board Meeting held on December 19, 2013 by using the video conference.

Board members assembled at various locations throughout the five County Region Xi area. The locations were Lemoore, Visalia, Bakersfield, Porterville and Ridgecrest. Approximately 30 administrators were in attendance. A special feature of the meeting was having Adonai Mack, ACSA Legislative Advocate, share an update on legislative topics from his Sacramento office.

Two major advantages of conducting the board meetings by video conference are: (1) it greatly reduces the amount of time administrators are away from their districts, (2) reduces traveling costs. We had some Tulare County Charter attendees give us a quote on this method of meeting.

"It was a great idea to have Adonai join us via video. He was very informative."

Terri Rufert, Vice President - Legislative Action

"Video conferencing allows anyone to be at our meeting, specifically, State ACSA. Adonai had great information."

Dr. Lupe Solis, Region XI Board Member

"Missed Hodel's cinnamon rolls, but the convenience of meeting locally is very helpful and lessens the anxiety of being off my site"

Valerie Brown, Vice President, Region XI

"Video conferencing is a good way to expand our audience and attendance. It keeps the lines of communication flowing."

Tim Hire, Superintendent, Exeter Public Schools

"This really allows more people to be involved in Region XI business. We are all very busy and I very much appreciate having this opportunity to be involved without having to travel."

Dr. Craig Wheaton, Superintendent, VUSD member, State ACSA Superintendency Council

"I appreciate the ability to meet with our Region in our own county neighborhoods. It gives us flexibility in our busy schedules to attend and participate in the important work our Region is engaged in specifically, the report by Adonai Mack regarding LCFF."

Dr. Sarah Kollgian, Superintendent, Tulare Union High School District and member, State ACSA Equity and Diversity Committee

"Enjoyed Adonai and also enjoyed not driving to Bakersfield."

Lora Haston, Tulare County Charter President

"Given the size of our Region, I think this is to be the future of our meeting format. It certainly increases participation and allows other reports that we might not otherwise have the opportunity to discuss; ie' Adonai's report from Sacramento, Great Job!"

Robert Groeber, Tulare County Charter Vice President

TULARE COUNTY CHARTER SPONSORS NETWORKING SOCIAL

Increasing membership is a major focus of Tulare County Charter for this 2013-2014 school year. Charter members are using various strategies to show growth in membership.

The Charter recently sponsored a networking event which provided members an opportunity to invite non-members to network with current members and enjoy an evening of social activities, food and fellowship.

The event was held at the Holiday Inn, Visalia, on December 19, 2013. Donya Wheeler, Charter Vice President and Principal, Lincoln School, Exeter Public Schools, was the Chairperson and did the planning for the evening event which was well attended.

There were a number of positive comments expressed by various administrators in attendance.

When asked why they joined ACSA, members gave these responses:

“I joined ACSA to network with other administrators and also the educational opportunities ACSA provided.”

Gina Wise, Learning Director, Lindsay Unified School District, said. “It helps me to keep up with the latest education legislation.”

“The reasons I am an ACSA member are its professional networking, professional development and fun,” John Werner, Assistant Principal, Visalia Unified, said.

Lora Haston, Charter President and Superintendent of Alta Vista School District commented:

“I have been an ACSA member for 15 years. I joined because I am a professional and ACSA represents me!”

“I am a new ACSA member and I am looking forward to many more exciting networking opportunities as a new ACSA member,” Bobbie Velasquez, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent, said. “I am also going to encourage other classified confidential management employees to join.”

Tulare Charter’s members are very excited with its membership growth this year. The current membership is 381 members. One year ago there were 309 members. This is an increase of 72 members or 23%.



Tulare Charter Networking Social...

Donya Wheeler, Charter President-Elect was chairperson for the Networking Social held at the Holiday Inn, Visalia on December 19, 2013. Past President Frank Silveria (L) and David Tonini, Region XI Executive Director were present at this well-attended event focusing on membership

REGION XI ANNOUNCES LEADERSHIP VACANCIES

There are a vast number of vacancies to replace State Council and Committee representatives whose term of office ends June 30, 2014. Positions are for a 3 year term starting on July 1, 2014 and concluding on June 30, 2017.

There are 9 positions to be filled:

1. Adult Educational Council
2. Career-Technical Council
3. Classified Educational Leaders Council
4. Curriculum, Instructional, Accountability Council
5. Elementary Education Council
6. Middle Grades Education Council
7. Secondary Education Council
8. Superintendent Council
9. State ACSA Board Director

Each of the above Councils usually schedule 3 meetings a year in Sacramento or Burlingame. Region XI members interested in serving on one the above Councils should contact their Charter president. You will be required to fill out an application form. **This must be returned to Region XI President, Tom Addington by February 28, 2014.**

The Superintendent Council's representative will be an elective office. David Tonini will email ballots to all Superintendents who are current members. Submit your name to President Addington and David Tonini, Region XI Executive Director if you would want your name on the ballot to represent the Superintendents in Region XI.

The State ACSA Board Director will be elected at the May 1st Region XI Delegate Assembly held at Hodels Restaurant in Bakersfield. Each Candidate will be required to give a speech to members of the Delegate Assembly. An election will follow their presentations.

Charter Presidents are encouraged to place these vacancies on your agendas items at your business meetings. It is important that all Charters be represented on the various Councils.



Among the approximately 40 retired administrators in attendance at the Tulare Charter's Retiree Breakfast held at Apple Annies, Tulare were (L to R) Front Row: Dick Schlagel, Bob Line, Lora Haston, Charter President Back Row: Ned Kehrl, Bill Black, Wade Crawford



Tulare Charter...

Mike Tsuboi (L) and his brother Steve were in attendance at the Charter's January 10th Board Meeting held at Apple Annies in Tulare. They are viewing the agenda topics for the one hour business meeting.

TULARE CHARTER AND VISALIA UNIFIED HOST ACSA PRINCIPALS' ACADEMY

The 2013-14 school year marks a first for the Tulare ACSA Charter as Visalia hosted the first ACSA Principals' Academy under the direction of Dr. Fernie Marroquin (Redwood High School) and facilitator Robert Mayo (EL Diamante High School). The Academy has a total of 28 participants from various districts in the valley and southern California (Dinuba, Kingsburg, Hanford, Visalia, Tulare, Pixley, Madera, Clovis, Carlsbad, and Palmdale).

This intensive seven-weekend academy for new or aspiring principals has been completely redesigned to meet the challenges of the new millennium. The focus is on developing and refining applied leadership and management skills required of principals at the elementary, middle grades and high school levels.

Specific themes include:

- Principal Leadership
- Leading the Transition to the Common Core State Standards
- High Quality Instruction
- Learning Assessments
- Change and Growth
- Leadership
- School Climate and Culture
- Communication
- Finance
- Personnel/School Law



Cindi Costa, former Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources for Visalia Unified presents on "The Role of the Principal as Human Resource Administrator," at the Principals' Academy held in Visalia.

The ACSA Principals' Academy provides the application of theory for site administrators. Seminars, workshops and interactive sessions feature educational administration experts and experienced practicing school principals.

Participant Kevin Covert, Assistant Principal, Tulare Western, stated "The Academy has provided me with great resources and a network system that I would never have been exposed to. This already has been a valuable experience".

The academy offers 70 hours of instruction over seven weekend sessions, Friday evenings, 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., and Saturdays, 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.* The extensive course syllabus and materials provided to participants are exceptional resources for ongoing reference and career planning.

Editor's Note:

We are very grateful to Dr. Fernie Marroquin, Principal, Redwood High School, for submitting this article on the Principals' Academy.

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LEADERSHIP SUMMIT • SAN JOSE, CA • NOV. 6-9, 2013



Inyo/Mono Charter members in attendance at this years Leadership Summit were (L to R) Steven Childs, Roger Yost, Don Clark, and Brian Zobel.



Rob Herman with wife Mona(left), daughter Sarah, and Kelly Petty(far right) Tulare Office of Education Character Counts Coordinator at Awards Banquet ACSA Summit in San Jose. Rob was honored as one of the recipients for "Administrator of the Year" State ACSA.



William Gantz, Region 11 Every Student Succeeding student, honored at ACSA Summit with his counselor Anne Reynolds



COMING EVENT: TULARE COUNTY CHARTER ACSA

ACSA Winter Conference

Edison Education Center • February 18, 2014 • 5:00 - 8:00 pm

5:00 - 6:00 Vendors/Social Hour/Heavy Hors d'oeuvres

6:00 - 7:30 Dr. Tim Kanold

7:30 - 8:00 Door Prizes

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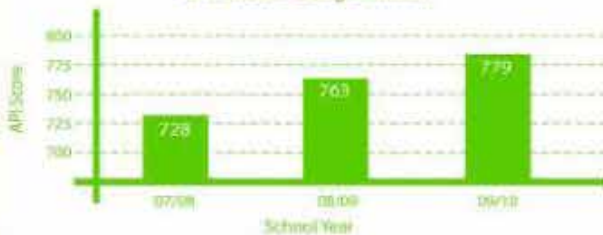
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REGION XI CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 2014

13	West Kern Charter Board Meeting, Hodels, Bakersfield	7:00 am
13	Region XI Board Meeting, Hodels, Bakersfield	8:30 am
14	Tulare Charter, Apple Annies, Tulare	7:00 am
18	Tulare County Charter Annual Spring Conference	5:00 pm
20	State Delegate Assembly, Location TBD	8:30 am
21	Kings County Charter Board Meeting, Kings Co. Office of Education, Lemoore	12:00 pm

March 2014

3	East Kern Charter Meeting, Tehchapi, TBD	7:00 am
14	Tulare Charter, Apple Annies, Tulare	7:00 am
20	West Kern Charter Board Meeting, Hodels, Bakersfield	7:00 am
20	Region XI Board Meeting, Hodels, Bakersfield	8:00 am
21	Kings County Board Meeting, Kings Co. Office of Education, Lemoore	7:00 am

April 2014

5	West Kern Charter Annual Golf Tournament, Sundale Country Club, Bakersfield	TBD
6-7	Legislative Action Day, Sacramento	
10	West Kern Charter, Hodels, Bakersfield	7:00 am
10	Region XI Board Meeting, Hodles, Bakersfield	8:00 am
11	Tulare Charter, Apple Annies, Tulare	7:00 am
23	West Kern Secretary's Day Luncheon, Stars Theater, Bakersfield	11:30 am
23	Kings County Administrative Assistant's Luncheon	TBD
25	Kings County Charter Board Meeting, Kings Co. Office of Education, Lemoore	7:00 am
TBD	Tulare County Charter ESS Breakfast, VUSD Board Room, Visalia	7:00 am


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