



CELEBRATING CASCWA'S EIGHTY ONE YEARS OF ADVOCATING FOR CHILDREN
We never quit only going stronger

THE 2020 CASCWA STATE CONFERENCE HAS BEEN CANCELLED



In this March 2020 edition, you will find:

2020 CASCWA State Conference Cancelled, Interview of Melissa Parrett, Delta Sierra President, Sherman Garnett's March Legislative Update, Andrew Keyv's A Partnership between Pediatricians and CWA, Interview of LACOE's Melissa Schoonmaker, State SARB Model SARB Update; CASCWA Delta Sierra Attendance Certification Training, CASCWA Delta Sierra Regional Workshop: At Promise Youth and Resilience, School Innovation and Achievement, "California Laws Relating to Minors, Marijuana and Lung Health, Jeni Mendel's Websites & Much More!!!

WE MUST LOOK TO THE FUTURE

THE "CORONAVIRUS CRISES" HAS TRULY IMPACTED THE LIVES OF EVERYONE IN CALIFORNIA. WE CANNOT PREDICT THE FUTURE, BUT WE ALL CAN HOPE AND PRAY THAT THERE WILL BETTER DAYS AHEAD.

THE EDITORS OF THE INTERCOM WISH TO THANK ALL OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CASCWA STATE EXECUTIVE BOARD FOR TAKING SWIFT ACTION REGARDING THE STATE CONFERENCE AND THE PLANNED UPCOMING ACTIVITIES.

WE ESPECIALLY WISH TO THANK RICK RIEGEL AND THE ENTIRE SOUTHERN SECTION CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE FOR ALL THAT THEY HAVE DONE. IT IS PREMATURE TO DISCUSS SPECIFIC FUTURE CONFERENCE PLANS AT THIS TIME. HOWEVER, WHEN WE LOOK BACK ON THE PROGRAM, THE SPEAKERS, THE ACTIVITIES, THE SCHED, AND THE PLANNED INTERACTIONS, THE ENTIRE TEAM IS TO BE COMMENDED.

A DECISION WAS MADE AT A RECENT STATE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING, LED BY PRESIDENT EVELYN OCASIO, TO HAVE SOUTHERN SECTION HOST THE 2021 CASCWA STATE CONFERENCE. THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY DELTA SIERRA IN 2022, SAN JOAQUIN IN 2023, AND BAY IN 2024. THIS IS CERTAINLY CONTINGENT UPON RECOVERY AND A BETTER DAY TOMORROW!

JUST PRIOR TO THE RELEASE OF THIS EDITION OF THE INTERCOM, WE WERE INFORMED THAT A CONFERENCE CONTRACT WAS FINALIZED AND THE 2021 CASCWA STATE CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT THE BAHIA RESORT HOTEL IN SAN DIEGO WHEN WE KNOW MORE OF THE DETAILS WE WILL POST THE INFORMATION ON OUR WEBSITE.

State Conference Cancellation and Refund Information

On March 11th, CASCWA cancelled the 2020 CASCWA State Conference in San Diego. This cancellation was the direct result of the coronavirus crisis.

We have been receiving several emails regarding this decision and the goal of this email is to communicate with all of our registrants regarding the refund.

First, all registrations have been cancelled. You need not contact us with a request to cancel.

Second, we will be sending refunds to all registrants who have paid.

If your status is that of not paid, there will be no action required.

If you made payment through pay pal, after verifying the data, we will initiate pay pal's refund process.

If you paid though a check or if your district issued a purchase order and followed up with a check, we will be sending a refund check to either the individual who wrote the check or to the business office who issued the check.

The refund process will take some time, but we hope to proceed quickly in a timely manner. There are a large number of refunds that we need to process. This is also compounded due to the mandates currently in place.

This is real issue of public health, and on behalf of Rick Riegel and the entire Southern Section Board, we wish each of you the best during these difficult times.

Please Look for Updates at: <https://www.cascwa.org/>



CASCWA

ANNUAL STATE CONFERENCE

New date...
mark your
calendars!

April 26-28, 2021

Bahia Resort Hotel
San Diego, California

2020
VISION

For Student Services, Reexamined

Presented by CASCWA Southern Section

What about next year?

No one can predict the future or the challenges that our nation will continue to be facing in 2021! During our recent Southern Section Executive Board Meeting there was a serious discussion that the goal was to return to the Bahia Resort Hotel for the 2021 CASCWA State Conference. **Thanks to Rick Riegel and the Bahia Hotel, we have signed the contract and will be hosting the 2021 CASCWA State Conference in San Diego!** Obviously, this crisis must be contained and normalcy will need to prevail, but it is imperative that we move forward towards the future!

When we know more, we will place the information on our website!



California Association of Supervisors of
Child Welfare & Attendance

CASCWA State President's Message

Evelyn Ocasio, Hayward Unified School District

eocasio@husd.k12.ca.us



As you are aware, we are going through a health crisis. The California Department of Public Health is providing daily updates of the rapid spread. The State of California and multiple Districts are also informing the community. Adjustments are being made daily as all educational partners deliberate and make courageous decisions based on our health and safety. School closures and cancellations of events, have had an impact on many, including CASCWA. Mass gatherings have also been reduced to 250 people to protect public health. With our 2020 State Conference quickly approaching, we do not have any choice but to cancel the conference. With our deepest sentiment we understand that health and safety is a priority. We must comply and make the necessary decisions that will support containing COVID-19.

CASCWA's commitment will always be to help establish effective support services that will provide a variety of opportunities through school sites, alternative education and career readiness programs. We will unceasingly prepare educators and support staff through workshops, conferences and trainings; through this action we are empowering the youths and young adults to successfully develop related academic and workforce skills. We will not stop doing so. But before we continue on our mission, we must face this crucial and difficult time.

We must continue to work together to show promise that we are an effective, safe, and healthy educational system. With preventive measures and the appropriate support, many students will be able to return to school to their pathway toward future, personal and career success. Without using appropriate precautions, focused support on college and career readiness cannot happen. Many youths will never be able to reach and maintain a place on what is commonly considered the first opportunity of a career ladder. Something we must avoid at all cost by providing youth with multiple options in a safe and healthy environment.

At this moment the **CASCWA'S 2020 State Conference held on April 20th – 22nd, 2020 hosted by Southern Section has been cancelled** until further notice. We will continue to be supportive of our families to our best capability. CASCWA will provide you with updates and share information and resources that will assist districts with undertaking these challenges. Please visit our CASCWA website and 4 Sections website for updates in your vicinity.

Please refer to the link below for the most recent updates on COVID-19:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/nCOV2019.aspx>

CASCWA will eternally be changing lives!

Warm regards,

Evelyn Ocasio
CASCWA State President
Warm regards,

Please visit the CASCWA Bay Section Website at:

<http://cascwa.org/about-us/bay-section/>

CASCWA Bay Section President's Message **Andrew Kevy, Hayward Unified School District**

Andrew Kevy's President's Message

As I write this message to the CASCWA membership, I think about the rapidly changing situations we all face. I am very thankful for the support of my peers in student services and CASCWA.



We are all preparing for mass absences, school closures, and the huge range of fear and concern related to the coronavirus. As our communities struggle with the best ways to address this potentially serious public health situation, I appreciate the leadership in school districts across the state that promote the needs of our students and families as we figure out the best ways to move forward. What are the roles of “community” schools which offer a range of services beyond education when facing a possibly developing pandemic? Promoting healthy practices are quickly becoming inadequate as social distancing is becoming unworkable in the classroom and school.



CWA leaders take all aspects of student life into account. The interruption of education our students face is staggering. Working with teachers, students, and families to navigate this in the best possible way so some learning opportunities continue is of course central. Our work does not stop there. Coordination with district food services, health care & behavioral health services, libraries & city services, shelters, parks and rec departments, community food banks and all the other services upon which students and families rely is also vitally important. I am so thankful for the frequent and ongoing communication between service providers and stakeholders as we try to give options to our students and families.

Please know your efforts are greatly appreciated. The community reacts to the tough decisions made and the information shared in these challenging times. Even in the best times, education faces a range of challenges. The leadership, coordination, and collaboration of CASCWA members and all school leaders is more important than ever. As always, you rise to the challenge! Thank you for your service.

Respectfully,

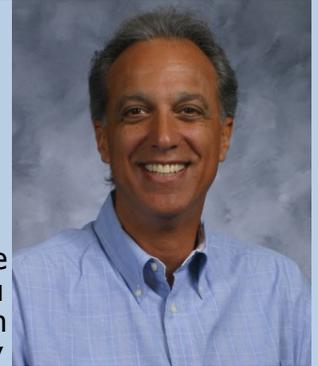
Andrew Kevy

Please visit the CASCWA San Joaquin Section Website at:

<http://cascwa.org/about-us/san-joaquin-section/>

CASCWA San Joaquin Section President's Message

Kevin Torosian
Central Unified School District
ktotosian@centralusd.k12.ca.us



I will start my President's message with an apology to our editors, whose endless dedication to publishing the Intercom is beyond commendable. You see, our editors requested a President's message for the upcoming edition of the Intercom to be submitted by March 10. So, on March 9, I wrote my message and submitted it to comply with the deadline. However, the rapidly evolving situation with the coronavirus over the next three days made my article seem completely out of date and by the time it was published and possibly read by someone would have seemed ridiculous. So, with the editor's permission, I withdrew the original article and sit here on March 12th attempting to write something that may make sense by the time your read it....but I doubt it.

You see, a lot of my article centered on the upcoming State Conference in San Diego and how much I was looking forward to attending, praising the Southern Section for all the hard work they had done, and expressing excitement over the variety of sessions and presenters they had on the schedule. I had just come from a meeting with district administration on how we were going to proceed with protocols in light of COVID-19, and my attendance at the conference was still very much in play. However, over the next three days, everything changed.

It started with a notification to all district personnel that we were going to follow the notice from the County Health Department to restrict out of district travel to counties where there had been ten or more cases of confirmed coronavirus infection. Now at the time, San Diego County had only three confirmed cases, so even though I knew there were still six weeks until the conference and most assuredly the count would exceed ten cases by then, I still had hope. But then the California Department of Public Health announced that events resulting in the gathering of 250 or more should be cancelled or postponed, and one professional sports league after another either suspended, delayed or cancelled their seasons, and my father became inaccessible to me as he is in an elder care facility and they were now on lockdown as the projected mortality rate for the residents could be as high as 20% should the virus make its way into the facility.

While I would love to write something about some event or conference coming up in the near future, I am not really sure what the near future is going to look like. Last week's comments about COVID-19 being just another flu, no big deal and a political hoax have dissipated as a global pandemic has now been declared. However, the events of the past week demonstrate how rapidly the landscape can change, and the optimist in me says it could just as rapidly change for the better.

Update: What did I say about rapid change? It is now March 18, and I just got a message from the editors saying they lost my updated article, to which I responded "Thank God". You see, since I wrote it on March 12th, we have had an emergency meeting of the CASCWA State Board. It was decided that this year's conference in San Diego has been cancelled, and it has been agreed upon that Southern Section will again have the opportunity to host the 2021 State Conference, with Delta Sierra Section now hosting in 2022, and San Joaquin hosting in 2023. I am so thankful that something told me to hold off signing any agreements that were on the table for our section to host in 2022 as originally planned.

So, my President's message is a prayer for the health and safety of all. It isn't the end of the world, but a time when we do need to do what is necessary, however inconvenient, to ensure the health and safety of everyone. As my father would often say, "This too shall pass".

Dr. Kevin Torosian, President
San Joaquin Section

Please visit the CASCWA Southern Section Website at:
<http://cascwa.org/about-us/southern-section/>

CASCWA Southern Section President's Message

Rick Riegel

Placentia Unified School District
Director Child Welfare and Attendance
rriegel@pylusd.org



Dear CASCWA Members and Friends,

The CASCWA State Conference for 2020 has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The past month has been an unprecedented one for all of us, no less for CASCWA. It has often been said that times of crisis bring out the best and worst in people.

In CASCWA, I have only seen the best. Thanks to our vendors and sponsors who provided financial investment and hoped with us that the conference could go on. Gratitude to the speakers, nearly 70 in all, who made proposals and were already submitting power points and documents to share with attendees. Appreciation to registrants and their offices, who made travel plans and reservations and submitted payment to invest in their professional development and networking. Also, to the CASCWA State and Southern Section Boards, who volunteered their time and effort to make it happen. And finally, to the Bahia hotel, who worked with us to make accommodations, reservations and provisions to grow from 350 attendees to 420 due to great demand, and now takes a loss during this hard season for their industry.

The good news is that the CASCWA Boards and the Bahia Hotel have come to an agreement to reset our opportunity for next year, April 25-28 of 2021. The Southern Section Conference Committee will be working again to provide the very best conference we can to advance our work. Watch for more information to follow, towards the end of summer. By then, we will have a better grasp of the crisis we are dealing with. We will have a greater need than ever for new learning, creative planning, and warm weather in a beautiful setting.

Hang in there to provide the leadership needed. It is not going to be easy, but we are needed more than ever to provide the support to students, staff and families that only we can give. Stay safe, stay healthy, and stay connected, in new and changing ways.

Sincerely,

Rick Riegel
Southern Section President

Please visit the CASCWA Delta Sierra Section Website at:
<http://cascwa.org/about-us/delta-sierra/>

CASCWA Delta-Sierra Section President's Message

**Melissa Parrett mparrett@nevco.org
Student Services Program Coordinator
Nevada County Superintendent of Schools Office**

For sometime, the editors of the intercom have been wanting to interview CASCWA's Delta Sierra President, Melissa Parrett. We finally got the opportunity. Below you will find her responses to our questions. We hope that this will give you some insight into this exceptional educator!

Please tell us a little bit about your background as an educator to your current position in student services.

Prior to working in the field of education I served the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges in close partnership with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

In this role, I traveled the nation extensively working on a variety of research and program evaluation projects related to child abuse and neglect, foster care, adoption and court procedure. These projects touched a broad range of areas including social psychology/sociology, child development and family dynamics, organizational behavior, and systems change.

Roughly 14 years ago, I joined the staff at the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools Office. Overtime, I have acquired many "hats" as is typical in smaller rural county offices. Currently, I am involved in a variety of educational services to include: SARB, School Attendance Mediation, McKinney-Vento, Special Multi-Agency Resource Team (SMART) meetings, PBIS, MTSS, Juvenile Justice, Social Emotional Learning, etc.

Many of our CASCWA members are not familiar with the Nevada County or the services provided by the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools. Please tell us about your community and some of the services provided at your county office of education!

Nestled in the foothills, 84 miles southwest of Reno and 147 miles northeast of San Francisco, Nevada County is a county in the Sierra Nevada of California known as Mother Lode Country. Surrounded by lush forests, mountains, lakes, and rivers, Nevada County is a recreational jackpot. Donner, Truckee, Grass Valley, Alta Sierra, Lake Wildwood, Lake of the Pines, Nevada City, Penn Valley, Rough and Ready, and North San Juan are cities found in the rural county of Nevada, California.

Continued





The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools Office (NCSOS) is a proactive group of educators and staff focused on providing resources to the 9 school districts including 35 public and charter schools in Grass Valley and Nevada City. The Educational Services Department provides resources and training for staff and students in child welfare, health, vocational education, school climate, Curriculum and Instruction, and the arts. Homelessness, Foster Youth Services, SARB, Indian Education, SELPA, Special Multi-Agency Resource Teams (SMART), School Safety, Tobacco Use and Prevention Education (TUPE), Suicide Prevention, PBIS, MTSS and Differentiated Assistance are additional resources offered to our school sites.

Our collaborative approach with local agencies such as law enforcement, fire services, public health, behavioral and children's health allows an ease of access for meeting the needs of our students.

Everyone in child welfare and attendance has a goal increasing positive attendance and reducing absences/truancy. Please share with our members what challenges you daily face in combating poor attendance and where you are finding success.

There are challenges that each county in California face in regard to absences and truancy; Nevada County is no exception. The rising incident of homelessness, lack of parent involvement, poverty and our rural location prove to be obstacles for regular student attendance. Adding to the challenge is the Coronavirus, PG&E Public Safety Power Shut-Offs, poor air quality following wildfires and weather related school closure days may affect our average daily attendance.

We continue to improve upon family engagement efforts and relationship building within our schools as well as prevention/early intervention efforts to reduce absenteeism. Our SARB program is not punitive but instead it is supportive of identifying the obstacles parents are facing and the resources available to help them be successful in getting their students to school.

You are a bright shining light to our CASCWA State Executive Board. Please tell us about your path from your first interaction with CASCWA to becoming the CASCWA Delta Sierra President.

I first became acquainted with CASCWA through the conferences that are offered each year. I looked forward to each conference and gleaned new material and resources from each one I attended. My journey with CASCWA has afforded me the opportunity to meet amazing, supportive professionals who have a focus on bettering the educational environment, culture, safety and security of our students.

Continued



5. Rich Davis is a living legend in CASCWA and the Delta Sierra scholarship is named in his honor. Please tell us about Delta Sierra's scholarship activities for the end of the end of this school year.

The annual Richard C. Davis scholarship was established to recognize the contributions Rich Davis has made to CASCWA and for the enduring services he rendered to school age students. Two \$1000 scholarships are awarded annually to a Continuation or Alternative school graduate who is planning to continue their education in college or a vocational training school. The scholarship award was designed to recognize the resiliency of a student who has overcome personal obstacles to graduate from high school. Additionally, Delta Sierra is proud to offer a recurring scholarship opportunity to previous Richard C. Davis Scholarship recipients.

In May, Delta-Sierra will honor scholarship recipients at dinner and awards ceremony in Sacramento.

Southern Section faced a serious challenge this year when the 2020 state conference sold out quickly and a waiting list had to be put in place. Delta Sierra will be hosting the 2021 state conference. What can you tell us about the planning for the 2021 state conference?

Planning is in full swing for the 2021 Annual Conference. Our committee is diligently researching location, speakers, special events and cost. Our goal is to provide a central location to host the conference that will be easily accessible for all of our CASCWA community. We will be reaching out to presenters to provide top quality break out and general session speakers. As always, our aim is to provide the best of the best in training, education and resources.

We thank you, Melissa, for your excellent interview!

Melissa Parrett
Student Services Program Coordinator
Nevada County Superintendent of Schools Office
380 Crown Point Circle., Grass Valley, CA 95945





LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

March 2020

Prepared by Sherman Garnett
CASCWA Legislative Representative

Listed below is a brief synopsis of current legislation that has been introduced in the state Assembly and Senate. Please note that each bill listed must receive legislative approval out of either the state Senate or Assembly by the legislative deadline of the last week in May in order to continue the legislative process. For a full description of each bill, you may access this information at: www.senate.ca.gov or www.assembly.ca.gov.

ASSEMBLY BILLS

AB 150 (Cooper)-Requires a school district, charter school or county office of education to contact the former school of a foster student to request that the students' full or partial credits be delivered on a transcript. The partial credit earned in the prior school must be accepted as credit in the subject in which the course was taken.

AB 276 (Friedman) -Requires school districts, county offices of education and charter schools to inform parents and guardians of pupils at the beginning of the first semester or quarter of the regular school year of California's child access prevention laws and laws relating to the safe storage of firearms.

AB 1196 (Gipson)-Establishes a three year grant to support the planning of, and operation of community schools which is defined as a school with an engaging curriculum, high quality teaching, provides wraparound support services, emphasis on positive discipline practices and parent and community engagement.

AB 1838 (Chu)-Includes as a required excused absence due to a student having behavioral health services rendered.

AB 1856 (Frazier)-Requires at all students with an IEP to include a description of the procedures in place to ensure the pupil's safety in an emergency including any necessary accommodations. Additionally, requires all schools to create and Including School Emergency Plan and that a copy be maintained at the school site.

AB 1913 (Gonzalez)- Requires school districts, charter schools and county office of education programs to offer students the opportunity to register or pre-register to vote during a presentation or assembly at the high school campus.

AB 2018 (Gabriel)- Requires the California Department of Education to develop and distribute model referral protocols for addressing pupil mental health concerns.

AB 2019 (Holden)-Authorizes county office of education to develop agreements to authorize community and court school students to access dual enrollments for technical and trade offerings.

AB 2176 (Holden)-Requires transit agencies to offer free student transit passes to persons attend California Community Colleges, Cal State Universities or any University of California.

AB 2187 (Cunningham)-Authorizes school districts and charter schools to incorporate a financial literacy program within the required economics course offered by the school district or charter school.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE (CONTINUED)

March 2020

Prepared by Sherman Garnett
CASCWA Legislative Representative



AB 2211 (Rubio)-Requires time spent by a pupil at any grade level consuming breakfast in the classroom be considered instructional minutes if educational activities are offered while the pupil is consuming the breakfast.

AB 2412 (Carrillo)-Specifies that a pupil's first offense for the unlawful selling of not more than one-ounce marijuana, other than concentrated cannabis, is not an offense for which suspension recommendation of expulsion is mandatory.

AB 3067 (Rubio)-Amends Education Code 44807 and states that no school employee shall compel a pupil to sign a document that is intended to bind or otherwise affect the behavior, disciplinary status, or treatment of that pupil and no school employee shall impose any discipline or restriction on a pupil because of that pupil's refusal to sign such document.

SENATE BILLS

SB 849(Portantino)-Includes as another type of required absence an absence that is for the benefit of the mental or behavioral health of the pupil.

SB 860(Beall)-Requires the Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program to coordinate efforts to ensure completion of the Application for Federal Student Aid or the California Dream Act Application for foster youth pupils who are in grade 12.

SB 959 (Hurtado)-Redefines the term pupil to mean a child enrolled in a childcare or development program, transitional kindergarten, kindergarten or any of grades 1 to 12 inclusive.

SB 1075(Gonzalez)-Authorizes a school district or charter school to also admit into a transitional kindergarten program a child who will have their 5th birthday on any day from July 1 to August 31 of the following school year.

SB 1091(Portantino)-Requires the School/Law Enforcement Partnership to develop a process and framework that would require mandatory interagency cross-reporting between school districts, county offices of education, and law enforcement agencies of threats of serious school crimes, including but not limited to school shootings, hate crimes, vandalism, drug and alcohol use gang membership and gang violence, that would trigger immediate intervention.

SB 1174 (Portantino)-Requires the State Board of Education to identify at least one assessment or series of assessments to be used by a school district, county office of education or charter school to screen pupils for risk of dyslexia and to make available the screening results available to the assessed pupil's parent or guardian in a timely manner.

Thank you Sherman for all you do for CASCWA and students throughout California!

CASCWA Interviews Los Angeles County of Education's Melissa Schoonmaker

The editors of the Intercom have relied on the Los Angeles County Office of Education for over twenty years! We are amazed at the team that makes up the Student Services Division. One of the team members who we had wanted to interview for a long time is Melissa Schoonmaker L.C.S.W. Melissa title is that of Project Director III, Child Welfare and Attendance. If you have ever been to LACOES's Annual Legislative Update, you would agree that Melissa is a true expert in our field and that she is a true leader. We are honored to have had the privilege of this interview and we thank Jennifer Kottke for transcribing the Interview from her notes:



Please tell us a few words about your background prior to joining the Los Angeles County Office of Education!



Melissa currently serves as the Project Director III of the Child Welfare and Attendance (CWA) Unit at the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE). She is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and has always been connected and comfortable working within a school setting. The bulk of her CWA work started when she began working for the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) in 1996. She started in LAUSD as a Pupil Services and Attendance (PSA) Counselor and worked at several schools focusing on attendance issues.

Please describe your work and responsibilities since you became a member of LACOE!

During her tenure at LAUSD she served as a Local District PSA Counselor, School Attendance Review Board Chair and supported various initiatives, always with the purpose of improving school attendance. In 2005, she became a PSA Coordinator and oversaw various programs including Homeless Education, Pregnant and Parenting Teens, School



Court Liaisons, Foreign Student Admissions, and Interdistrict Permits and Student Transfers. She gained extensive experience with pupil services, program management, community partnerships, outreach efforts and legal and procedural aspects of student rights.

In 2012, Melissa was hired by LACOE to serve as the Coordinator for the Homeless Education Program and support the 80 school districts and 350 charter schools across Los Angeles County to address the educational needs of over 70,000 identified homeless children and youth. She provided districts with technical assistance, support with program implementation, brought in additional material resources, and created strong collaborations with housing partner and non-profit agencies. In 2019, Melissa became the Project Director III for CWA at LACOE. She loves the work she is doing and is able to blend the depth and breadth of her professional experiences over the past 23 years.

Over the years, many members of CASCWA have been amazed at the scope of services provided by the divisions of LACOE. "LACOE's Student Services Divisions" are responsible for services a large number of services to a county student population that is larger than the student populations of several states. Please tell us a few of the challenges that you face on an annual basis.

Melissa and CWA staff help to support districts and charter schools throughout LA County by offering assistance tied to discipline, suspension, expulsion, other means of correction, enrollment, custody, residency, student records, interdistrict permits and appeals, homeless student, attendance, chronic absenteeism, truancy, and restorative practices. Her work is focused on engaging districts in different ways as they navigate student systems – helping to process through issues that arise as education policy intersects with life on a school campus.

You are a leader of other leaders. Please tell us how you interact with other educators and reach out to educators throughout the large number of districts in Los Angeles County.

Melissa shared that the greatest challenge working in such a large county is the fact that the needs are so expansive. There is limited capacity at the County Office of Education and at times it can be difficult to prioritize on what is most important and how to get the work done in a meaningful and timely matter. Melissa recognizes that districts also have very limited capacity and that often student support services staff wear many hats. Understanding capacity issues are critical as she plans trainings. She is intentionally focused on providing districts with resources and content that can help districts be introspective about their approach to working with students.



This editor of the Intercom has attended the annual legislative updates for several years and has been impressed with your words. The entire team delivers an incredible amount of attention, then come the questions. You are amazing and your mind is full of specialized knowledge that you have accumulated over the years. What advice would you give to new educators in the fields of student services?



Her advice to new educators in the field of CWA is to take time to understand the policies of your district and its impact on students, intended and unintended. Don't be afraid to advocate for what's right for kids. Melissa has been in her new position for little over a year and enjoys working with the school districts and providing varied support as they navigate critical issues impacting students and their campuses. Melissa also loves working with the her LACOE CWA team. Everyone works together in a professional and supportive manner. They are all incredible individuals who are experts in their fields and are always willing to go the extra mile. She is very proud of the work they are doing together to service the 1.5 million children and youth across the county from Head Start to college and beyond.

**THANK YOU, MELISSA, FOR ALL YOU DO FOR THE STUDENTS
IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY!**



**Los Angeles County
Office of Education**

Leading Educators ▪ Supporting Students
Serving Communities

School Attendance & Good Health: A Partnership between Pediatricians and CWA

Andrew Kevy, Bay Section President

Some school districts in Alameda County began collaboration with pediatricians from Kaiser Permanente and staff from the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency to discuss alignment and coordination of services. With a growing number of families receiving Medi-Cal through Kaiser, collaboration to facilitate student school enrollment as well as communication for ongoing health care services became increasingly important. This year, promotion of school attendance and awareness of chronic absenteeism as both an indicator of student engagement as well as a negative health indicator became a central topic for the collaboration.

A California School Dashboard measure since 2018, CASCWA members know well that chronic absenteeism is both a direct measure as well as an indicator of negative issues affecting student engagement. This is still a new concept for pediatricians and medical providers. Doctors, Nurse Practitioners, and related health staff see hundreds if not thousands of patients. Lacking understanding and the ability to see any pattern, absences can be easily excused and real issues missed. Just as at school, a student's attendance record should be a major indicator of student wellbeing or wellness in the health care field.



The American Academy of Pediatrics established a policy statement in February 2019 promoting the awareness of chronic absenteeism and the related impacts on health outcomes.

Chronic school absenteeism, starting as early as preschool and kindergarten, puts students at risk for poor school performance and school dropout, which in turn, put them at risk for unhealthy behaviors as adolescents and young adults as well as poor long term health outcomes. Pediatricians and their colleagues caring for children in the medical setting have opportunities at the individual patient and/or family, practice, and population levels to promote school attendance and reduce chronic absenteeism and resulting health disparities.

Kaiser Permanente pediatricians and mental health staff participated in a workshop on attendance promotion provided by San Lorenzo Unified and Hayward Unified School Districts. CWA staff, District Nurses, as well as staff from *Alameda Health Care's Center for Healthy Schools and Communities* presented information and data on attendance, chronic absence, related

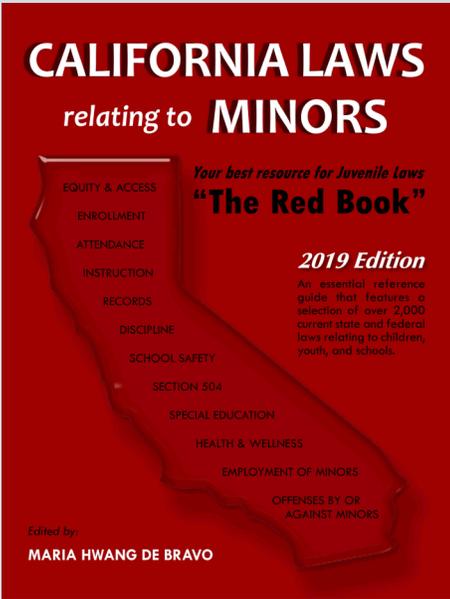


health issues and policies and procedures in place for school districts. All involved are committed to working together to develop a protocol so health staff ask students and their families about the attendance record. When students miss more than 10% of school, doctors and nurses are beginning to ask why.

CWA professionals know that doctors talking about chronic absence is just the beginning. Addressing health issues causing excessive absence requires an ongoing dialogue between education and health care professionals. If doctors pay more attention to absences and no longer merely excuse absences but ask students and families to raise issues back at school, then schools must be able to respond. Resources and infrastructure on both sides are needed to address the issues causing students to miss school. School nurses, teachers, counselors, social workers and other staff must be available with the tools to address the health, behavioral health and social challenges facing our students. Collaboration with Kaiser Permanente and other health care providers is a major step forward in education's multi-tiered system of support for the whole student. Common and deeper understanding of the universal screener of chronic absenteeism will facilitate working together to help students and families and ultimately bring more resources to this work.

2020 California Laws Relating to Minors

Maria Hwang de Bravo



The "Red Book" is an essential reference guide for school site and district/central office administrators and other professionals who work with schools and juveniles.

It also serves as a textbook for college and university programs.

As the title reflects, this publication contains more than 2,000 current California Code Sections along with related Federal Laws and Administrative Guidelines that relate to minors.

Featured sections are drawn from the Education Code, Family Code, Health and Safety Code, Penal Code, and Welfare and Institutions Code. Subject areas include Enrollment, Attendance, Discipline, Health & Wellness, Pupil Records, Special Education, and much, much more!

Maria Hwang de Bravo* Student Support Services Solutions, Inc.
www.s4edconsultants.org (310) 753-2380

CASCWA Delta Sierra Attendance Certification Training

By Joan Jeffery

On February 24 & 25, 2020, the Delta Sierra Section California Association of Supervisors of Child Welfare and Attendance hosted a training in Shasta County Office of Education and Sutter Superintendent of Schools respectively. Sherman Garnett of Sherman R. Garnett & Assoc. and Don English of San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools served as the workshop facilitators. The training covered updated attendance law, LCAP, Chronic Absence vs truancy, unexcused vs excused absences, attendance mandates & policies, data analysis and subgroups, disenrollment of truants.



Specific emphasis was centered upon bringing districts and their supervisors of attendance into alignment with Ed Code 48245 and Ed Code 48240. Per California Education Code Section 48241: "In any city, or city and county no supervisor of attendance or assistant supervisors of attendance shall be appointed, unless he has been lawfully certificated for the work by the county board of education".



Attendees were provided with printed and online resources to help with bringing their training experience back to their schools and districts. Sherman and Don used creative and engaging techniques to drive home the background and importance of following attendance law. Many participated in "mock" scenarios and role playing to get familiar with the language and intent of the law.

Delta Sierra would also like to extend a special thank you to Scott Balough from School Innovations & Achievement, who was on hand to provide information on their program Attention2Attendance (A2A) and donated raffle prizes. Thank you for supporting our event.

School Innovation & Achievement

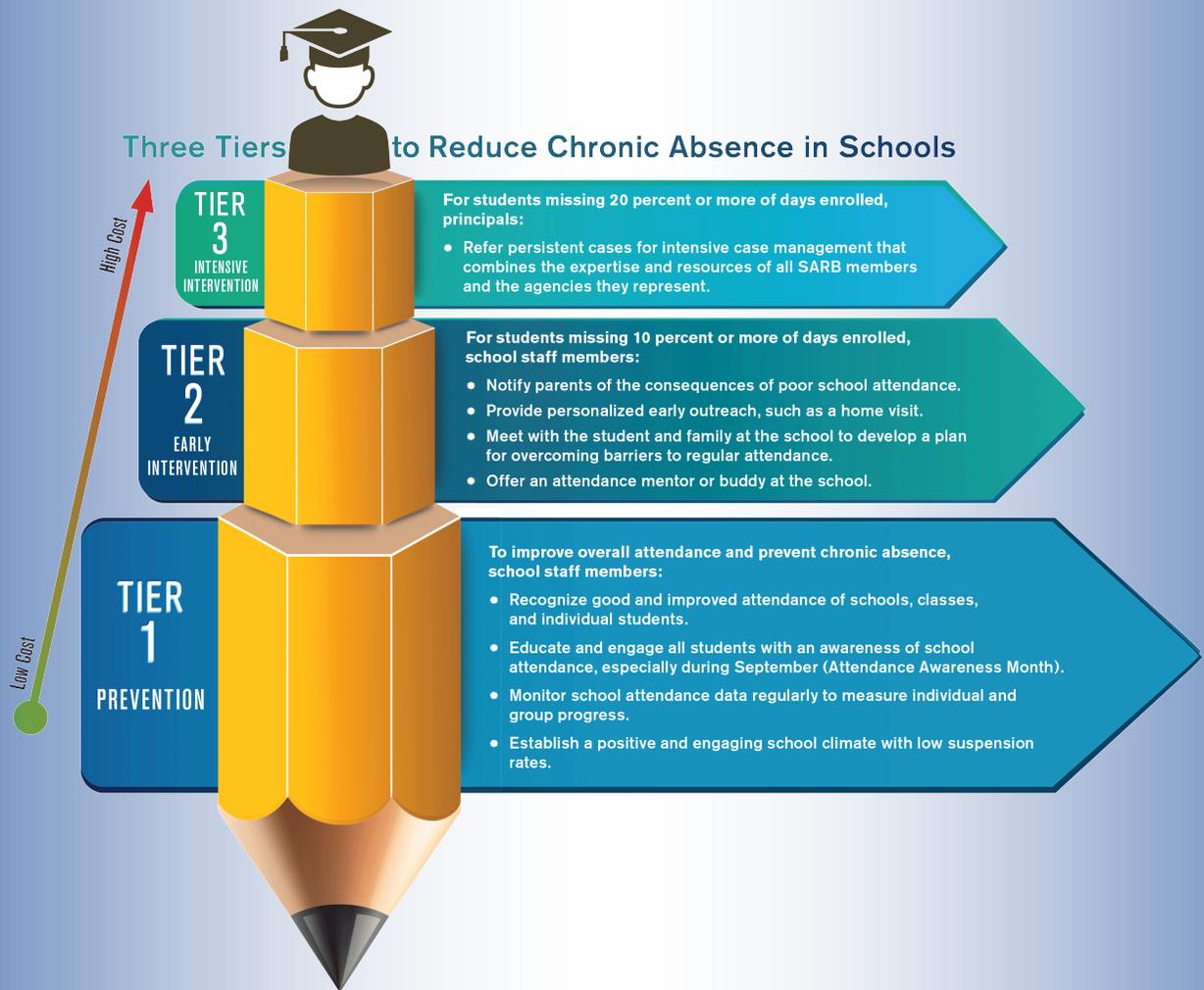
Let's make attendance the next big thing! We know how to get everyone on board and on message: starting in September and lasting all year long. Our school district partners get an attractive turn-key Attendance Awareness Month campaign (copy/paste/easy!) about why attendance is important and its impact on student success.

<https://www.sia-us.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/K12Achievement/>

The Intercom Editors wish to thank SI&A's Erica Peterson and the entire SI&A team for helping districts throughout the state to get the 2019-20 school year to get off to a great start!





KEEPING STUDENTS IN SCHOOL

Exemplary Attendance Programs Recognized

CALIFORNIA CARES ABOUT ATTENDANCE

The California Department of Education (CDE) awarded 27 school districts for recognition of the work of their School Attendance Review Boards (SARBs). These districts demonstrated excellence in providing three tiers of support to students and their families, led to better school attendance for the 2016-17 school year. Activities in the first tier are designed to prevent attendance problems, activities in the second tier are early interventions for minor attendance problems, and activities in the third tier address intensive barriers to school attendance.

The number of model SARBs identified was three times the number awarded in 2015-16. This increase dramatically reflects the success of multi-tiered systems in California to keep students in school.

Chronic student absenteeism is a crisis, dragging down the achievement of one in four children in some communities. Chronic absenteeism increases the likelihood that certain groups of students will drop out of school, including children living in poverty, African Americans, Native Americans, foster youths, and other at-risk students. Poor attendance and habitual truancy also cost California school districts millions of dollars each year.

Model SARBs in the school districts named below serve as mentors to other school districts. As districts develop their own Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) goals, the hope is that they will adopt multi-tiered systems to reduce chronic absenteeism rates and dropout rates.

Nandito po. **Wǒ zài zhè lǐ.** **I'm here.** **Urdu** (replacing with correct translation)

Здесь. **ਮੈਂ ਇੱਥੇ ਹਾਂ ਜੀ** **Estoy aquí.** **Ana hina.** **Da có mã.**

2016-17 Model School Districts with Excellent School Attendance Programs

- Alhambra Unified School District
- Alwood Unified School District
- Banning Unified School District
- Capistrano Unified School District
- Centennial Valley Union High School District
- Chino Valley Unified School District
- Colton Joint Unified School District
- Corona-Norco Unified School District
- Desert Sands Unified School District
- Escondido Union School District
- Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District
- Firebaugh-Las Deltas Unified School District
- Fontana Unified School District
- Fremont Unified School District
- Hacienda La Puente Unified School District
- Hemet Unified School District
- John S. Sweet Unified School District
- Jurupa Unified School District
- Long Beach Unified School District
- Pittsburg Unified School District
- Rialto Unified School District
- Riverside Unified School District
- Romoland Elementary School District
- Sanger Unified School District
- Santa Ana Unified School District
- Twin Rivers Unified School District
- Westminster Elementary School District

To apply for recognition as a school district with a model school attendance program, please go to the CDE Model SARB Recognition Program Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/ai/sb/modelrecognition.asp>.

This is CDE's Lobby Displays that shows students of all different languages who need to be in school, and it celebrates our 2016-17 Model SARBs.



California State Department of Education School Attendance Review Board

The photo above was taken of Ruth Person when she retired as the State SARB representative for the California School Nurses Organization at a recent State SARB meeting. We thank Ruth for her contributions to the students of California!

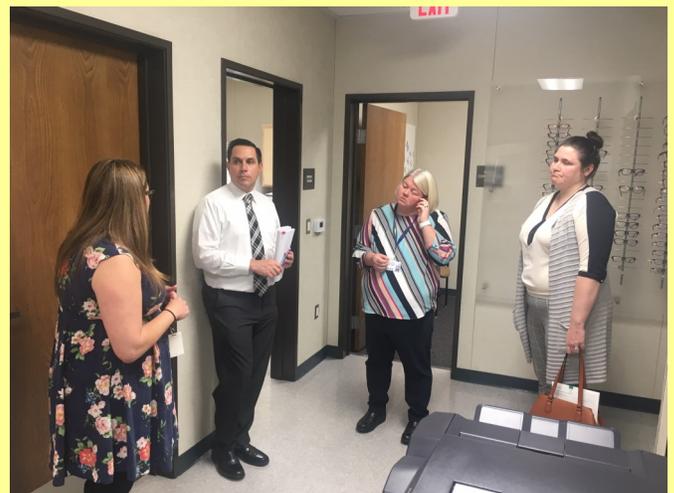


Several months ago, State SARB kicked off their 2019-20 Model SARB program.

This picture is of David Kopperud and Jennifer Gomez-Trejo that was taken at one of their many workshops that were held throughout California.

Information was posted on the CDE's website at:

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/ai/sb/>





This years marks district site level visitations for Model SARB Validations

The last three photos are from the site validation to Bakersfield City School District. The site validation team was led by Bryan Campoy, and he commended the district for its innovative Tier 1 incentive programs as well as their student health centers. Bakersfield City School District showed the most improvement of any Model SARB in chronic absenteeism rates. The district went from a 14.9% in 2017/18 to an 11.7% in 2018/19. You know that any district that reduces its chronic absenteeism rate by more than 2% in one year is doing exceptional work.

We are all waiting for State Superintendent of Schools, Tony Thurmond, to make the public announcement of the Model 2020 State SARB recipients. Due to the cancellation of the state conference, David Kopperud will be working closely with all recipients to see to it that they receive their plaques and the recognition they deserve!

What is in the future?

CASCWA State President, Evelyn Ocasio, recently led the State Executive Board to pass a motion to work with State SARB in the creation of a web page focusing on improving attendance. Jennifer Gomez-Trejo (gomeztrejo.jennifer@s4edconsultants.org) and David Kopperud (DKopperud@cde.ca.gov) will be leading the effort. Hopefully this will be in place by the next edition of the Intercom!

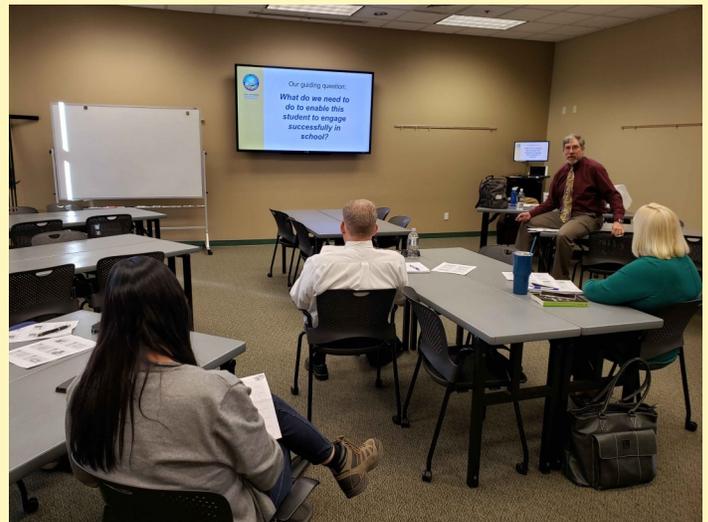
CASCWA Delta Sierra Regional Workshop: At Promise Youth and Resilience

By Joan Jeffery

Delta Sierra Section Board Members, Dan Sackheim and David Kopperud hosted a workshop for our school personnel teaching at promise youth on February 24 at Shasta COE.

Topics included Our Pyramid Scheme: Why a Multi-tiered system of support must provide an integrated approach to attendance, behavioral interventions and support and mental health. Additionally, WhyTry Dropout Prevention materials including visuals, videos, music and activities that help develop student resilience were presented by Christian Moore, author of the book: The Resilience Break-Through and Bruce Bushnell from "WhyTry".

Dan Sackheim offered some great tools and proven methods for success in the Community Day School arena. Thanks to all the resources offered in this small yet intensive workshop, everyone left with tips and tools to use in their individual settings.



Desert Sun.

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Thursday, July 18, 2019

Sandra Lyon, Special to The Desert Sun

Valley Voice: Skipping school puts a child's future at risk

In December of the 2018-19 school year, the Palm Springs Unified School District launched a new "Attention to Attendance" (A2A) program in an effort to educate our families about the importance of regular attendance as well as to improve and increase communications between the school and family around individual student attendance issues.

From the beginning of the 2018-19 school year through the beginning of December 2018, our students collectively missed over 90,012 full days of instruction. Knowing that we are focused on improving outcomes for our students and that missing school correlates with student achievement, we know that simply getting our students to school, regularly and on time, improves their opportunities to learn.

We are encouraged that our first six months indicate that we are headed in the right direction, though we have a long way to go. More than 49,000 parent communication pieces were sent out during the second half of the last school year. More than 15,000 of these letters addressed truancy (a student who has three or more days of unexcused absences), more than 12,000 were about excessive absences (seven or more days of excused absences) and more than 4,500 were to parents of students with chronic absenteeism (missing 10 percent or more of the school year due to absences). The remainder of the communications were focused on educating the parents of our kindergarten through third grade students on the importance of regular attendance and commendation letters for students with excellent attendance.

Educating parents on risks of absenteeism

Conferences were held with the parents of 561 students with chronic absenteeism. The improvement rate among those students from the six weeks prior to the conferences to the six weeks after the conference was 26.8 percent. While the numbers improved the second half of the year, we still had more than 40 percent of our students who missed more than nine school days during the 2018-19 school year. We had over 2,400 students who missed between 18 and 36 days of school and 854 students who missed more than 36 days of school.

These numbers are unacceptable, as those absences negatively impact students' learning.



Students return for the first day of school at Bubbling Wells Elementary School in Desert Hot Springs, Calif., August 8, 2018. (Photo: Zoe Meyers/The Desert Sun)

Dr. Lyon is driving student success with The Achievement Initiative

We know that 83 percent of students who are chronically absent in kindergarten and first grade cannot read at grade level when they reach third grade. These students are four times more likely to drop out of school before they graduate, and drop outs are eight times more likely to be incarcerated than their peers with high school diplomas.

By sixth grade, chronic absenteeism becomes a leading indicator that a student will drop out of high school, and high school dropouts are not eligible for about 90 percent of the jobs in this country. Clearly, students who do not attend school regularly have long-lasting negative effects, and we will do all we can to prevent that from happening.

The work continues

As we continue our outreach work in the 2019-20 school year to ensure that our students are attending school each day, I ask for your help in spreading the crucial message that attendance at every grade level matters greatly.

It is unfortunate that kindergarten is not mandatory in the state of California. The statistics are proof that students who do not attend kindergarten regularly are at a huge disadvantage and experience an ongoing, uphill battle to stay on par with their peers.

<https://www.desertsun.com/story/opinion/contributors/valley-voice/2019/07/18/coachella-valley-parents-skipping-school-hurts-your-child-sandra-lyon-valley-voice/1769190001/>

Marijuana and Lung Health

Jeni Mendel asked that we place the following article in the Intercom. She is a champion in combating substance abuse

The American Lung Association is concerned about the health impacts of marijuana use, especially on lung health. We caution the public against smoking or vaping marijuana because of the risks it poses to the lungs.

Marijuana

The health effects of marijuana are determined in large part by how it's consumed. Marijuana is most commonly smoked using pipes, bongs, paper-wrapped joints, blunts and other devices including those that heat or vaporize marijuana. Marijuana can also be consumed through dozens of different products including e-cigarettes, candy, brownies and other baked goods, capsules, beverages and many more.

While this statement focuses on marijuana and lung health, it's important to note that there are other health concerns outside the lungs attributed to marijuana use that are not addressed here, including neurological and cognitive effects.^{1,2} Additionally, there are significant public health concerns associated with pediatric poisonings caused by accidental ingestion of edible marijuana products.

Marijuana Smoke



Smoke is harmful to lung health. Whether from burning wood, tobacco or marijuana, toxins and carcinogens are released from the combustion of materials. Smoke from marijuana combustion has been shown to contain many of the same toxins, irritants and carcinogens as tobacco smoke.

Beyond just what's in the smoke alone, marijuana is typically smoked differently than tobacco. Marijuana smokers tend to inhale more deeply and hold their breath longer than cigarette smokers, which leads to a greater exposure per breath to tar.

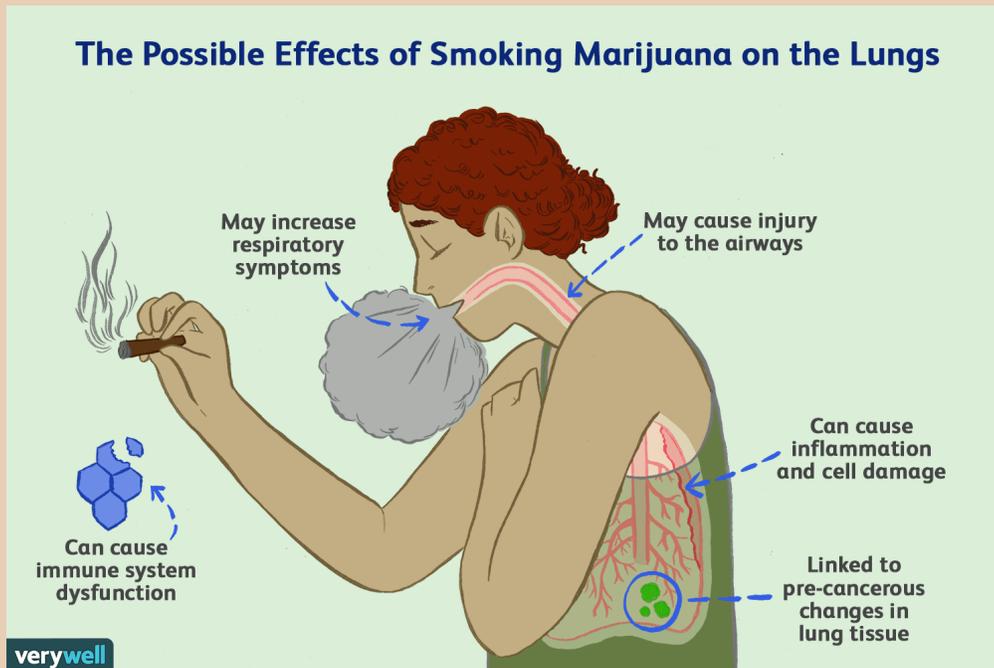
Secondhand marijuana smoke contains many of the same toxins and carcinogens found in directly-inhaled marijuana smoke, in similar amounts if not more. There is concern that it causes harmful health effects, especially among vulnerable children in the home.

Lung Health and Marijuana Smoke

Smoking marijuana clearly damages the human lung. Research shows that smoking marijuana causes chronic bronchitis and marijuana smoke has been shown to injure the cell linings of the large airways, which could explain why smoking marijuana leads to symptoms such as chronic cough, phlegm production, wheeze and acute bronchitis.

Smoking marijuana has also been linked to cases of air pockets in between both lungs and between the lungs and the chest wall, as well as large air bubbles in the lungs among young to middle-aged adults, mostly heavy smokers of marijuana.

The Possible Effects of Smoking Marijuana on the Lungs



Smoking marijuana can harm more than just the lungs and respiratory system—it can also affect the immune system and the body's ability to fight disease, especially for those whose immune systems are already weakened from immunosuppressive drugs or diseases, such as HIV infection.

Smoking marijuana hurts the lungs' first line of defense against infection by killing cells that help remove dust and germs as well as causing more mucus to be formed. In addition, it also suppresses the immune system. These effects could lead to an increased risk of lower respiratory tract infections among marijuana smokers; frequent marijuana-only smokers have more healthcare visits for respiratory conditions compared to nonsmokers.

Studies have shown that smoking marijuana may increase the risk of opportunistic infections among those who are HIV positive, although it does not seem to affect the development of AIDS or lower white cell counts.

Another potential threat to those with weakened immune systems is *Aspergillus*, a mold that can cause lung disorders. It can grow on marijuana, which if then smoked exposes the lungs to this fungus. However, it rarely causes problems in people with healthy immune systems.

Bottom Line

- Smoking marijuana clearly damages the human lung, and regular use leads to chronic bronchitis and can cause an immune-compromised person to be more susceptible to lung infections.
- No one should be exposed to secondhand marijuana smoke.
- Due to the risks it poses to lung health, the American Lung Association strongly cautions the public against smoking marijuana as well as tobacco products.

Jenifer Mendel

Southern Section CASCWA
San Diego County Behavioral Health Advisory Board
San Diego County Juvenile Justice Commission



Jeni Mendel's "Website" Pages

Over the past several years, the editors of the CASCWA Intercom have received on-going emails from CASCWA's Jeni Mendel, Sherman Garnett and several other executive board members. Below you will find specific websites that pertain to the Coronavirus Crisis for you and for your friends and family.

CDE Webpage: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Information and resources regarding coronavirus (COVID-19) and California's response.

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/coronavirus.asp>

US Department of Education Coronavirus" Information and Resources for Schools and School Personnel

<https://www.ed.gov/coronavirus>

Newsom signs order cancelling spring state tests; warns of a surge in cases over the next eight weeks

<https://edsources.org/2020/education-and-coronavirus-whats-the-latest/625119>

The U.S. Department of Education just posted these guidelines for special education services during the Coronavirus Outbreak:

<https://www2.ed.gov/policy/speced/guid/idea/memosdcitrs/qa-covid-19-03-12-2020.pdf>

Education Week: Coronavirus and Schools

<https://www.edweek.org/ew/collections/coronavirus-and-schools/index.html>

High School Senior Explains: The Emotional Toll of Coronavirus Derailing Milestone Moments

<https://www.teenvogue.com/story/high-school-senior-coronavirus-graduation>

Ed Source: What California parents and students should know about the coronavirus: a quick guide

<https://edsources.org/2020/coronavirus-qa-what-california-parents-and-students-should-know-about-covid-19/624413>

Coronavirus: All you need to know about symptoms and risks

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/01/coronavirus-symptoms-vaccines-risks-200122194509687.html>

How soap kills the coronavirus

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-LKVUarhtvE>

How To Tell If It's Coronavirus, The Flu, A Cold, Or Allergies

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OOJqHPfG7pA>

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OOJqHPfG7pA>

How Germs Spread

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I5-dI74zxPg>

How did the Coronavirus spread from animals to humans?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GzSltiokD4k>

Can You Get Coronavirus Through Food?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sEk45ZI5oOU>

coronavirus best food for health

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g0RMPyAZyjE>

2019-20 CASCWA State Executive Board

Position	Name	Section
President	Evelyn Ocasio	Bay
Past President	Brian Chandler	San Joaquin
President Elect	Jeni Mendel	Southern
Vice President	Position is being filled	
Treasurer	Ray Sandoval	Southern
Secretary	Stephanie Newby	San Joaquin

Section Presidents

Bay Section President	Andrew Kevy	Bay
Delta-Sierra Section President	Melissa Parrett	Delta-Sierra
San Joaquin Section President	Kevin Torosion	San Joaquin
Southern Section President	Rick Riegel	Southern

Appointed Positions

Northern Legislative Representative	Dan Sackheim	Delta-Sierra
Southern Legislative Representative	Sherman Garnett	Southern
Member at Large	Dishawn Givens	Bay
CDE Representative	David Kopperud	Delta-Sierra
Board Advisor	Dennis Wiechmann	San Joaquin
Membership	Stephanie Newby & Robin Gainey	San Joaquin
CASCWA Store	David Cohen	San Joaquin
Retired Member Representative	Alan Del Simone	Bay
Intercom Editors	Jennifer Kottke & Frank Boehler	Southern



OUR 2020 CASCWA STATE CONFERENCE IS CANCELLED!

We can only look forward to the future!
CASCWA is busy making plans for April 26-28, 2021 and we hope to see you in San Diego once this crisis is over!

For more information about CASCWA, please go to

<http://www.cascwa.org/>

*The co-editors of the CASCWA Intercom are Jennifer Kottke & Frank Boehler
We hope that you have enjoyed this edition of the Intercom.*

*If you have any suggestions for future articles or other comments,
Please contact Jennifer Kottke at:*

Kottke_Jennifer@laoe.edu