



Mid-Valley Special Education Cooperative

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MEMORANDUM

February 6, 2013

TO: Members of the Mid-Valley Executive Advisory Board

FROM: Carla Cumblad, Executive Director

RE: Increase in Occupational Therapy Services

Since the end of December, three Occupational Therapists have had unforeseen extended medical leaves. One therapist has returned, but has missed 4 weeks of service. A second therapist has yet to return. When she returns, 7-8 weeks of service will have been missed. A third therapist has been unable to provide service minutes since the beginning of January and will not return until at least March 1st. She will be reevaluated closer to the possible return date to determine her return date. In all, if she returns by March 1st, 8 weeks of service will have been missed.

As you know, there are no immediate substitutes for the Occupational Therapists as there are with teachers. We have asked part-time department members to pick up extra time, but no one is willing to do so. Therefore, we have entered into agreements with contract agencies for two COTAs to assist with the first two situations. A full-time OT will assist with the second situation. These arrangements will replace minutes when possible. They are also necessary to double up on minutes until the end of the year to assure that the minutes indicated on the student IEPs are all caught up.

Building principals have been very patient and understanding with this unusual circumstance this year. All of the parents have been notified by letter regarding the plans and that their children's IEP minutes will be completed by the end of the year.

These costs are unanticipated and additional to the cooperative. However, there is sufficient funding in the purchased services lines of the budget to cover these costs.