

California Association of Health and Education Linked Professions

Joint Powers Authority (CAHELP JPA)

GOVERNANCE COUNCIL MEETING

February 21, 2025 - 1:30 p.m.

Desert Mountain Educational Service Center, 17800 Highway 18, Apple Valley, California 92307

MINUTES

GOVERNANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Academy for Academic Excellence – Dr. Lisa Lamb, Adelanto ESD – Dr. Terry Walker, Allegiance STEAM Academy – Dr. Sebastian Cогnetta (2:12), Apple Valley USD – Trenae Nelson, Baker Valley USD – Milan Stijepovic, Barstow USD – Deanna Swearingen, Desert Trails Preparatory Academy/Laverne Elementary Preparatory Academy – Debbie Tarver, Excelsior Education Center – Dr. Derek King, Hesperia USD – David Olney, Victor Elementary SD – Lori Clark

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jen Gonzales
Ross Swearingen

CAHELP JPA STAFF PRESENT:

Pamela Bender, Linda Llamas, Kayla Gewirtz, Deborah Sarkesian, Peggy Dunn, Jennifer Sutton, Thomas Flores

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the California Association of Health and Education Linked Professions, Joint Powers Authority (CAHELP, JPA) Governance Council was called to order by Acting Chairperson Trenae Nelson at 1:39 p.m. at the Desert/Mountain Educational Service Center, Apple Valley.

2.0 ROLL CALL

3.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

4.0 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

4.1 **BE IT RESOLVED** that a motion was made by Dave Olney, seconded by Lisa Lamb, to approve the May 10, 2024, CAHELP JPA Governance Council Meeting Agenda as presented. The motion carried on the following vote: 9:0:0, Ayes: Lamb, Walker, Nelson, Stijepovic, Swearingen, Tarver, King, Olney, Clark. Nays: None, Abstentions: None.

5.0 CONSENT ITEMS

5.1 **BE IT RESOLVED** that a motion was made by Lori Clark, seconded by Dr. Derek King, to approve the November 1, 2024, CAHELP JPA Governance Council Meeting Minutes and the Declaration of Low Incidence Equipment as Salvage or Surplus as presented. The motion carried on the following vote: 9:0:0, Ayes: Lamb, Walker, Nelson, Stijepovic, Swearingen, Tarver, King, Olney, Clark. Nays: None, Abstentions: None.

5.1.1 Approve the November 1, 2024, CAHELP JPA Governance Council Meeting Minutes.

5.1.2 Approve the Declaration of Low Incidence Equipment as Salvage or Surplus.

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The Desert Mountain SELPA is seeking approval from the CAHELP JPA Governance Council for the release to surplus or salvage of unassigned and/or obsolete low incidence equipment currently in storage. All of the low incidence equipment on the inventory report has been reviewed and determined to be unassigned and/or obsolete.

6.0 PRESENTATIONS

6.1 Holiday Event

In December, a Holiday Event was held. Desert Mountain Children's Center clinicians identify families that could use some extra help during the holiday season. A toy drive is held that includes CAHELP employees. There is also collaboration with Tattoo Junkies who have a toy drive called Toys for Tats on a Saturday. This year, unwrapped gifts, wrapping paper, and gift bags were given to the parents of 632 children. They received these gifts during our Holiday Event where children participated in games, received temporary tattoos from Art Junkies, visited, took pictures with the Grinch, and had snacks.

A video of the Holiday Event including the Outreach Team and CAHELP volunteers was shared.

7.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND STAFF REPORTS

7.1 Desert Mountain SELPA

7.1.1 2024-25 2nd Interim Projection with Prior Year Comparisons

The ending balance for the year is almost \$20 million.

7.1.2 DMSELPA Budget X-Pot Return

A \$2.3 million dollar refund will be distributed from the X-Pot based on a per pupil basis. Charter SELPA will receive \$139,000. It leaves CAHELP with \$627,000 where we are required to have \$500,000.

7.2 DMCC

7.2.1 DMCC 2nd Interim

DMCC has a significant balance. For the last few years, Department of Behavioral Health has given us our full contract, but we have not provided the services for that full contract so if they come back with an audit, we need to make sure that we have enough money to pay that money back to them. Specific amounts will be provided at the next meeting.

7.3 Legislative Update

7.3.1 Budget Process

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The State Budget Process was reviewed highlighting the following:

- January – Senate and Assembly have overviews
- Winter/Spring – Senate and Assembly have subcommittee hearing
- Late May - Senate and Assembly have final subcommittee hearings and decisions
- Early June - Full Senate and Assembly budget hearing of subcommittee reports
- June – Legislative leaders negotiate with the Governor
- June – Final 2025-26 State Budget is enacted

7.3.2 Potential SELPA Sponsored Bills

The Legislative Committee is looking for an author to address the following:

- Staffing: Extending the amount of time a long-term substitute teacher could be in place to 60 – 90 days.
- Infant Services: Updating the funding formula and the policy clean up. Looking to find an author that will work with us, Regional Center, Department of Developmental Services to develop a timeline for initial eligibility.
- Handicapping Category Language Changes: Changing “Hearing Impairment” to “Hard of Hearing” and changing “Visual Impairment” to “Low Vision.”

7.4 Compliance Update

Annual Determination Letters have been received by all LEAs. Most LEAs remain in the same compliance level.

Disproportionality is determined when a district has been disproportionate in the same area for 3 years. If there has not been improvement, districts are then placed in Significant Disproportionality in which the LEA must set aside 15% of federal funds to be used towards a plan for improvement. In LEAs with significant mobility rates, many times LEAs are not aware of those students moving in when the data is pulled causing the data to be disproportionate in specific areas.

CDE has The California Special Education Technical Assistance Network (CalTANS) database providing data and support is available. LEAs are encouraged to review their data to ensure it is accurate.

Prong II has been completed.

Targeted Progress Report 3 is due July 10, 2025. It includes everything from the plan that has been put together from January 1st through June 30th.

The Intensive Progress Monitoring number 5 is due April 10, 2025 from January 1st through March 30th.

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The Cyclical Monitoring is due February 28, 2025.

7.5 DMCC Updates

DMCC provides Critical Incident Debriefings on top of the individual and group services DMCC already provides. From July 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024, DMCC served 392 students and adults through their critical incidents and debriefings. Of those 392 individuals, there were 5 referrals with 2 following through for assessments. Over 11 days, 49 staff members provided Critical Incident Debriefings at 6 school sites throughout that time period. This service is done outside of the regular daily activities; staff volunteer to provide this service in addition to their current caseloads.

7.6 Resolution Support Services Summaries

There have been 7 filings for Charter SELPA and 31 filings for DM SELPA. One case was a filing on a parent for a total of 38 filings.

Parent attorneys are starting to request ADRs only, saving districts costs on attorney fees. In comparing mediations to ADR requests, 81% of cases are filing for full due process, 11% are filing for formal mediation, and 8% is requesting ADR.

At 2:12 Sebastian Cognetta joined the meeting.

Breakdown of the data for those filing due process include:

Primary Disabilities

41% Autism
4% Child Find
14% ID
4% not eligible
18% OHI
14% SLD
5% VI

Ethnicity

45% Hispanic
32% African American
18% White
5% African Indian

Grades

4% K
9% 1st
14% 2nd
4% 3rd
4% 5th

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23% 6th
4% 7th
14% 8th
14% 9th
5% 10th
5% 11th

Placement

45% General Education Pull Out
4% HHI
5% Mild/Mod
5% Mild/Mod Push-In GE Math
14% Mod/Severe
9% County
9% General Education
5% NPS
4% County Preschool

Reasons

45% services
14% Assessment
9% Assessment Services
4% Child Find
5% Eligibility
5% Filed on Parent
18% Placement

SELPA will continue to assist with facilitating IEPs and attending LEA-facilitated IEPs to support LEAs. In all but 2 cases, resolutions were reached within that meeting.

Parents have initiated 9 ADR services and LEAs initiated 2. Previously LEA's initiated ADRs more often than parents. CDE is recommending ADR to parents instead of an investigation taking place.

8.0 INFORMATION / ACTION

8.1 Robert Feldhake Presentation on JPA Roles and Responsibilities – March 28, 2025.

Robert Feldhake will attend the May 9, 2025, Governance Council meeting via zoom.

8.2 Credential Bridge Authorization

Heidi met with the majority of districts' HR departments or district Student Services staff. They were made aware to look at credentials to see who qualified for the Credentialed Bridge Authorization.

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Directors were asked for support to work with their HR departments to ensure that they are passing out the flyer to only those who qualify and that they only share the zoom link to those who qualify.

75 participants from DM SELPA and 10 from Charter SELPA totaling 85 participants; 7 from Adelanto Elementary SD, 42 from Apple Valley USD, 3 from Bear Valley USD, 3 from Excelsior, 4 from Health Sciences, 2 from Helendale SD, 4 from the Lewis Center, 7 from Silver Valley USD, 3 from Victor Valley USD, and 10 from Southern California Flex Academy and Aveson School Leaders.

Once an individual completes the training, form CL904 is completed and signed by Pam with the date they attended. The participant fills out an application online and prints it out; it cannot be submitted online. The application, the CL904 form, and the \$100 CTC credential fee are mailed to CTC by the district or participant. The signed forms were provided to LEAs today to take back to districts.

8.3 Contract Discussion

The goal of this contract committee is to determine what, if any, parameters need to be in place in reviewing CAHELP contracts. Lori Clark, Deanna Swearingen and Pam Bender will meet to review.

8.4 OAH Settlement Discussion

A discussion took place regarding the different language that our attorneys were using in regard to settlement agreements. Some districts do not need to take settlement agreements to their board for approval, some agreements are ratified by district boards, and some agreements are approved by district boards.

8.5 Custodian of Records for WorkAbility

Tabled to the next meeting.

8.6 Non-Public Schools Placement

There are 3 non-public schools in the high desert. The turnover is high. SELPA has set up quarterly meetings with the non-public schools and encouraged directors to join these meetings and share their concerns.

8.7 Professional Learning Summaries

Year to date 5,675 participated in trainings, workshops, or committees. Behavioral Support is the largest areas of participation.

9.0 CLOSES SESSION

The CAHELP JPA Governance Council went into closed session at 2:47 pm and returned to open session at 3:25 pm.

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10.0 GOVERNANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS / REPORTS

There were no comments or reports.

11.0 CEO COMMENTS

Pam Bender shared CAHELP received notification from SEIS regarding an increase in rates upon the end of our three-year contract beginning July of 2026. Pam has been approached about the ability to have the Governance meeting available for virtual participation and will follow up with a legal opinion to ensure Brown Act requirements. It was shared that three of the Charter Schools, Pasadena Rosebud Academy, Odyssey and Aveson Global Leaders were significantly impacted by the fires losing their school sites and CAHELP has been available to provide assistance as requested.

12.0 MATTERS BROUGHT BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC

There were no matters brought by the general public.

13.0 ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Lisa Lamb, seconded by Sebastian Cognetta, to adjourn the meeting at 3:32 pm. The motion carried on the following vote: 10:0:0, Ayes: Lamb, Walker, Cognetta, Nelson, Stijepovic, Swearingen, Tarver, King, Olney, and Clark. Nays: None, Abstentions: None.

The next regular meeting of the CAHELP JPA Governance Council will be held on Friday, March 28, 2025, at 10:00 am., at the Desert Mountain Educational Service Center, Aster/Cactus Room, 17800 Highway 18, Apple Valley, CA 92307.

Individuals requiring special accommodations for disabilities are requested to contact Jamie Adkins at (760) 955-3555, at least seven days prior to the date of this meeting.