

California Association of Health and Education Linked Professions
Joint Powers Authority (CAHELP JPA)

GOVERNANCE COUNCIL MEETING

March 28, 2025 - 10:00 a.m.

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

MINUTES

GOVERNANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Allegiance STEAM Academy – Dr. Sebastian Coggnetta, Apple Valley USD – Trenae Nelson (10:07 am), Barstow USD – Deanna Swearingen, Excelsior Education Center – Dr. Derek King, Helendale SD – Cindy Espinoza, Oro Grande SD – Derrick Delton, Silver Valley USD – Jesse Najera, Snowline JUSD – Ryan Holman, Trona JUSD – Jerry Jennex

GUESTS PRESENT:

Tyler Chamness, Care Solace; Selina Hurley, SBCSS Internal Business; Angie Darnold, SBCSS Internal Business

CAHELP JPA STAFF PRESENT:

Pamela Bender, Linda Llamas, Heidi Chavez, Kayla Gewirtz, Dr. Peggy Dunn, Deborah Sarkesian, Jennifer Sutton

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 Chairperson Jesse Najera at 10:03 am 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 Sebastian Coggnetta, seconded by Derrick Delton, to approve the March 28, 2025, CAHELP JPA Governance Council Meeting Agenda as presented. The motion carried on the following vote: 8:0:0, Ayes: Coggnetta, Swearingen, King, Espinoza, Delton, Najera, Holman, Jennex. Nays: None, Abstentions: None.

5.0 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

At 10:07 Trenae Nelson joined the meeting.

5.1 Care Solace

Tyler Chamness, Care Solace Director of Customer Success, presented Care Solace, a 24/7 mental health care coordination service serving over 8,000 schools in 36 states across the country providing access to over 6 million students and 20 million individuals including staff and families. There is no cost for families to get connected to services.

- Coordinates in-person or telehealth care for mental health and substance use treatment.
- Does not diagnose, assess, or provide treatment but connects families to licensed professionals who do.

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- Each LEA has a Care Match Link and anonymous self-service search.
- Provider database includes over 550,000 verified providers across the nation without financial relationships.
- Providers work with several types of insurance.
- Care Companions is available 24/7/365 and provides multilingual navigation support.
- Care Loop houses a help center, resource center, and care community.

Since July, Care Solace has received 1,032 cases throughout the SELPA and has confirmed 388 appointments. There have been 341 anonymous searches where people have gotten matched up with providers on their own.

ABA, Care Community, CEU courses for social workers, and the ability to reopen cases have been added.

To maximize the partnership, promotion and feedback are essential.

5.2 SBCSS Internal Business

5.2.1 2024-25 Desert Mountain County Operated Special Education Fee-For-Service Budget – 2nd Interim Update

Selina Hurly and Angie Darnold, SBCSS Internal Business, provided a summary on budget development versus second interim. The Fall counts are broken down into sections.

Section A: Revenues: Budget started with about \$82 million. The 2nd interim budget is about \$88 million with an increase of \$5.4 million. There are about 77 increases in services overall and an increase in ADA

Section B: Expenditures: Budgeted about \$83 million and are about \$86 million at this point. That is an increase of \$2.8 million, which aligns with the increase in services matching within the increase in revenue.

Section D: 2024-25 Estimated Ending Balance: The return is going to be about \$2.6 million.

5.2.2 The SBCSS Internal Business staff will present the 2024-25 Desert Mountain County Operated Special Education Fee-For-Service Budget – 2nd Interim Update

Additional detailed information was presented in regard to the Fee-for-Service and also includes the 3% reserve amount.

5.2.3 The 2024-25 1st 50% Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) Revenue Transfer – District Funded Students in County Operated Special Education Programs

At the end of March, the first 50% will be taken. The ADA and the rates for each district were shared in detail.

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6.0 CONSENT ITEMS

It is recommended that the Governance Council consider approving several Agenda items as a Consent list. Consent Items are routine in nature and can be enacted in one motion without further discussion. Consent items may be called up by any Council Member at the meeting for clarification, discussion, or change.

6.1 **BE IT RESOLVED** that a motion was made by Ryan Holman, seconded by Sebastian Cогnetta, to approve the following Consent Items as presented. The motion carried on the following vote: 9:0:0, Ayes: Cогnetta, Nelson, Swearingen, King, Espinoza, Delton, Najera, Holman, Jennex. Nays: None, Abstentions: None.

6.1.1 February 21, 2025, CAHELP JPA Governance Council Meeting Minutes.

6.1.2 SCCE HCCA Annual Membership for Veronica Hay in an amount not to exceed \$325. 00.

6.1.3 ACBO Annual Membership for Linda Llamas in an amount not to exceed \$120. 00.

6.1.4 Council for Exceptional Children Annual Membership for Heidi Chavez in an amount not to exceed \$195. 00.

6.1.5 Declaration of Low Incidence Equipment as Salvage or Surplus.

7.0 INFORMATION / ACTION

7.1 X-Pot Review and Approval

7.1.1 Approve DM SELPA FY 2024-25 X-Pot Return to Desert Mountain SELPA

BE IT RESOLVED that a motion was made by Ryan Holman, seconded by Sebastian Cогnetta, to approve the DM SELPA FY 2024-25 X-Pot Return to Desert Mountain SELPA. The motion carried on the following vote: 9:0:0, Ayes: Cогnetta, Nelson, Swearingen, King, Espinoza, Delton, Najera, Holman, Jennex. Nays: None, Abstentions: None.

7.1.2 Approve DM Charter SELPA FY 2024-25 Set-A-Side Refund to DM Charter SELPA

BE IT RESOLVED that a motion was made by Jerry Jennex, seconded by Sebastian Cогnetta, to approve the DM Charter SELPA FY 2024-25 Set-A-Side Refund to Desert Mountain Charter SELPA. The motion carried on the following vote: 9:0:0, Ayes: Cогnetta, Nelson, Swearingen, King, Espinoza, Delton, Najera, Holman, Jennex. Nays: None, Abstentions: None.

7.2 DMCC

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For the last 3 years, DBH has given DMCC the full contract amount, even though not all the services of the full contract have been provided. COVID funds received by DBH were used to make DMCC whole for those 3 years. For districts who paid fee-for-services over the last 3 years, they will receive refunds totaling 2 million dollars.

Discussion took place and a request was made for an analysis of understanding of how far back DMCC can go and look at how much money is needed to stay solvent and how much more can be returned to LEAs as \$20 million seems to be an excessive amount to be sitting as an ending balance.

7.2.1 DMCC 2nd Interim

BE IT RESOLVED that a motion was made by Trena Nelson, seconded by Jerry Jennex, to approve the DMCC Fee for Service Refund to those who contributed. The motion carried on the following vote: 9:0:0, Ayes: Cognetta, Nelson, Swearingen, King, Espinoza, Delton, Najera, Holman, Jennex. Nays: None, Abstentions: None.

7.3 First reading of the Desert Mountain Charter SELPA Policies Chapter 3 Instructional Planning and the IEP

BE IT RESOLVED that a motion was made by Dr. Derek King, seconded by Derrick Delton, to approve the first reading of the Desert Mountain Charter SELPA Policies Chapter 3 Instructional Planning and the IEP as presented. The motion carried on the following vote: 9:0:0, Ayes: Cognetta, Nelson, Swearingen, King, Espinoza, Delton, Najera, Holman, Jennex. Nays: None, Abstentions: None.

7.4 First reading of the Desert Mountain SELPA Policies Chapter 4 Instructional Planning and the IEP

BE IT RESOLVED that a motion was made by Cindy Espinoza, seconded by Sebastian Cognetta, to approve the first reading of the Desert Mountain SELPA Policies Chapter 4 Instructional Planning and the IEP as presented. The motion carried on the following vote: 9:0:0, Ayes: Cognetta, Nelson, Swearingen, King, Espinoza, Delton, Najera, Holman, Jennex. Nays: None, Abstentions: None.

7.5 Review and Approve the 2025-2026 Calendar

Discussion took place regarding the 2025-2026 meeting dates. To accommodate Spring Breaks, the March 27th date was amended to March 13, 2026.

BE IT RESOLVED that a motion was made by Ryan Holman, seconded by Cindy Espinoza, to approve the 2025-26 Governance Council Meeting Calendar dates amended to 10/24/25, 2/6/26, 3/13/26, and 5/8/26. The motion carried on the following vote: 9:0:0, Ayes: Cognetta, Nelson, Swearingen, King, Espinoza, Delton, Najera, Holman, Jennex. Nays: None, Abstentions: None

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8.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND STAFF REPORTS

8.1 Legislative Updates

- AB277 (Alanis) Autism: Behavioral Technician Certification. This bill is specifically for the Department of Developmental Services looking for those who work with students from an outside organization in the home and ensuring the certification process includes a background check. It would require DDS to establish a certification process including a criminal background check for behavioral technicians including qualified autism service providers.
- AB291 (Gipson) Teacher credentialing; credentialed educator apprenticeships. Addressing teacher shortages by developing specific requirements for credentialed education and educator apprenticeships.
- AB322 (Ward) Pupil Health: School-Based Health Services and School-Based Mental Health Services. Will require grades 1 through 6 to also include mental health education in their health programs; for grades 7 to 12, making sure they add health education to the adopted course of study.
- SB389 (Ochoa Bogh) Pupil Health: individuals with exceptional needs; specialized physical health care services. For vocational nurses to be supervised and work under the license credentialed school nurses. This bill looks at having licensed vocational nurses under the supervision of a school nurse to be able to perform some of the specialized health care they haven't been able to previously provide.
- SB531 (Rubio) Course of study: mental health education. To ensure mental health is in the curriculum.
- AB560 (Addis) Special Education – Spot Bill. This bill was originally a Spot Bill and is being supported by CFT. It is looking at lowering caseloads for special education. For RSP and SDC, reducing classes from 28 students to 20 students including initial assessments and reducing SLP caseloads from 55 to 45. For those who have specific students who have more specific needs that require more time and attention to be lower than 45. This specifically looks at reducing caseloads and class size limits for teachers (RSP, SDC) as well as related service providers (SLP, Psychologist, OT/PT. This bill would establish a special education team at each school site that would include an administrator, special education staff, teaching staff, and support staff meeting once a week to review updates and special education and legislative planning. The purpose is to look at logistical planning within the school site for SAT teams and review student/teacher ratios and monitor caseload numbers.
- AB606 (Quirk-Silva) Certificated employees; professional services credential; out-of-state applicants. To develop a checklist of requirements to get full licensure and get a cleared credential by August of 2026. This bill is looking at requesting and requiring CTC to grant a preliminary credential to out-of-state applicants and if they meet specific alternative requirements, they can then get a clear credential.
- AB1224 (Valencia) Teacher credentialing; substitute teachers; days of service. Having 60-day teacher substitutes instead of 30-days. State SELPA is supporting this bill. It is supported by CASE,

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ACSA, CSBA, State SELPA, and California Association of Superintendents. This is moving forward.

- AB84 (Muratsuchi) School Accountability – Charter Schools. If the population of the non-classroom-based charter is larger than the authorizing district that the authorizing is going to have to go to either a larger district or to county offices.

Further discussion took place regarding the impact on Charters. Discussion took place regarding if the non-classroom-based Charter has a larger ADA than the authorizing LEA, the Charter must move to a larger LEA or go through the County Office. Those classroom-based Charters will be funded on 100% of their ADA and those who are non-classroom-based will be fined on a sliding scale.

8.2 Compliance Update

IEP Review Date Range is March 3 – April 30, 2025

Data Collection Window is May 1 – June 30, 2025

Data Collection Final Due Date is June 27, 2025

A discussion took place about districts being found disproportionate. Districts are required to attend in-person trainings causing personnel costs. There are students coming into districts who are identified as disproportionate at no fault of the receiving district. Many of those students are from group homes so there is no plan the district can write or fix or create a solution. Many are not being served by the district, they are already placed in county programs, but the district is being held accountable. One of the requirements is having a team of 10 meet in person to write plans in Spring and Fall.

8.3 DMCC Updates

The number of referrals DMCC has received from districts are as follows:

- August 2024 651 referrals received
- September 2024 606 referrals received
- October 2024 520 referrals received
- November 2024 523 referrals received
- December 2024 358 referrals received
- January 2025 550 referrals received
- February 2025 501 referrals received

There has been an increase in crisis intervention for staff members.

8.4 Resolution Support Services Summaries

Charter SELPA had 6 Due Process Complaints and DM SELPA had 33 Due Process Complaints. So far this year there has been one LEA filing on a parent and 5 formal mediations.

8.5 Credential Bridge Authorization

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Charter SELPA has had 10 participants, and the DM SELPA had 77 participants.

8.6 Professional Learning Summaries

The workshop with the highest participation continues to be Behavioral Supports. Individual Protections is another area with high participation.

8.7 Local Plan Approval

The Charter SELPA and DM SELPA Local Plans were approved and received notification earlier this month. The local plan includes Section A – Contact and Certifications (every year), Section B – Governance and Administration (every 3 years), Section D – Annual Budget Plan (every year), and Section E – Annual Service Plan (every year).

A new Section C is the Annual Assurance and Supports Plan that will now be due June 30, 2027. This will go into effect beginning in 2026-2027. The purpose is to demonstrate how the SELPA and its’ participating LEAs are coordinating for the purposes of assuring effective outcomes for students with disabilities within the LCAP.

8.8 Legal Opinion

There was discussion regarding board members attending Governance Council meetings virtually. Several items were addressed including an analysis of charters remaining with DM SELPA and Charter SELPA and offering virtual attendance including voting requirements and options. Pam will follow up and contact legal regarding virtual participation and voting.

8.9 Robert Feldhake Presentation on JPA Roles and Responsibilities – May 9, 2025

Robert Feldhake will be attending the meeting on May 9, 2025, virtually.

9.0 CLOSED SESSION

10.0 GOVERNANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS’ COMMENTS / REPORTS

Ryan Holman thanked everyone for all the work being done. Trenae was thanked for chairing the January 31, 2025, meeting.

11.0 CEO COMMENTS

Michael Hart has shared that there is some funding for smaller LEAs who have not been able to get E-Sports up and running. If interested, SELPA can work with you to get E-Sports in your district.

Deanna, Lori, and Pam have a date in April to discuss contracts.

A Fostering Futures Podcast teaser, “What If One Conversation Could Change Everything?” was shared. It is dedicated to special education, behavioral health, social emotional well-being, and community. Directors are

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encouraged to participate. The Virtual Team have been visiting school sites to promote our website and podcast. It is for parents, teachers, and students. The first episode is coming up in April. Posters have been provided to districts to share.

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 Trenae Nelson, seconded by Derrick Delton, to adjourn the meeting at 11:48 am. The motion carried on the following vote: 9:0:0, Ayes: Cognetta, Nelson, Swearingen, King, Espinoza, Delton, Najera, Holman, Jennex. Nays: None, Abstentions: None.

The next regular meeting of the CAHELP JPA Governance Council will be held on Friday, May 9, 2025, at 10:00 am., at the Desert Mountain Educational Service Center, 17800 Highway 18, Apple Valley, CA 92307.

Individuals requiring special accommodation(s) for disabilities are requested to contact Cindy Quan at (760) 955-3555, at least seven days prior to the date of this meeting.