

**DESERT MOUNTAIN CHARTER SELPA STEERING and FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**

*February 20, 2025 – 9:00 a.m.*

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

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**MINUTES**

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**DESERT MOUNTAIN CHARTER SELPA MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Alliance STEAM – Dr. Callie Moreno, ASA Charter Schools – Anthony Lucey via zoom, Aveson Global Academy – Kelly Jung via zoom, Ballington Academy – Shannon Brandner, Desert Trails Preparatory/LaVerne Elementary – Betsy Salguero and Anais Guerra, Julia Lee Performing Arts Academy – Rachel Thomas via zoom, Leonardo da Vinci – Anne Laird via zoom, Options for Youth – Georganne Kirkwood, Pathways to College – James Connell, Southern California Flex Academy – Heather Myrdahl via zoom, Taylion High Desert Academy – Karen Ware

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

**CAHELP, DM CHARTER SELPA, AND DMCC STAFF PRESENT:**

Pam Bender, Kayla Gewirtz, Linda Llamas, Heidi Chavez, Sheila Parisian, Colette Garland, Deborah Sarkesian, Codi Andersen, Agustina Garcia, Annette Rego, Danielle Côté, Isaac Medina, Iván Campos, Jennifer Rountree, Jennifer Sutton, Linda Rodriguez, Lisa Nash, Misty Ubina, Miya Narvaiz-Ward, Rory Hazen, Veronica Rousseau

**1.0 CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the California Association of Health and Education Linked Professions, Joint Powers Authority (CAHELP, JPA) Desert Mountain Charter SELPA Steering and Finance Committee Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Pam Bender at 9:10 a.m., at the Desert Mountain Educational Service Center, Apple Valley CA.

**2.0 ROLL CALL**

**3.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no public participation.

**4.0 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

4.1 **BE IT RESOLVED** that a motion was made by Karen Ware, seconded by Callie Moreno, to approve the February 20, 2025, Desert Mountain Charter SELPA Steering and Finance Committee Meeting Agenda as presented. The motion carried on the following vote: 11:0:0. Ayes: Dr. Callie Moreno, Anthony Lucey, Kelly Jung, Shannon Brandner, Anais Guerra, Rachel Thomas, Anne Laird, Georganne Kirkwood, James Connell, Heather Myrdahl, and Karen Ware. Nays: None. Abstentions: None.

**5.0 CONSENT ITEMS**

It is recommended that the Desert Mountain Charter SELPA Steering and Finance Committee 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 Committee Member at the meeting for clarification, discussion, or change.

5.1 **BE IT RESOLVED** that a motion was made by James Connell, seconded by Callie Moreno, to approve the following Consent Item as presented. The motion carried on the following vote: 11:0:0.

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Ayes: Dr. Callie Moreno, Anthony Lucey, Kelly Jung, Shannon Brandner, Anais Guerra, Rachel Thomas, Anne Laird, Georganne Kirkwood, James Connell, Heather Myrdahl, and Karen Ware  
Nays: None. Abstentions: None.

5.1.1 January 16, 2025, Desert Mountain SELPA Steering and Finance Committee Meeting Minutes.

### **6.0 FINANCIAL COMMITTEE ITEMS**

6.1 2024-25 2<sup>nd</sup> Interim Projections with Prior Year Comparisons

The ending balance this year is \$2,260,919 compared to the 2023-24 ending balance of \$3,032,895. Low Incidence expenditures is more than the revenue this year. The 2025-26 Fiscal Year is due February 21, 2025. Kayla will provide information on March 20, 2025.

6.2 2024 Fall Pupil Count

The grand total is 1,135. P1 Certified will be posted at the end of February. A revised AB602 projections will be sent to Charters.

### **7.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND STAFF REPORTS**

7.1 Budget Process

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 enacts

7.2 Legislative Updates

Federal Education Platform:

- End teacher tenure, adopt merit pay, allow various publicly supported educational models
- Universal school choice in every state
- Emphasize education to prepare students for great jobs and careers, supporting project-based learning and schools that offer meaningful work experience

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- Overhauling standards on school discipline, advocating for immediate suspension of violent students, and support hardening schools to help keep violence away.
- Restore parental rights in education, and enforce our Civil Rights Laws to stop schools from discriminating on the basis of race
- Defund schools that engage in inappropriate political indoctrination of children
- Support schools that teach America’s founding principles and western civilization
- Champion the First Amendment right to pray and read the bible in school
- Close the Department of Education

### Federal Legislation:

- S. 5384 (Rounds) Returning education to our states has been read twice and has been referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. It would look at all functions, programs, and authorities of education under IDEA and would transfer to the Department of Health and Human Services.
- H.R. 899 (Massie) To terminate the Department of Education has been referred to the House Committee on Education and Workforce.

### California Legislation:

- SB48 (Gonzalez) Immigration Enforcement for school sites to prohibit access on sharing information and law enforcement collaboration.
- SB98 (Perez) Elementary, secondary, and post-secondary education regarding immigration enforcement and notification. There has to be a Federal injunction paperwork provided to schools in order for them to come on campuses.
- AB49 (Muratsuchi) School sites and day care centers having entry requirements and immigration enforcement.
- SB64 (Grove) Education expenses with School Choice Flex Account Act of 2025 where funds going to private schools for educating students with disabilities instead of SELPAs.
- AB277 (Alanis) Autism Behavioral Technician Certification looking to establish a certification process for behavioral technicians to include qualified autism support service providers. Also requires a criminal background check.
- AB322 (Ward) Pupil Health School-Based Health Services and School-Based Mental Health Services where the current law requires encouraging and assisting school districts to improve and monitor the health of their pupils and school districts.

### State SELPA Sponsored Bills:

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- 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.”

### 7.3 Charter School Risk Pool Flow Chart

- Level 1 – 5% of Special Education funds go in the SELPA Risk Pool; need to have 3% or more in reserves; Risk Pool annual not to exceed \$25,000; consistent attendance at Steering and Finance meetings.
- Level 2 – 6% of Special Education funds go in the SELPA Risk Pool, typically 1<sup>st</sup> year member with less than 3% in reserves. Due Process annual costs are between \$25,000 and \$35,000; noncompliant with compliance timelines; inconsistent attendance at the Charter Executive Council meetings and Steering and Finance Committee meetings.
- Level 3 – 7% of Special Education funds would go in the SELPA Risk Pool. Continued financial instability below 3% of reserves and in year 2 or more. Risk pool annual due process costs are between \$35,000 and \$45,000; continued noncompliance with compliance timelines; inconsistent attendance at Charter Executive Council meetings and Steering and Finance Committee meetings.
- Level 4 – 8% of Special Education funds would go in the SELPA Risk Pool. No Charter is at this level right now. At this level, we would be looking at whether this is the right place for a Charter. A notice of intent to disenroll from Desert Mountain Charter SELPA the following year may be considered. 365 days (one year) plus one day notice is required.

This will be shared at the next Executive Council meeting

### 7.4 Credentials Bridge Authorization Update

There were 4 mild, moderate, and extensive support needs trainings and 1 early childhood training. There were a total of 10 participants from Aveson and Southern California Flex Academy out of the 85 participants overall.

Charters were asked to inform those invited to take the training not to share the zoom link or flyer and to remind them that this is a bridge to their base credential not a bridge to cross their credential and get a new credential.

Directors were encouraged to speak with their Human Resource Departments to make sure they have met with Heidi to discuss and understand the process. They can reach out to Heidi to schedule a meeting.

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Once an individual completes the training, form CL904 is completed and signed by Pam. It is then given to the Charters Human Resource Department. 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.

### 7.5 Desert Mountain Children’s Center Client Services Reports and Updates

Charters receiving DMCC services will have client service and referral reports sent via encrypted email by Keri Downing to the Charter point of contact. For any questions about these reports, contact Linda Llamas at [Linda.Llamas@cahelp.org](mailto:Linda.Llamas@cahelp.org).

A review of the article Natural Disasters Effect on Youth was provided. The frequency and duration of natural disasters is increasing significantly, having a profound effect on our youth. Exposure to wildfire smoke can cause respiratory issues, weaken immune systems, and even affects cognitive function. Emotional health also significantly affects youth facing increased risk of anxiety, depression, PTSD, and behavioral changes. There are long-lasting effects. As a school community, we can help by providing safe spaces, maintaining routines, and offering emotional support. We can help students regain their stability and resilience. Small actions like checking in with the struggling students, offering flexibility, and simply being a reassuring presence.

A chart of DMCC Programs and Services offered was reviewed. Referrals are based on age and then are filtered by appropriate programs.

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.

Flyers of Kaiser Permanente free resources were shared.

- Empathy Quest: Grades 3-5; Mental Health Resilience Program
- Ghosted: Grades 8-10, Using storytelling to teach students that getting help for mental health challenges is normal and healthy.

### 7.6 [Professional Learning Opportunities](#)

In January, 27 participants attended a training/workshop, 25 attended on-sites, and 2 participated in regional trainings. For the year, 402 participated in trainings, with 271 attending on-sites and 131 attending regional trainings to date.

Michelle Brown will be presenting “Compliance and Data Leading Through an Equity Lens” at the Director’s Training tomorrow, February 21, 2025, from 12:00 pm to 2:00pm.

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Ernest Bell from AALRR will be presenting “Special Education Legal Updates” on April 18, 2024. It will be provided in-person and virtually.

The Community Advisory Committee meeting led by Lindsey Yslas will be held this evening, February 20, 2025, from 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm. Participants are asked to register individually to assist with attendance.

### 7.7 Resolution Support Services Summary and Update

There was one filing for the month of January.

There were 17 ADR requests, 4 of which were duplicative meaning that the IEP continued as a part 2 or part 3. The Program Specialist were commended for their work with Charters to resolve these issues. The reporting issues were as follows:

- Resolutions Reached
  - Review Assessments
  - IEP Disagreement
  - Failure to implement services
  - Communication failure
  - Request changes to IEP
  - Disagree with Assessments
  - Transportation Issues
  - LRE: Class Placement
  - Bullying
- Resolutions Not Reached
  - DNQ
  - Advocate Present

Parents have initiated 9 ADR services and LEAs initiated 2. Previously LEA’s initiated ADR more often than parents.

The ADR brochure was shared.

Charters were encouraged to create a systemic approach and practice.

- Staff are proactive in identifying and responding timely to parents’ concerns
  - A system is used for identifying Unsigned IEPs and addressing parent concerns and

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requests

- A protocol is in place for reaching out to parents and resolving conflict at the lowest level of leadership
  - Case-Carrier
  - Site Administrator
  - District administrator
- Professional Learning Pathways or Individual Training – ADR
  - IEP Forms & Facts (SEIS)
  - Collaborative IEP: Aligning the Sun, the Moon, and the Stars
  - The Art of Facilitating IEP Meetings
  - Meaningful Parent Participation
  - Legally Compliant IEP Notetaking (Request)

When CDE performed record reviews, one of the compliance issues found was the lack of a General Education teachers attending IEPs. A reminder was provided for IEP teams to complete and acquire parent signature on the Excusal of IEP Team Member form (D/M64), specifically when a General Education Teacher has been excused from attending an IEP. A verbal consent is not enough especially when talking about placement.

Further discussion regarding providers who do not have general education teachers took place.

### 7.8 Compliance Update

The Annual determination letters were sent February 3, 2025.

CDE Monitoring Roadshows are coming up. On March 5, 2025, a virtual option is available. A room at DMESC has been reserved for those who would like to join virtually. East Valley added one on April 8, 2025, from 9:00 am to 11:00 pm.

Compliance and Improvement Monitoring Process – Progress Report #3 is due July 10, 2025.

Targeted Progress Report #3 reporting period: January 1, 2025 – June 30, 2025, is due July 10, 2025.

The Intensive Progress Report #5 reporting period: January 1, 2025 – March 30, 2025, is due on April 10, 2025.

Cyclical Monitoring for Small LEAs Cycle B activities is due February 28, 2025.

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7.9 California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS) Update

Has been completed and certified.

7.10 Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP) Update

What we had was submitted. A reminder to continue checking for video trainings and creating DRDP accounts was provided.

7.11 Special Education Information System (SEIS) Update

February 21, 2025, is the SEIS Training for Directors.

Follow up on unaffirmed and unsigned IEPs. SEIS Open Forum and SEIS Trainings are available.

7.12 Prevention and Intervention (P&I) Updates

From July to November, 79 hours were spent coaching participating LEAs and school staff. From November to February, that increased to 139 hours for a total of 219 hours spent coaching participating LEAs and school staff. Total training hours dropped from 106 during the beginning of the year to 84 hours from November to February. The Prevention and Intervention team is not here to just facilitate training, but are also here to coach, help with action planning and making sure that your MTSS systems are in place and are working to fidelity. If tier 1 is solid, tiers 2 and 3 are not going to overload the system.

We also collaborate with our Program Specialists to make sure that we provide the best services to LEAs and schools.

7.13 Occupational and Physical Therapy Services Reports and Updates

A reminder was provided regarding DM SELPA Occupational Therapists and Physical Therapists.

- Cannot provide OI services
- Are licensed medical professionals
- Are not educators and do not have credentials
- Do not have SEID numbers

OI is now a component for all three Bridge Credentialing.

The next PT Professional Learning Collaboration is January 21, 2025, from 2:30 to 4:00 pm. The next OT Professional Learning Collaborative is May 3, 2025, from 2:30 to 4:00 pm.

## **8.0 INFORMATION / ACTION ITEMS**

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### 8.1 Follow up to Dyslexia Screening

How to adopt a risk screener and the implementation steps was shared. Charters were encouraged to take this information back to Student Services as it is required for all students.

### 8.2 Upcoming Trainings

Trainings in the meeting materials were shared. Other training flyers will be emails to this body.

## **9.0 STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS' COMMENTS / REPORTS**

Callie Moreno appreciates the support of SELPA, specifically Veronica Rousseau for her quick responses to emails answering all her questions and providing input.

Callie Moreno represents Allegiance STEAM for Chino and Fontana.

## **10.0 CEO COMMENTS**

Thank you to all of our Program Specialists who are constantly in contact with our Charters. Pam appreciates all the work being done with all Charter members, especially for Charters who are not in our area recognizing that those challenges.

For those attending virtually, Cindy is sending the zoom link right away. We are sending it out before the agenda is emailed. Hopefully this will help with the issues we have been having.

We are looking at emergency circumstances as well for those who are affected by the fires. If you do not have a public place to go, or a public place to be able to host it, we can look at emergency procedures per Brown Act to cover during these fire stages.

## **11.0 MATTERS BROUGHT BY THE PUBLIC**

There were no matters brought by the public.

## **12.0 ADJOURNMENT**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that a motion was made by Callie Moreno, seconded by James Connell to adjourn the Desert Mountain Charter SELPA Steering and Finance Committee Meeting at 10:33 am. The motion carried on the following vote: 11:0:0. Ayes: Dr. Callie Moreno, Anthony Lucey, Kelly Jung, Shannon Brandner, Anais Guerra, Rachel Thomas, Anne Laird, Georganne Kirkwood, James Connell, Heather Myrdahl, Karen Ware. Nays: None. Abstentions: None

The next regular meeting of the Desert Mountain Charter SELPA Steering Committee will be held on Thursday, March 20, 2024, at 9:00 a.m., at the Desert Mountain Educational Service Center, 17800 Highway 18, Apple Valley, CA 92307.

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*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.*