

DESERT MOUNTAIN CHARTER SELPA STEERING and FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

April 17, 2025 – 9:00 a.m.

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

MINUTES

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, Julia Lee Performing Arts Academy – Rachel Thomas via zoom, Leonardo da Vinci – Anne Laird via zoom, Pathways to College – James Connell, Southern California Flex Academy – Malia Lovell, 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, Dr. Peggy Dunn, Colette Garland, Deborah Sarkesian, Codi Andersen, Angela Mgbeke, Daisie Lambert, Danielle Côté, Guille Robles-Burgos, Isaac Medina, Iván Campos, Jennifer Sutton, Dr. Karina Quezada, Linda Rodriguez, Lisa Nash, Misty Ubina, 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 9:07 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 James Connell, seconded by Dr. Callie Moreno, to approve the April 17, 2025, Desert Mountain Charter SELPA Steering and Finance Committee Meeting Agenda as presented. The motion carried on the following vote: 8:0:0. Ayes: Dr. Callie Moreno, Anthony Lucey, Kelly Jung, Rachel Thomas, Anne Laird, James Connell, Malia Lovell, 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 Karen Ware, seconded by James Connell, to approve the following Consent Items as presented. The motion carried on the following vote: 8:0:0. Ayes: Dr.

Callie Moreno, Anthony Lucey, Kelly Jung, Rachel Thomas, Anne Laird, James Connell, Malia

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Lovell, and Karen Ware. Nays: None. Abstentions: None.

5.1.1 March 20, 2025, Desert Mountain Charter SELPA Steering and Finance Committee Meeting Minutes.

5.1.2 The Desert Mountain Charter SELPA Policies Chapter 3 Instructional Planning and the IEP

5.1.3 Review and Approve the 2025-2026 Meeting Calendar

6.0 FINANCIAL COMMITTEE ITEMS

6.1 2025-26 Proposed Budget

The proposed ending balance is approximately \$100,000 more than the current estimated ending balance.

6.2 2024-25 Federal IDEA (3310)

The 2024-25 grant awarded amount for LEAs was shared. The transfer of funds for 2023-24 reporting periods 1 through 4 will be distributed by county soon. If these federal funds are used for staff, it must be documented. Kayla Gewirtz and Sam Barker will be in contact with LEA fiscal contacts.

7.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND STAFF REPORTS

7.1 Legislative Update

- AB606 (Quirk-Silva) This bill is looking at alternative measures for those with out-of-state credentials with a specialization in pupil personnel services. The credential would be valid for 2 years and be eligible for renewal.
- AB1224 (Valencia) Teacher credentialing; substitute teachers; days of service. Having 60-day teacher substitutes instead of 30-days. State SELPA and the California Association and the Superintendents are supporting it.
- AB1009 (BLANCA Rubio) Teacher credentialing: administrative services credentials for Occupational Therapists (OT) and Physical Therapists (PT). Basic skills requirements and 3 years of experience as a school-based OT or PT. Discussion took place regarding the difference with CCTC requirement for credentials staff to have 5 years of experience before moving towards an administrative credential.
- AJR-7 (Addis) Special Education Funding: Protection. This bill makes sure that the US Congress opposes any reductions to funding that would negatively impact educational services for students with disabilities. It calls on the President of the United States and Congress to ensure that services and funding for students with disabilities remain uninterrupted.

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- HR2333 (Mannion) “Protecting Students with Disabilities Act.” This protects students with disabilities by prohibiting the use of appropriated funds to eliminate, consolidate, or otherwise restructure any office in the Department of Education that administers or enforces programs under the individuals with Disabilities Act.
- HR2598 (Huffman & Van Hollen) Bicameral IDEA Full Funding Act. Pushes for full funding of IDEA.
- AB560 (Addis) Special Education: caseload limits: pupil-to-teacher ratios: Special Education Teams. It would create a “Special Education Team” at each school site to meet weekly. It would reduce caseloads as follows:
 - RSP – 20
 - SLP – 15 (0-3), 25 (3-5), 40 (TK-12)
Currently it is an average of 55 SELPA wide; this would be per provider.
 - APE - 45
 - Hearing Itinerant – 12
 - Orientation and Mobility – 12
 - Inclusion Specialists – 10
 - Psychological Services – 22 (counseling), 45 (assessment)

Pupil-to-credentialed-teacher class size ratios:

- Special classes serving pupils younger than five years of age:
 - Intensive, 6:1
 - Non-intensive, 10:1
- Special classes serving pupils 5-22 years of age, inclusive:
 - Autism or emotionally disturbed, 6:1
 - Moderate-sever, 8:1
 - Mild-moderate, 10:1
 - Blended, 12:1

For low incidence:

- For deaf and blind, 6:1
- For hard of hearing or deaf, 8:1
- For low vision and blind, 8:1
- For orthopedically challenged, 8:1

Legislation is going forward for hearing on April 30, 2025, at 1:30 pm. Pam will be attending and encouraged others to attend as well.

7.2 Credentials Bridge Authorization Update

A total of 11 Charter SELPA participants and 108 DM SELPA participants have gone through the Credentials Bridge Authorization.

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7.3 Desert Mountain Children’s Center Client Services Reports and Updates

Charters receiving DMCC services have had client service and referral reports sent to the Charter’s point of contact via encrypted email from Keri Downing. For any questions about these reports, contact Linda Llamas at Linda.Llamas@cahelp.org.

A review of Mental Health article “Moving from Autism Awareness to Acceptance,” was provided. Autism Awareness Month is evolving into Autism Acceptance Month. Early diagnosis and intervention, especially between ages 2-5, can significantly improve outcomes for children with Autism. Acceptance means challenging stereotypes. [Mental Health Articles](#) are available on the DMCC website.

7.4 [Professional Learning Opportunities](#)

In March 31 participated in regional trainings. For the year, 480 participated in training courses, with 293 attending on-sites and 187 attending regional trainings to date. 55% have attended a behavioral support training.

The Directors completed a 5-minute Directors’ Training Survey to assist with the planning of the 2025-26 meetings. The survey was sent out via email. The last Directors’ training course for the year is tomorrow, April 18, 2025.

The last Community Advisory Committee meeting for the year is tonight, April 17, 2025, from 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm. Participants are asked to register individually to assist with attendance. Next week, an email template for the CAC family survey will be provided to Charters with a link to the survey. Charters are asked to send the survey out to their special education families to prepare for next year’s meetings.

Professional Learning Collaborative meetings that took place this year were organized for directors to come together and share ideas with each other. Next year, Charter directors are invited to bring staff members to Professional Learning Collaborative meetings. For those who are further out, a virtual option will be available. One-on-one meetings will still be available as well.

7.5 Resolution Support Services Summary and Update

There have been 7 filings for the year. There have been 52 Alternative Dispute Resolutions with 27 initiated by the LEA and 25 initiated by parents.

Issues and concerns when submitted:

- Implementation of IEP (12)
- Assessment (6)
- Communication/collaboration Breakdown (8)
- Advocate or Parent Disruption (11)
- LRE/Placement (7)

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- FAPE (3)
- Placement Type/Transitions (4)
- Other (2)

ADR SELPA Support

- Other (8)
- SELPA Facilitated IEP (25)
- LEA Facilitated IEP (SELPA Support) (7)
- Coaching Session (11)

7.6 Compliance Update

The Target Progress Report #3 for the reporting period January 1, 2025-June 30, 2025, is due July 10, 2025.

IEP Implementation Data Collection is only applicable to those who are in cycle B. The Federal government mandates CDE to monitor and ensure that all LEAs are implementing IEPs with fidelity and making sure students are receiving services as prescribed in their IEP. It is a concern when a large number of students fall below the 90% mark of receiving services on their IEPs.

- Data Range for IEP Review: March 3 – April 30, 2025
- Data Collection Window: May 1 – June 30, 2025
- Data Collection Final Due Date: June 30, 2025

7.7 California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS) Update

Charters were reminded to review data with SEIS administrators. If an IEP is going to be overdue, let Colette know so a pending record can be submitted with a delay reason.

7.8 Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP) Update

Rating results go into SEIS as that is where the information is pulled from. Charter staff administering DRDP are required to go through the training. Colette and Pam receive a list of those who attend a training.

7.9 Special Education Information System (SEIS) Update

The next SEIS Training is on April 25, 2025, 12:00 – 4:00 pm. One-on-one check-ins are available. The year end meeting will take place in May.

At the CALPADS Roadshow, there was discussion on using the word “affirm” when parents do not sign the IEP. There were conversations about other words service providers can use.

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7.10 Career Technical Education (CTE) Updates

The California Transition Alliance training “Your Future, Your Way!” for any Workability or TPP staff takes place September 30 – October 1, 2025, in Sacramento.

7.11 Prevention and Intervention (P&I) Updates

The Maximizing PBIS Implementation: A Guide to the Tiered Fidelity Inventory (TFI) training is on April 28, 2025, from 1:00 – 3:00 pm. The Fundamentals of Restorative Practices training takes place on April 29-30, 2025, from 8:00 am – 12:00 pm.

The P&I team is currently going to schools facilitating the TFI for the California PBIS recognition process. The California PBIS Recognition window closes May 9, 2025.

A brief from the National Center of PBIS and its strategies for de-escalating student behavior in the classroom was shared. It provides an overview of self-regulation and escalation. It highlights class-wide interventions specifically designed to prevent low level challenging behaviors from escalating, sharing strategies educators can use to respond to and verbally de-escalate more intense student behaviors.

7.12 Occupational and Physical Therapy Services Reports and Updates

Referrals consist of forms DM120A, DM66, DM63, IEP or addendum, Psycho-educational evaluation, and any additional supporting information. On occasion, form DM63 and the Authorization for Use and/or Disclosure of Information is received with the parents’ signature, but the top portion districts should complete is blank. The form DM120 drives the 60-day timeline start.

DM63 – Authorization for Use and/or Disclosure of Information

- Required for Initial and Transfer Referrals
- All blanks are completed
- All applicable boxes are checked
- Informed consent is fundamental under FERPA & IDEA
- District = Custodian of Records = Disclosing Party

Please contact Codi Andersen with any questions regarding services or reports. Codi and Tasha can assist with showing the referral process to those handling them in the district.

8.0 STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS’ COMMENTS / REPORTS

There were no comments or reports from Steering Committee members.

9.0 CEO COMMENTS

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We were able to renegotiate a contract with LLRP for the Special Education Connection. That will be available soon.

The 2025-26 Local Plan consisting of Section D (Annual Budget Plan), and Section E (Annual Service Plan), is being worked on. The Local Plan Section D and Section E will go to Governance on May 9, 2025, for approval. It will be sent to Superintendents and CEOs 15 days before the May 9th meeting with a Public Hearing notification to post. CAC does not have to approve it this year; they approve it every 3 years.

The Charter Executive Council has not had a quorum for over a year. Pam will be setting up meetings with Charter Superintendents/CEOs to discuss the roles and responsibilities of being a part of the Charter SELPA. There is a monetary impact on Charters for not attending meetings.

Autism Month: Autism Awareness quote “*Autism Awareness is when you know who I am. Autism Acceptance is when you’re glad to see me*” by Kaelyn Partlow.

10.0 MATTERS BROUGHT BY THE PUBLIC

There were no matters brought by the public.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT

BE IT RESOLVED that a motion was made by James Connell, seconded by Dr. Callie Moreno to adjourn the Desert Mountain Charter SELPA Steering and Finance Committee Meeting at 10:11 am. The motion carried on the following vote: 8:0:0. Ayes: Dr. Callie Moreno, Anthony Lucey, Kelly Jung, Rachel Thomas, Anne Laird, James Connell, Malia Lovell, and Karen Ware. Nays: None. Abstentions: None.

The next regular meeting of the Desert Mountain Charter SELPA Steering Committee will be held on Thursday, May 15, 2025, at 9:00 a.m., 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.