

MINUTES

Thursday, August 15, 2024 – 9:00 a.m.

DESERT MOUNTAIN SELPA MEMBERS PRESENT

Allegiance STEAM Academy – Jacque Williams, ASA Charter School – Anthony Lucey via Zoom, Aveson Global Academy/School of Leaders – Kelly Jung via Zoom, Ballington Academy – Doreen Mulz, Desert Trails Preparatory/LaVerne Elementary – Anais Guerra, Encore Jr/Sr High – Dr. Guillermo Muñoz and Amy Gonzales, Leonardo da Vinci Health Sciences Charter – Anne Laird via Zoom, Options for Youth – Georganne Kirkwood, Pathways to College – James Connell, Southern California Flex Academy – Malia Lovell, Taylion High Desert – Karen Ware.

CAHELP, DM SELPA, AND DMCC STAFF PRESENT

Pam Bender, Dr. Codi Andersen, Guille Robles-Burgos, Iván Campos, Heidi Chavez, Dr. Peggy Dunn, Marina Gallegos, Kayla Gewirtz, Colette Garland, Maurica Manibusan, Isaac Medina, Miya Narvaiz-Ward, Lisa Nash, Sheila Parisian, Dr. Karina Quezada, Annette Rego, Linda Rodriguez, Jennifer Rountree, Veronica Rousseau, Deborah Sarkesian, Jessica Soto, Misty Ubina, Cindy Quan.

1. 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 9:01 a.m., at the Desert Mountain Educational Service Center, Apple Valley CA.

2. ROLL CALL

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

4. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

- 4.1 **BE IT RESOLVED** that a motion was made by Malia Lovell, seconded by James Connell, to approve the May 16, 2024, Desert Mountain Charter SELPA Steering and Finance Committee Meeting Agenda as presented. The motion carried on the following vote: 10:0:0: Ayes: Jacque Williams, Anthony Lucey, Kelly Jung, Doreen Mulz, Anais Guerra, Anne Laird, Georganne Kirkwood, James Connell, Malia Lovell, and Karen Ware. Nays: None. Abstentions: None.

5. CONSENT ITEMS

It is recommended that the 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 for clarification, discussion, or change.

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- 5.1 **BE IT RESOLVED** that a motion was made by Malia Lovell, seconded by James Connell, to approve the following Consent Item as presented. The motion carried on the following vote: 10:0:0: Ayes: Jacque Williams, Anthony Lucey, Kelly Jung, Doreen Mulz, Anais Guerra, Anne Laird, Georganne Kirkwood, James Connell, Malia Lovell, and Karen Ware. Nays: None. Abstentions: None.

5.1.1 May 16, 2024, Desert Mountain Charter SELPA Steering and Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

Note: Amy Gonzales joined at 9:10 a.m.

6. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND STAFF REPORTS

6.1 Legislative Update

Pam Bender provided several legislative updates included in the meeting materials.

AB2173 (Addis) approval of removing emotional disturbance and replacing it with emotional disability.

AB2268 (Murtsuchi), exempt children enrolled in transitional kindergarten from being assessed with the ELPAC.

438 (Rubio) Pupils with exceptional needs: postsecondary goals and transition services ordered to a third reading in the Senate.

SB445 (Portantino) IEP Translations: complete within thirty days. Could cause a fiscal issue when having to hire more staff to comply. It may end up in a suspense file. It was re-referred to the Commission on Appropriations.

Legislative calendar reviewed.

6.2 Alternate Pathway Diploma AB181

Pam Bender shared that CAHELP has a committee working on this. Victor Valley Union High School District has taken it to their board and received approval. We will ask VVUHSD to do a workshop for us.

6.3 Credentials Bridge Authorization

Heidi Chavez shared that we are putting together three-hour virtual trainings at no cost for bridging special education credentials. We will meet with credential specialists from each charter. Teacher must have a clear credential including the autism authorization prior to taking the bridge credentialing training. Some superintendents are willing to pay the \$100 credentialing fee. To participate, participants must have their cameras on and be engaged. If participants are not on camera and are not participating, the districts Human Resources Department will be notified, and they will have to take the training again. Pam Bender is signing off on their readiness with this new credential. Teachers have asked if they can, as a moderate to severe teacher, take the mild/moderate needs. The answer is no, this is credential for credential. The trainings blend as the mild/moderate support needs and the extensive support needs are very similar, but they can only bridge their current credential category.

Shannon Brandner asked if there was a year where credentials were issued that met all these requirements; Is this just previous credentials that need this bridge or is it across the board? Heidi responded saying that the new credentials coming out now are going to meet the requirements. Heidi Chavez shared that there are steps to go through. Teachers apply and submit the new authorization, type in or click on educational specialist and select type of bridge authorization.

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Anne Laird asked if this is going to be a mandated requirement. Heidi answered stating it is not currently mandated. It comes into play with your needs at your school sites. Those with the credential will be able to work with more populations of students in those categories. It expands which students teachers can serve. There will be an early childhood training and then the mild/moderate and moderate/severe presented together. Teachers with both credentials only have to take the training once. There are two CTC fees because it is two separate credentials. Pam Bender shared that it would go to the Executive Council and Governance for approval, it is up to each LEA on how to work through this. We are offering training and support so your staff can take advantage of that. There are times when you have a student with OI and you need an OI specialist. That can be very challenging. This bridge to the new credential expands who can provide services to that student which will be helpful during an audit to not have the correct credential working with the student.

Malia Lovell shared that the early childhood bridge is going to allow them to do work with the TK. Bridging over is going to allow them to be able to have flexibility in those traditional PKK classes. Pam Bender will bring additional information next month as we solidify items.

Note: Dr. Guillermo Muñoz joined at 9:30 a.m.

6.4 State SELPA Update

Pam Bender spoke about the statewide IEP. There are a variety of stakeholders that include parents, state agencies, different organizations, and associations, representatives from public and higher education. The overall goal for this workgroup is to ensure appropriate IEP goals and the IEP development is collaborative, team oriented, student based, asset based, inclusion oriented and outcome driven. They have proposed having an administrative data sheet housing the required data collection for the state reporting and monitoring. Pam shared her vision that those items go up to CALPADS will all come from one specific area on the IEP, so if there are errors of concerns, it should all be from this data page. Legal counsel is reviewing for compliance aspects, and defensibility. The committee has proposed piloting this new IEP with at least two LEAs, possibly in 2025-2026.

Pam Bender shared information on statewide ADR data indicating 80% of cases have been resolved before filing for due process.

Pam Bender discussed the SB154 Alternate Diploma not to be confused with the Alternative Pathway. Work group through West End is trying to complete it by 2025. Goal is to provide resources used with students with disabilities so they can achieve a regular diploma within the general education programs and classes. This is looking at inclusive access to the diploma and reimagining proficiency for students with disabilities. Many students with disabilities do not end up getting a high school diploma.

Kelly Jung asked if the alternate diploma pathway went into effect already; students that were in 9th grade in 2022-23 were eligible for it. Pam confirmed. Kelly also asked if students can still be eligible to stay in school until they are 22 and do an adult transition program.

Pam Bender shared IEP implementation and Restraint and Seclusion data will now be in the annual LEA monitoring.

6.5 SEIS Update

Colette Garland welcomed Ballington San Bernardino and Options for Youth. She shared that most of the pupil count End of Year three and four finished early and met the deadline of tomorrow,

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August 16, 2024. CALPADS sent an email yesterday, August 14, 2024, with the defect on error 0620. SEIS update webinars have taken place with information on the SEIS dashboard. The PowerPoint was sent out yesterday; it will be recorded and will be posted on the training manual section of SEIS. We have our 3-hour SEIS training virtually and Open Forum twice a month that can be found on your dashboard underneath the calendar. The SEIS Admin. Meeting will be September 10th in person from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. SEIS Translator's meeting will be virtual on August 27th from 9:00 to 11:00 am. EOY 3 and 4 are coming to a close. Pam Bender shared that the SEIS conference is going to be in Anaheim in November.

6.6 CALPADS Support

Colette Garland has been working with Charter CALPADS staff to ensure all data is submitted correctly.

Pam Bender added that the email regarding the defect went out to the whole state.

6.7 Desert Mountain Children's Center Client Services Reports and Update

Guille Robles-Burgos shared DMCC services report was provided to your point of contact. It will be a referral report via encrypted email. For questions, please contact Linda Llamas. Guille discussed the article "Status of Teacher's Mental Health" that is in the meeting materials.

6.8 Professional Learning Update

Heidi Chavez discussed the summary of professional development highlighting the growth of participants at trainings this year. For the year there was a total of 936 participants and the previous year there were only 588. She also reviewed the upcoming Special Education Directors' Trainings: October 18th, attorney Lauri Arrowsmith from Lozano Smith will be presenting on ERMHS; February 21st will be around compliance and data leading through an equity lens; April 18th, E.B. Bell from AALRR will present on special education and legal updates.

Community Advisory Committee will be held virtually. The representative meeting is from 4:30 to 5:00 pm. The training/presentation portion is from 5:00 to 6:00 pm. September 19th is on inclusion; November 14th is on Distressing Behaviors at Home; February 20th is Your Child's Well Being the Whole Child; April 17th is around the importance of social, emotional learning on student well-being to improve academics.

Iván Campos shared information on the following flyers: Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ACC) and the HOLA training for anyone who may be interpreting in an IEP meeting.

6.9 Resolution Support Services Summary and Update

Sheila Parisian shared that Charter SELPA ended the year with five filings. The underlying issues evolve around placement. There were two instances where the Charter School filed on the parent once it was determined to have a legally defensible IEP. She commended Dr. Quezada for one case as there were minimal supports in place, and she researched and visited several nonpublic schools to find one that matched and would accept a student. Sheila discussed the data provided in the meeting materials. Sheila shared if there are concerns with parents not signing IEPs that do have placement, please reach out to SELPA. Feel free to pass out our brochures. We are working to get families to use our website and request facilitated IEP.

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6.10 Compliance Update

Dr. Peggy Dunn asked that everyone be mindful of August 29th to make sure that everyone is IEP compliant. The specific criteria is students who are enrolled on Census Day, which is October 4, 2023, and still enrolled in your LEA February 13, 2024, with late IEPs. She applauded everyone for doing an excellent job to keep up with the IEPs. Keeping up with IEPs is critical to CDE involvement and impacts your annual determination letters. The compliance and improvement monitoring process is continuing with your plans. There are two new LEAs who were identified last year and need to do an initial plan this year. She reviewed the Compliance document in the meeting materials. She highlighted that no DMCS Schools are in Cycle B. They are about to be notified. There will be seven LEAs identified and will go through this process: LaVerne, Leonardo da Vinci, Health Sciences, Mojave River, Oro Grande, Odyssey, and Taylion. The CDE will be putting out their webinar with an overview of the expectations. Peggy will be in contact with each LEA and will disseminate information as it comes. Peggy, Sheila, and your Program Specialist will assist in completing the requirements.

6.11 Prevention and Intervention Update

Deborah Sarkesian introduced herself and elaborated on the trainings offered in the meeting materials. She shared that there are on-sites coming in. Prevention and Intervention is facilitating PBIS, social and emotional learning, and trauma informed practices. The team is excited to be working with Aveson, Pathways to College, and Odyssey this year. The SELPA California PBIS recognition event will be held on September 25th. Last year we had forty-six schools were recognized and this year we have sixty-one schools; these schools represent preschool through high school as well as alternative education programs and county programs. The California PBIS Conference is from October 9th through the 11th in Sacramento. California PBIS is looking for volunteers, which is a way to get teachers to the conference at a discounted price. They also offer a discount to get family members who sit on your PBIS or MTSS site teams to be a part of the conference.

6.12 Occupational and Physical Therapy Services Reports and Update

Dr. Codi Andersen introduced herself and followed up on the memo provided in the meeting materials. The OT/PT team is sponsoring a training on September 20th. An Occupational Therapist who is certified in special education transportation through the National Association of People Transportation will be presenting. The training includes how to transfer students safely, lawfully, and appropriately with special needs, whether they have physical disabilities or behavioral concerns. Codi will reach out to your transportation department. If for any reason you need this in the future, please contact Codi.

Pam Bender added that if districts are contracting for transportation, they can share this information with them. We are willing to have their drivers, and their staff attend the training.

7. FINANCE COMMITTEE ITEMS

7.1 June 2024 SPED Revenue Distributions

Pam Bender announced Marina Gallego's retirement on September 3rd. She introduced Kayla Gewirtz and welcomed her to her first Steering Committee meeting.

Kayla Gewirtz reviewed the 2023-2024 AB602 Certified Funding. She highlighted that our ADA decreased causing our funding to decrease by approximately \$118,000.

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7.2 2024-2025 SPED Revenue Distribution P2 Projection

Kayla Gewirtz reviewed the 2024-2025 SPED Revenue Distribution P2 Projection going through the columns of information. She shared that the information used was from the prior year for pupil count. This will be updated in October so there will be more accurate numbers.

7.3 2023-2024 Minimum Funding Requirements P2

Kayla Gewirtz discussed the 2023-2024 Minimum Funding Requirements P2. She shared that for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, each SELPA shall add a minimum allocated spend funding to all members. She shared the formula to be used to determine this amount and is available to assist Charters in their calculation.

7.4 Federal Mental Health ADA Expenditure Claiming

Kayla Gewirtz reviewed the Federal Mental Health ADA Expenditure Claiming provided in the meeting materials. Information can be found on the CDE website. She went over the Expenditure Report that each LEA is required to complete. Reports 1 and 2 come out in the spring so Charters will not yet have their numbers for those two reports. Report 3 will need to be completed with all three marked.

7.5 June 2024 State Mental Health Advance Apportionment

Kayla Gewirtz reviewed the June 2024 State Mental Health Advance Apportionment in the meeting materials. Some LEAs are not on there as this shows the regional demographics using county code 36. Anyone outside of that county code is not included but can find the information on the CDE website.

7.6 Maintenance of Effort Comparison Year Information

Kayla Gewirtz discussed the Maintenance of Effort Comparison Year Information. She explained that the information provided in the meeting materials is what will be used when filling out the SEMA report in SACS.

8. INFORMATION ITEMS

8.1 Upcoming Professional Learning Opportunities

Heidi Chavez and others have already shared upcoming professional learning opportunities.

8.2 Special Education Connections Subscription

Pam Bender shared that the Special Education Connections subscription is up for renewal. This is a newsletter that goes out through LRP and has a lot of good legal information in it. This is a cost to CAHELP, not the districts. Due to the inaccurate information the company has, the subscription was ended. She will bring back details on what it looks like and the cost. If we renew, the log in information will be provided to our LEAs who can then share it with whoever they want to within their Charter, so it is not just one person who has access to it. Pam Bender will bring that information next month.

9. STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS COMMENTS / REPORTS

None.

California Association of Health and Education Linked Professions,
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Desert Mountain Educational Service Center, 17800 Highway 18, Apple Valley, CA 92307

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10. CEO COMMENTS

Pam Bender introduced Cindy Quan who is Pam’s Administrative Assistant and Kayla Gewirtz who is our Fiscal Program Manager with Marina retiring on September 3rd. CAHELP has been fortunate to have this overlap of services. With Resolution Services, Kathleen Peters has retired and is back down the hill and getting to spend more time with her family. She is working for a small agency, so she has some interaction with students and young adults. She is very happy. We are making a determination on how we are going to fill that position.

Pam Bender shared a quote that she used to have on her screensaver because sometimes she needed her own reminder when she would be sitting in a meeting or a training that she has attended several times and having a hard time staying focused. Or when emails just keep pinging on her computer. The quote by Jim Elliott, “*Wherever you are, be all there.*” On those days, she would challenge herself to learn one new thing. She would like to challenge you when you are in meetings this year or when you have a lot of things coming your way, to learn one new thing and implement one new thing.

Pam Bender provided support to everyone who may have questions or are not clear on what was discussed or provided during the meeting. She encouraged everyone to contact program specialists or program managers with any questions or clarification inquiries. It is okay not to know everything. We are here to support you. Let’s do it together. Looking forward to this year.

11. MATTERS BROUGHT BY THE PUBLIC

None.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Malia Lovell, seconded by Amy Gonzales, to adjourn the meeting at 10:51 am. The motion carried on the following votes: 11:0:0: Ayes: Jacque Williams, Anthony Lucey, Kelly Jung, Doreen Mulz, Anais Guerra, Dr. Guillermo Muñoz, Anne Laird, Georganne Kirkwood, James Connell, Malia Lovell, Karen Ware. Nays: None. Abstentions: None.

The next regular meeting of the Desert Mountain Charter SELPA Steering and Finance Committee will be held on Thursday, September 19, 2024, at 9:00 a.m., at the Desert Mountain Educational Service Center, Aster/Cactus Room, 17800 Highway 18, Apple Valley, CA 92307.

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