

MINUTES

Thursday, September 19, 2024 – 9:00 a.m.

DESERT MOUNTAIN CHARTER SELPA MEMBERS PRESENT

Allegiance STEAM Academy – Jacque Williams, ASA Charter Schools – Anthony Lucy via Zoom, Aveson Global Academy School of Leaders – Kelly Jung via Zoom, Ballington Academy – Shannon Brandner, Desert Trails Preparatory/LaVerne Elementary – Anais Guerra, Encore Jr/Sr High – Dr. Guillermo Muñoz, Leonardo da Vinci Health Sciences Charter – Anne Laird via Zoom, Options for Youth – Christina Leal, Pasadena Rosebud Academy – Shawn Brown via Zoom, Pathways to College – James Connell, Southern California Flex Academy – Malia Lovell, Taylion High Desert Academy – Stephanie Rubalcava.

CAHELP, DM SELPA, AND DMCC STAFF PRESENT

Pam Bender, Annette Rego, Bobbie Taylor, Colette Garland, Deborah Sarkesian, Isaac Medina, Iván Campos, Jennifer Rountree, Jennifer Sutton, Karina Quezada, Kayla Gerwartz, Linda Llamas, Linda Rodriguez, Maurica Manibusan, Misty Ubina, Miya Narvaiz-Ward, Peggy Dunn, Sheila Parisian, Veronica Rousseau, Yolanda Roman, Cindy Quan.

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

2.0 ROLL CALL

3.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No public comments.

4.0 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

4.1 **BE IT RESOLVED** that a motion was made by Malia Lovell, seconded by James Connell, to approve the September 19, 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, Kelly Jung, Shannon Brandner, Anais Guerra, Dr. Guillermo Muñoz, Christina Leal, Shawn Brown, James Connell, Malia Lovell, Stephanie Rubalcava. 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.

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5.1 **BE IT RESOLVED** that a motion was made by Jacque Williams, seconded by Kelly Jung to approve the following Consent Item as presented. The motion carried on the following vote: 10:0:0. Ayes: Jacque Williams, Kelly Jung, Shannon Brandner, Anais Guerra, Dr. Guillermo Muñoz, Christina Leal, Shawn Brown, James Connell, Malia Lovell, Stephanie Rubalcava. Nays: None. Abstentions: None.

5.1.1 August 15, 2024, Desert Mountain Charter SELPA Steering and Finance Committee Meeting Minutes.

6.0 PRESENTATIONS

6.1 Career Technical Education (CTE)

Bobbie Taylor, Isaac Medina, and Deborah Sarkesian presented on Career Technical Education (CTE). The CTE team introduced themselves individually. There are five programs: CalWORKS Subsidized Employment Program (CSEP), CalWORKS Youth Employment Program (CYEP), Transition Partnership Program (TPP), Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) and WorkAbility I (WAI).

Bobbie Taylor shared that the goal is not only to provide services while in high school but beyond high school. She provided an overview of TPP. A partnership with State Department of Rehabilitation; assists students transitioning from high school into employment opportunities or post-secondary education; supports 23 school sites, 42 classrooms, 275 new referrals each year and serves at least 526 students annually. She discussed the eligibility requirements and workshops provided from October through March.

Isaac Medina provided an overview of the Workability I program. It is funded and administered by CDE; provides pre-employment skills training and work-based learning experiences; focuses on moderate to severe population; clients are dually enrolled into TPP expanding their paid work hours to 100-150 hours. He discussed the eligibility requirements and components of the program.

Isaac Medina provided an overview of the WIOA program. It is funded and administered through San Bernardino County – Workforce Development Department (WDD) and provides services for consumers in Adelanto, Apple Valley, Big Bear, Hesperia, Lucerne Valley, Phelan, Victorville, and Wrightwood. Isaac discussed the eligibility and components of the program.

Isaac Medina provided an overview of the CYEP and CSEP programs which are identical but serve different age groups. CYEP serves ages sixteen to twenty-four and CSEP serves ages twenty-five and older. The CTE program partners with the Workforce Development Department (WDD) and the Transitional Assistance Department (TAD) office. Isaac reviewed the eligibility and components of each. Participants receive 485 hours or six months of paid trainings, whichever comes first.

A video was shown of the Silver Valley High School Bistro where students take orders, receive payment, prep food, and prepare breakfast. The Bistro started as a coffee and desert bar. It has grown every year. The staff is looking forward to having students shop for the items needed on the menu as well as being creative in raising money to grow even more.

9:10 am Anne Laird joined virtually.

9:11 am Chasityflame Price joined virtually.

9:12 am Anthony Lucey and Mika Hall joined virtually.

7.0 FINANCIAL COMMITTEE ITEMS

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7.1 Subsequent Year Tracking Form v3.1

Kayla Gewirtz reviewed the Subsequent Year Tracking Form v3.1 sent out to LEA financial teams. It was due September 15, 2024. Those who have not submitted, please reach out to Kayla. The SEMA and SEMB reports need to be completed and sent to Kayla. If LEA fiscal teams are having issues, Kayla is available to meet in person, by zoom/teams, or by phone.

Pam Bender explained that the reason a variety of different versions were sent out was because CDE has been trying to upgrade and make it easier to fill out, so districts pass MOE. If your financial staff are concerned about passing, let us know and we can work with them.

Jacque Williams, Allegiance STEAM, asked if the Special Education Directors know that they have not turned in their forms. It would be helpful if they did. Kayla can inform the directors. She did send out a reminder yesterday. Jacque would like to know so she can make sure it gets done for both campuses.

8.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND STAFF REPORTS

8.1 Legislative Update

Pam Bender shared that the last day for the governor to sign or veto bills is September 30th. Some will take effect on January 1, 2025, and some will take effect in January of 2026 depending on what was outlined in the bill. The governor has signed in two bills; AB2173 (Addis) replacing the emotional disturbance term with emotional disability; AB2268 (Muratsuchi) ELPAC will not be given to transitional kindergarteners.

Jacque Williams asked if for TK, it was going to be solely based on placement in TK program or their age. Pam believes it is the TK program.

Pam Bender discussed SB445 (Portantino), translation of IEPs in thirty days. It has been rewritten and is on the governor's desk with an implementation of January of 2027. CDE will be responsible for translating that document in the ten most commonly spoken languages across the state. It does not say anything about the timeline or how the information is submitted into the document. CDE needs to have the document available on their website for any charter or public schools to be able to pull those translated documents. This is different than what the bill started out with. It is on the governor's desk. Pam Bender discussed SB483 (Cortese), it is the elimination of prone restraint. It is on the governor's desk.

Pam Bender discussed two-year bill AB438 (Blanco Rubio) the transition language and transition goals. It is on the governor's desk. Having transition services and transition services language in the IEP by the time the student goes into high school (9th grade year), so it is in effect when they turn sixteen. The IEP team can determine if the student would benefit from a postponement of that language in the IEP and appropriately justify the basis of that postponement. Not sure what appropriately justify means from a legal perspective. The fiscal impact of having it in by 9th grade is the training of middle school teachers on how to write transition language services. It is on the governor's desk.

Pam Bender discussed AB1938 (Gallagher) special education, inclusive practices. This bill comes from the deaf community advocacy regarding SB354 and has gone forward to the governor's desk.

Pam Bender discussed AB2725 (Blanco Rubio), OT/PT Administrative Bill has gone to the governor's desk. An opportunity for OT/PT therapists who have at least 3 years of school-based experience will be able to satisfy the respective requirements to enroll in a preliminary services credential program with a specialization in administrative services.

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8.2 Alternate Pathway Diploma

Pam Bender shared that Victor Valley Union High School District has put together a process and procedure for the alternate pathway diploma. The student services staff will present on October 29th at Desert Mountain Educational Service Center (DMESC). Invitations will be sent out.

8.3 Credentials Bridge Authorization Update

Pam Bender shared that the SELPA would present a process to the Governance Board on November 1st. If approved, SELPA will meet with Charter HR departments, so they know what to look for. In-person and virtual trainings will be provided to those identified in each Charter to bridge their credentials. They must have a cleared credential including the autism authorization.

8.4 Desert Mountain Children's Center (DMCC) Client Services Reports and Update

Linda Llamas shared that if a Charter receives DMCC services, the district point of contact receives the client services report and client referral report by encrypted email from Keri Downing. For questions about either report, please reach out to Linda to go through the explanation of those reports. If there are any changes on the client services report, like a child moves out of your charter to another school, please let us know, so we can make sure to move that child off your list.

Linda Llamas discussed awards and extensions received on contracts with San Bernardino Department of Behavioral Health. DMCC successfully awarded contracts in two programs, EIIS and SART serving 0- to 9-year-old population with a focus on 0 to 5-year-olds. Any child who comes from a hospital can be provided services if it is medically necessary. The award is for approximately four years. DMCC received an extension through March 31, 2025, for the SATS and SAP programs for children ages 6 to 21. The team plans to write for that contract when it comes out. Linda stated that Pam will be sending out a request to charters for a letter of support to submit along with the written contracts. Linda shared information provided in the meeting materials highlighting that 20,762 children were served with a clinical staff of approximately 150 during the last fiscal year. This is a large number but can be seen as needed for the mental health issues that our children are facing these days and helping them continue to work through the effects of the pandemic.

Amy Gonzalez, Encore Jr./Sr. High, asked how the reports are provided. Linda answered stating that the charter contact receives them in an encrypted email.

Jacque Williams, Allegiance STEAM, asked if there was some type of alternative way that students could be served virtually for districts that are far away. She would like to collaborate with DMCC to be able to access these services. Linda replied stating that DMCC can be virtual having telehealth consents and setup.

8.5 [Professional Learning Opportunities](#)

Annette Rego shared that from July through August, 119 staff members have been served through trainings highlighting that behavioral supports is the most popular. She encouraged on-site requests be submitted with a 30-day notice timeline to allow for scheduling and planning. Several regional trainings were shared as well.

Iván Campos shared that the SLP Collaborative Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Essentials Part 1 is designed for SLP, SLP students, and SLP interns. They will learn about the definition of ACC, low-tech, mid-tech, and high-tech types of supports, human rights for students in terms of communication, and identifying myths.

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8.6 Resolution Support Services Summary and Update

Sheila Parisian reviewed the Resolution Supports Services Summary provided in the meeting materials.

8.7 Compliance Update

Dr. Peggy Dunn reviewed the Compliance information provided in the meeting materials. Those who have completed CIM plans will be updating those plans. January 10th will be the second progress report. Seven are identified for Cycle B. One-hour webinars for the three phases of Cycle B monitoring will be held on September 24th from 10:00 to 11:00 am and September 27th from 3:00 to 4:00 pm. If unable to attend a webinar, Peggy will make sure everything needed is provided. Please make sure IEPs are done on time.

Colette Garland thanked charters for completing pupil count early. The early submission is very much appreciated. Staff is continuing to provide SEIS trainings regionally extending them from three hours to four hours; links are on the SEIS dashboard. Open forums are held twice monthly for anyone to join. The team is currently finishing up “How To” training videos. The administrative meeting on September 10th provided good feedback. SELPA is building an internal SEIS administrative manual.

Pam Bender asked for clarification when the signed IEP is received. Colette stated that charters (teachers or administrators) need to go back into SEIS to let the system know a signature has been received and make sure the signatures are uploaded.

Colette Garland shared that the translator meeting on August 27th went well. Remember, translators are not working with the SEIS software program, they are using the fillable forms.

Pam Bender mentioned that there have been a lot of trainings as we move forward. As glitches come up, we get different responses from CALPADS as far as what we need to do. Then we get different responses from SEIS as to what we need to do. Trying to manage our way through that. Receiving calls from East Valley SELPA asking questions on how we are doing things as they recently moved over to SEIS this school year. We are the newest ones around that have just transferred over.

8.8 Prevention and Intervention and Career Technical Education Updates

Deborah Sarkesian reviewed the Prevention and Intervention (P&I) and Career Technical Education (CTE) information provided in the meeting materials.

CTE: Deborah Sarkesian discussed education code 45125. In January of 2022, AB130 came out stating all employees at a business or an affiliate we place our students at for work-based learning experience have to be fingerprinted. In October of 2023, SB531 amended that code to exempt from all employees being fingerprinted if the following three conditions were met. 1) At least one adult is fingerprinted. SELPA is looking at having a minimum of two fingerprinted. 2) A staff representative must make at least one visit every three weeks. The Work Incentive Technician does this. 3) Have the student’s parent or guardian sign consent form regarding the student’s work placement. SELPA has updated the language to reflect this requirement, which is being reviewed by our legal team.

Deborah Sarkesian also shared that SELPA applied to become the custodian of record with the Department of Justice.

Jacque Williams, Allegiance STEAM, asked what if the student is eighteen, do they sign themselves? Deborah answered that it is a fine line because students are still considered in-school youth. Based on the student being in school, it falls under the educational code. If a student starts as a seventeen-year-old, but turns eighteen during that time, how does that fluctuate? Deborah will research it a little more and follow up.

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P&I: Deborah shared that the PBIS recognition event is on September 25th from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. Celebrating sixty-one schools. PBIS focuses on MTSS providing social and emotional learning and trauma informed as well.

8.9 Occupational and Physical Therapy Services Reports and Updates

Pamela Bender shared that OT/ PT reports were provided for students receiving those services.

8.10 Cognitive and Academic Testing Updates

Dr. Karina Quezada provided informational pieces regarding cognitive and academic assessment, as it relates to the work of Woodcock Johnson. This will require planning, both from the training piece as well as the financial component. Starting February of 2025, both the achievement and cognitive components are moving into a digital format only. A virtual test library, a selection of subtests meant to provide more diagnostic kinds of information, is forthcoming. They will no longer be publishing the oral assessment, but rather it will become part of their virtual test library. The 5th edition changes are based on the most recent census that occurred in 2020; piloted the test in the 21-22 school year. Digital administration is not the same as remote administration. The child must be in the same room with the evaluator. It is recommended that an iPad be used because technologically, the norming on the iPad was being measured as to the latency; how quickly the information travels from the iPad to the evaluator's laptop. Other tablets may have a latency that is extended and therefore, the assessment results received may be swayed in one way or another. The trend seen is once one big test goes on a path, other tests follow eventually. It is foreseen that in the next three or four years, the WISC and KBC will go in that direction.

Jacque Williams, Allegiance STEAM, asked if the Woodcock Johnson 5 includes a normative update. Karina replied yes, there will be two years from the normative update to transfer over. Typically, when they run out of inventory, production stops.

Sheila Parisian asked about the child having an iPad and the examiner still scoring, but the examiner not selecting anything on the iPad. Dr. Quezada responded that the child will be touching the screen and making a selection or indicating verbally what their selection is, and the examiner is reporting that on their end.

Sheila Parisian inquired about students that do not have cause and effect and will not have the ability to be able to make that selection; will the examiner just mark that on their end? Dr. Quezada stated that she has not seen the test and has not attended a training yet. She attended the informational training but has not seen the actual test as it is not available until February of 2025. Children will have different modalities of being able to express their choices and their selections.

Sheila Parisian asked what the benefits of moving online are. Will it eventually save staff time if it can export data quicker? Dr. Quezada stated the scoring piece appears to be instantaneous so that is a benefit. She indicated the validity is supported by the field studies and they feel that this is a reliable tool.

Amy Gonzalez, Encore Jr./Sr., attested to using the Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children (WISC) for a couple of years. The scoring is immediate. If the student wanted to change a recorded answer, the examiner could undo their first response and let them do it again. It saves a lot on report writing, and it does print out the score record. The appropriate assessment tool would be used to match up with the appropriate need.

Jacque Williams, Allegiance STEAM, asked if the normative sample is available. Dr. Quezada does not know the answer to that question.

Kelly Jung, Aveson Global, shared that she is seeing more students coming in with intellectual

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disabilities that these tests do not work for. She is trying to find something for them and something she can train her teachers on. Dr. Quezada will follow up with Kelly.

9.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

9.1 Special Education Connections Subscription

Pam Bender shared that SELPA is in the process of putting the subscription information together and will be giving it to business to submit. The subscription information and password will go to one person at each charter. There will be training, and access will be provided at that time.

10.0 STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS COMMENTS / REPORTS

None at this time.

11.0 CEO COMMENTS

We have lots of changes coming up. We are seeing a lot of different things. Colette and her team have done an amazing job of making sure that we were able to submit everything with no errors for CALPADS and pupil count. We appreciate everyone's patience.

SELPA is looking at new laws coming into effect and how that affects us as we go forward.

SELPA is looking at IEP implementation, which is now a monitoring tool, and what that looks like in your tracking system. There are a lot of discussions among State SELPAs and attorneys on IEP implementation. We have talked about when students are not available for services and not having to make up the services; if they are on a fieldtrip if they are in the general education population because they are general education students first. Does that mean we have to make up that service or not? If students are in general education, do Charters still have to make up that service? This is not how we have tracked services in the past. There are many legal opinions out there. SELPA will provide more guidance next month. We are looking at how we reduce the numbers of due process and litigations in regard to ensuring students are receiving the services they require.

12.0 MATTERS BROUGHT BY THE PUBLIC

No matters brought forward by the public.

13.0 ADJOURNMENT

LET IT BE RESOLVED that a motion was made by Malia Lovell, seconded by James Connell, to adjourn the Desert Mountain Charter SELPA Steering and Finance Committee Meeting at 10:27 a.m. The motion carried on the following vote: 14:0:0. Ayes: Jacque Williams, Anthony Lucey, Kelly Jung, Shannon Brandner, Anais Guerra, Dr. Guillermo Muñoz, Nika Hall, Anne Laird, Chasityflame Price, Christina Leal, Shawn Brown, James Connell, Malia Lovell, Stephanie Rubalcava. Nays: None. Abstentions: None.

The next regular meeting of the Desert Mountain Charter SELPA Steering Committee will be held on Thursday, October 17, 2024, at 9:00 a.m., at the Desert Mountain Educational Service Center, 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.