

California Association of Health and Education Linked Professions,
Joint Powers Authority (CAHELP, JPA)
DESERT MOUNTAIN SELPA STEERING and FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
January 17, 2025 – 9:00 a.m.
Desert Mountain Educational Service Center, 17800 Highway 18, Apple Valley CA 92307

MINUTES

DESERT MOUNTAIN SELPA MEMBERS PRESENT:

Academy of Academic Excellence/Norton Sciences and language Academy – Marcelo Congo, Adelanto Elementary SD – Dr. Amber Best, Apple Valley Unified SD – David Wheeler, Bear Valley Unified SD – Leigh Anne Drake, Desert/Mountain Operations – Stephanie Hedberg, Excelsior Charter Schools – Oscar Torres, Health Sciences High School & Middle College – Bryan Dale via zoom, Helendale SD – Dr. Chantell Butler, Hesperia Unified SD – Eric Land, Lucerne Valley Unified SD – Vici Miller, Needles Unified SD – Jamie Wiesner via zoom, Oro Grande SD – Scott Heitman, Snowline Joint Unified SD – Pam De Renard, Trona Joint Unified SD – Nicole Yeager via zoom, Victor Elementary SD – Dr. Tanya Benitez, Victor Valley Union High SD – Larry Brunson

GUESTS PRESENT:

Rebecca Workman via zoom - Trona Joint Unified SD, Director of Business Services, Lisa Loop – Victor Elementary SD Director of Fiscal Services, Dr. Penny Tharpe – Desert/Mountain Operations Coordinating Principal, Shannon Garibay – Hesperia Unified SD Coordinator of Special Services, Angelina Darnold – SBCSS Fiscal Analyst II

CAHELP, DM SELPA, AND DMCC STAFF PRESENT:

Pam Bender, Kayla Gewirtz, Linda Llamas, Heidi Chavez, Sheila Parisian, Dr. Peggy Dunn, Colette Garland, Deborah Sarkesian, Codi Andersen, Danielle Côté, Guille Robles-Burgos, Isaac Medina, Iván Campos, Jennifer Rountree, Jennifer Sutton, Dr. Karina Quezada, Linda Rodriguez, Lisa Nash, Maurica Manibusan, Misty Ubina, Miya Narvaiz-Ward, Rory Hazen, Agustina Garcia, Veronica Rousseau, Thomas Flores

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 SELPA Steering and Finance Committee Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Pam Bender at 9:05 a.m., at the Desert Mountain Educational Service Center, Apple Valley CA.

2.0 ROLL CALL

3.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No public participation.

4.0 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

4.1 **BE IT RESOLVED** that a motion was made by Leigh Anne Drake, seconded by David Wheeler, to approve the January 17, 2025, Desert Mountain SELPA Steering and Finance Committee Meeting Agenda as presented. The motion carried on the following vote: 16:0:0. Ayes: Marcelo Congo, Dr. Amber Best, David Wheeler, Leigh Anne Drake, Stephanie Hedberg, Oscar Torres, Bryan Dale, Dr. Chantell Butler, Eric Land, Vici Miller, Jamie Wiesner, Scott Heitman, Pam De Renard, Nicole Yeager, Dr. Tanya Benitez, and Larry Brunson. Nays: None. Abstentions: None.

5.0 CONSENT ITEMS

It is recommended that the Desert Mountain SELPA Steering and Finance Committee consider approving

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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 Stephanie Hedberg, seconded by David Wheeler, to approve the following Consent Item as presented. The motion carried on the following vote: 16:0:0. Ayes: Marcelo Congo, Dr. Amber Best, David Wheeler, Leigh Anne Drake, Stephanie Hedberg, Oscar Torres, Bryan Dale, Dr. Chantell Butler, Eric Land, Vici Miller, Jamie Wiesner, Scott Heitman, Pam De Renard, Nicole Yeager, Dr. Tanya Benitez, and Larry Brunson. Nays: None. Abstentions: None.

5.1.1 December 13, 2024, Desert Mountain SELPA Steering and Finance Committee Meeting Minutes.

6.0 PRESENTATIONS

6.1 Outreach Team

A video of events the Outreach Team and CAHELP volunteers was shared. Planning for these events begins in September offering an opportunity to give back to our community and families. DMCC Clinicians identify families who could use some extra help during the holiday season, gifts are collected, and events are organized. There were many businesses that participated in helping provide 630 children with gifts this year including Art Junkies tattoo Studio.

CAHELP Outreach Team shared trainings they provide including Promoting Adult/Family Resilience, Family Fun Days, Getting to Know Us, Loving Solutions, Parent Project, Parent Toolbox, Preparing Our Kids for Success, Real Talk, Social Emotional Learning in the Home, Special Education 101, and Taming Your Wiggles and Giggles Through Sensory Strategies to name a few.

The Outreach Team brochure was provided.

7.0 FINANCIAL COMMITTEE ITEMS

7.1 2025-26 Governor's Budget

The Governor's budget is projecting a 2.43% COLA. AB602 funding will increase to \$918.68 per pupil; Low Incidence increase to \$3,777.73 per eligible pupil; Regionalized Services increase of \$20.48; Educationally Related Mental Health Services increase of \$82.92.

7.2 AB602 Charter Payments

AB602 invoices are sent to SBCSS every 2 months; it takes approximately 2 weeks for checks to be sent. July through October should have been processed. For missing payments, contact Kayla Gewirtz.

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7.3 Federal Grant Funding (3310-3312)

Report 5 for Federal funding is due on January 31, 2025. Districts are asked to provide the reports to Sam Barker by January 21, 2025.

7.4 Accounting Codes

Thomas Flores explained how services in SEIS are reconciled with DMCC services provided to students. Once identified, services are checked to ensure code 525 is being used. Codes 510 and 515 are often used instead of 525. Clinicians are asked to update the code to 525 at the students' next IEP team meeting. A list of those needing updates will be provided with the monthly invoices.

8.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND STAFF REPORTS

8.1 Charter School Supports

Encore met on January 2nd and chose to close on January 9th, affecting over 600 students. Excelsior, Riverside Prep, and others have opened their doors to offer orientation for students to go to their sites if possible. Hesperia Unified School District's board has voted to have an extra graduation for the seniors so they could graduate with their class. All Superintendents are very supportive.

CAHELP will be putting together a policy and procedure for schools that close mid-year.

Aveson School of Leaders, Odyssey Charter-South, and Pasadena Rosebud have been lost to fires. They are asking for assistance with assessments and protocols.

8.2 Legislative Updates

8.2.1 Committee Members have been assigned at the State level:

- Senate Education Committee – two are from our area.
 - Senator Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh (R-Yucaipa), Vice-Chair
 - Senator Eloise Gomez Reyes (D-San Bernardino)
- Senate Budget Sub-Committee No. 1 on Education
 - Senator Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh (R-Yucaipa), Vice-Chair
- Senate Appropriations Committee – no one in our area

8.2.2 Legislative Calendar provided in the materials was reviewed highlighting that the last day for bills to be introduced is February 21, 2025.

8.3 Credentials Bridge Authorization Update

Three informational meetings were held with Human Resources and Special Education Directors in attendance. It is the responsibility of the HR Department to work with the Special Education Directors

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to notify those eligible to attend the training. It is important that Heidi speak with district HR departments to ensure they understand what the requirements are and their role in the process. District HR Departments and Special Education Directors should have received the flyers.

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

Districts receiving DMCC services will have client service and referral reports sent via encrypted email by Keri Downing to the district point of contact. For any questions about these reports, contact Linda Llamas at Linda.Llamas@cahelp.org. If there are concerns about clinicians assigned to your sites, please let Linda know so it can be resolved. If you would like to give us information about staff doing well, that too is helpful.

8.5 [Professional Learning Opportunities](#)

In December, 308 participants attended trainings/workshops, 172 attended on-sites, and 138 participated in regional trainings. For the year, 5,007 staff have participated in trainings, with 3,296 attending on-sites and 1,711 attending regional trainings.

The iMTSS Symposium is being held on February 27th at High Desert Church; Dr. Tina Payne Bryson will present ‘*No-Drama Discipline for Educators.*’ The cost is \$175 for members and \$250 for non-members.

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

Orton-Gillingham Approach Training presented by Vanessa Silver is being held virtually, on March 3-7, 2025, from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. The cost is \$275 for our members and \$375 for non-members. [Flyer](#) can be found on our website.

Iván Campos interviewed 15 LEAs (9 Districts and 6 Charters) in August, September, and October of 2024. He shared the summary of the Optimizing SLP and SLPA Services Key Insights from the Empathy Interviews with Special Education Directors of DM SELPA and Charter SELPA.

8.6 Resolution Support Services Summary and Update

There have been 21 filings for this school year so far. Formal mediations tend to minimize the cost of legal expenses.

The breakdowns are:

81% due process

11% Formal Mediations

8% ADR

Primary Disabilities

41% Autism

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4% Child Find
14% ID
4% not eligible
18% OHI
14% SLD
5% VI

Ethnicity

45% Hispanic
18% White
32% African American
5% African Indian

Grades

4% K
9% 1st
14% 2nd
4% 3rd
4% 5th
23% 6th
4% 7th
14% 8th
14% 9th
5% 10th
5% 11th

Placement

45% General Education Pull Out
4% HHI
5% Mild/Mod
5% Mild/Mod Push-In GE Math
14% Mod/Severe
5% NPS
9% County
4% County Preschool
9% General Education

Reasons

45% services
14% Assessment
9% Assessment Services
4% Child Find
5% Eligibility
5% Filed on Parent
18% Placement.

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At 10:23 Eric Land left the meeting.

8.7 Compliance Update

The Annual Determination Letter will be coming in February.

Targeted Progress #2 assurances form was signed and submitted to CDE in accordance with the deadline. Report #3 is due July 10, 2025.

Intensive Progress Report #5 is due April 10, 2025.

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

Those in Prong II Review have been notified with a list of records to be reviewed. Three Districts have already completed it and CDE found those to be compliant.

8.8 Non-Public Schools Update

Currently there are 124 students SELPA wide in non-public schools.

A discussion regarding Non-Public School concerns, placement options, and contracts took place.

8.9 Special Education Information System (SEIS) Update

February 21, 2025, is the SEIS Training for Directors. Open Forums are open to everyone.

8.10 Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP) Update

DRDP information due date has been extended to January 24, 2025.

8.11 California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS) Update

Final certification is January 24, 2025. A help ticket can be submitted for an extension due to the impact of the fires.

8.12 Career Technical Education (CTE) Updates

The Transition Planning for All Students training will be held on February 6, 2025, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

8.13 Prevention and Intervention (P&I) Updates

The two-day Fundamentals of Restorative Practices will be held January 29-30, 2025, from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm.

The Authorized California PBIS External Reviewer (ACER) 2.0 will be held January 21, 2025, at

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Desert Mountain Educational Service Center from 9:00 am to 11:00 am or 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. All those previously certified are no longer certified and must go through the training again. For more information, contact Deborah Sarkesian.

8.14 Occupational and Physical Therapy Services Reports and Updates

The Physical Therapy Professional Learning Collaborative will be held on January 21, 2025, from 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm at no cost. Districts are encouraged to continue requesting on-sites for transportation trainings.

8.15 SBCSS 114 – Dyslexia Screening Mandate

Senate Bill 114 was signed into law on July 10, 2023, requiring students K-2 screening for reading difficulties, including those at risk for Dyslexia. T-K students are exempt from this requirement.

A panel was appointed to provide a list of approved screening instruments. This list was submitted on December 17, 2024, and identifies the tools that school districts can use for screening purposes.

By June 30, 2025, Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) must choose at least one of the screening instruments from the panel's list. This selection must be made during a public board meeting.

Starting in the 2025-26 school year, LEAs are required to screen students in K-2 annually using the chosen instrument(s). This screening will continue each year unless a parent opts their child out in writing.

LEA's may choose when it is appropriate to assess. Students enrolling after the assessment window must be assessed 45 days from the time of enrollment. LEA's have 15 days to send notifications to families with the process, purpose, and opt out option. Results to be made available to parents in the language of the parent in a timely manner, but not to exceed 45 calendar days from the date the assessment was administered.

These instruments are not to be used as a way of qualifying students for special education.

The selected tools are:

Title	Organization	Grades	Languages
Amira	Amira Learning with Houghton Mifflin Harcourt	K, 1 st , 2 nd	English Spanish
mClass and mCLASS Lectura	Amplify Education	K, 1 st , 2 nd	English Spanish
Multitudes	University of California San Francisco	K, 1 st , 2 nd	English Spanish
ROAR (Rapid Online Assessment of Reading)	Stanford University Brain Development and Education Lab	1 st , 2 nd	English

The costs of each instrument was provided. The QR codes for the Sacramento County Office of

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Education website and the California Literacy website were provided.

9.0 INFORMATION / ACTION ITEMS

9.1 Upcoming Trainings

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

10.0 STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS' COMMENTS / REPORTS

There were no Steering Committee Members' comments or reports.

11.0 CEO COMMENTS

The Encore closure was reviewed and discussed.

Discussion took place regarding concerns with NPS placements as well as lack of options for students who need more significant supports. Committee discussed and agreed to have those interested in creating a sub-committee to discuss NPS's. Pam will send out an email to set up a date for those interested.

12.0 MATTERS BROUGHT BY THE PUBLIC

There were no matters brought by the public.

13.0 ADJOURNMENT

BE IT RESOLVED that a motion was made by Vici Miller, seconded by Pam De Renard to adjourn the Desert Mountain SELPA Steering and Finance Committee Meeting at 11:25 am. The motion carried on the following vote: 15:0:0. Ayes: Marcelo Congo, Dr Amber Best, David Wheeler, Leigh Anne Drake, Sephanie Hedberg, Oscar Torres, Bryan Dale, Dr. Chantell Butler, Vici Miller, Jamie Wiesner, Scott Heitman, Pam De Renard, Nicole Yeager, Dr. Tanya Benitez, Larry Brunson. Nays: None. Abstentions: None

The next regular meeting of the Desert Mountain SELPA Steering Committee will be held on Friday, March 21, 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.