

California Association of Health and Education Linked Professions,
Joint Powers Authority (CAHELP, JPA)
DESERT MOUNTAIN SELPA STEERING and FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
June 13, 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 via zoom (non-voting), Apple Valley USD – David Wheeler, Baker Valley USD – Mike Esposito via zoom, Bear Valley USD – Leigh Anne Drake, Desert Mountain Operations – Richard Frederick, Excelsior Charter Schools – Oscar Torres, Health Sciences High & Middle Schools – Grecia Ortega-Rivas, Hesperia USD – Eric Land, Lucerne Valley USD – Vici Miller, Needles USD – Jamie Wiesner via zoom, Snowline Joint USD – Pam De Renard, Victor Elementary SD – Amanda Smith, Victor Valley Union High SD – Larry Brunson (9:07 am)

GUESTS PRESENT:

Dr. Penny Tharpe and Cristian Castellanos – Desert Mountain Operations, Elaine Nelson, and Shannon Garibay – Hesperia USD

CAHELP, DM SELPA, AND DMCC STAFF PRESENT:

Pam Bender, Deborah Sarkesian, Heidi Chavez, Kayla Gewirtz, Dr. Peggy Dunn, Agustina Garcia, Bobbie Taylor, Codi Andersen, Colette Garland, Guille Robles-Burgos, Iván Campos, Dr. Karina Quezada, Linda Rodriguez, Lisa Nash, Misty Ubina, Miya Narvaiz-Ward, Rory Hazen, Sheila Parisian, Tara Deavitt, 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 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 in Apple Valley California.

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 Leigh Anne Drake, seconded by David Wheeler, to approve the June 13, 2025, Desert Mountain SELPA Steering and Finance Committee Meeting Agenda as presented. The motion carried on the following vote: 10:0:0. Ayes: Marcelo Congo, David Wheeler, Leigh Anne Drake, Richard Frederick, Oscar Torres, Grecia Ortega-Rivas, Eric Land, Vici Miller, Jamie Wiesner, and Pam De Renard. Nays: None. Abstentions: None.

5.0 CONSENT ITEMS

Larry Brunson joined the meeting at 9:07 am.

It is recommended that the Desert Mountain 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

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June 13, 2025 – 9:00 a.m.
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MINUTES

clarification, discussion, or change.

5.1 **BE IT RESOLVED** that a motion was made by Pam De Renard, seconded by Vici Miller, to approve the following Consent Items as presented. The motion carried on the following vote: 11:0:0. Marcelo Congo, David Wheeler, Leigh Anne Drake, Richard Frederick, Oscar Torres, Grecia Ortega-Rivas, Eric Land, Vici Miller, Jamie Wiesner, Pam De Renard, and Larry Brunson. Nays: None. Abstentions: None.

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

6.0 FINANCIAL COMMITTEE ITEMS

The monthly reports are provided to LEAs to ensure student counts are accurate. Kayla is available to answer any questions.

6.1 AB602 Schedule C Purchased Services

The materials provided in the material packet were reviewed.

6.2 2024-2025 DM SELPA Related Services

The Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy annual cost is \$7, 811 and the education support (consultations) annual cost is \$3,906 as indicated in column B of the AB602 Revenue Distribution.

6.3 2024-2025 DMCC Intensive Therapeutic Services

The Desert Mountain Children’s Center fee-for-service is \$12,091 annually as indicated in column B of the AB602 Revenue Distribution.

6.4 2024-2025 DMCC Mental Health Services

All other intensive services fall under column D of the AB602 Revenue Distribution. The fee for service is \$6,904.

6.5 2024-2025 DM SELPA County Operated Services

In column E of the AB602 Revenue Distribution, SAI services > 50% SDC annual cost is \$28,748; Preschool SDC annual cost is \$26,105; Interpreter annual cost is \$103,903; 1:1 aide annual cost is \$58,200; County low incidence itinerant annual cost is \$5,407; Early Start is of no cost; and the Related Services DIS, LSH, OT, PT, APE annual cost is \$5,878.

6.6 2024-2025 District Served By and For Worksheet

California Association of Health and Education Linked Professions,
Joint Powers Authority (CAHELP, JPA)
DESERT MOUNTAIN SELPA STEERING and FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
June 13, 2025 – 9:00 a.m.
Desert Mountain Educational Service Center, 17800 Highway 18, Apple Valley CA 92307

MINUTES

In columns F and G of the AB602 Revenue Distribution, the inter district transfer students' annual costs is \$3,176 and includes related services DIS, CDS RSP, SAI services, low incidence itinerant services, and 1:1 aide.

6.7 2024-2025 DM SELPA Preschool Assessments

In Column I of the AB602 Revenue Distribution, SBCSS county operated program has an annual cost of \$2,872.

7.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND STAFF REPORTS

7.1 Legislative Update

Any bill that is going forward has to be out of the House that it originated in by June 15, 2025 or it becomes dead or goes into a 2-year hold which means it can come back next year. If it originated in the Senate, it then goes to the Assembly and vice versa.

- AB560 (Addis) Special Education – Has been significantly amended. Asking districts to start working with their unions and staff on caseload limits as they go forward. They are asking Superintendents of Public Instruction to establish a work group so by July, 2027 they can recommend a pupil to staff ratio. Status: passed the assembly.
- AB606 (Quirk-Silva) 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 eligible for renewal. Status: passed the assembly.
- AB1224 (Valencia) Teacher credentialing; substitute teachers; days of service. Having 60-day teacher substitutes instead of 30-days. Status: passed the assembly.
- AB1009 (Blanca Rubio) Teacher credentialing: Provides an opportunity for Occupational and Physical Therapists with a valid license who can verify meeting the basic skills requirement and has 3 years of experience as a school-based OT or PT as satisfying the requirements to apply for a preliminary services credential with a specialization in Administrative Services. Status: passed the assembly.
- H.R. 2333 (Mannion) Protecting Students with Disabilities Act: making sure that funds are not eliminated when the restructuring of the Department of Education takes effect. Makes sure that it does not reduce any funding for any of the programs under IDEA. Status: referred to the House Committee on Education and Workforce.
- H.R. 2598 (Huffman & Van Hollen) Full Funding Act: asking for full federal funding for the Federal Funding of IDEA. This has never been fully funded. Status: referred to the House Committee on Education and Workforce.

California Association of Health and Education Linked Professions,
Joint Powers Authority (CAHELP, JPA)
DESERT MOUNTAIN SELPA STEERING and FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
June 13, 2025 – 9:00 a.m.
Desert Mountain Educational Service Center, 17800 Highway 18, Apple Valley CA 92307

MINUTES

- AJR-7 (Addis) Special Education Funding: would make the President of the United States and Congress ensure that services and funding for students with disabilities are uninterrupted. Status: passed the assembly.

7.2 Credentialed Bridge Authorization Update

173 teachers within the Desert Mountain SELPA and 12 teachers within the Desert Mountain Charter SELPA, totaling 187 teachers have been trained during 2024-2025.

There is a training the week of June 16, 2025. Please reach out to Heidi Chavez for additional information.

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

7.3.1 Desert Mountain Children’s Center Client Reports

The District point of contact received the DMCC client and client services reports via encrypted email sent from Keri Downing. For any questions about these reports, contact Linda Llamas at Linda.Llamas@cahelp.org.

7.3.2 Desert Mountain Article: Understanding PTSD in Children and Adolescence

A review of Mental Health article “*Understanding PTSD in Children and Adolescence*,” was provided. This article speaks about symptoms and the importance of supporting youth and children at schools when looking at how they respond to trauma. There can be regressions in behavior such as tantrums, wetting themselves, depression, substance abuse, self-injury, and suicidal ideations. Directors were encouraged to share the article with anyone who may find it helpful. [Mental Health Articles](#) are available on the DMCC website.

7.4 [Professional Learning Opportunities](#)

7.4.1 Professional Learning Summary

In May, 358 participants attended trainings/workshops, 120 attended on-sites, and 238 participated in regional trainings. Individual Protection trainings lead with 102 participants. For the year, 8,194 staff members participated in training, with 4,660 attending on-sites and 3,534 attending regional trainings to date. Behavioral support continues to have the highest participation of 2,671 for the year.

Directors received an email with CAC templates to be used to send out to families in Special Education. Feedback is needed to help plan with what parents are wanting and needing.

California Association of Health and Education Linked Professions,
Joint Powers Authority (CAHELP, JPA)
DESERT MOUNTAIN SELPA STEERING and FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
June 13, 2025 – 9:00 a.m.
Desert Mountain Educational Service Center, 17800 Highway 18, Apple Valley CA 92307

MINUTES

7.4.2 Co-Teaching Save the Date

Trainings will be held from 8:30 to 11:30 am at the Desert Mountain Educational Service Center in Apple Valley.

Co-Teaching: Purpose, Benefits, and Building Parity in Professional Partnerships

- September 22, 2025
- February 10, 2026

Co-Teaching Approaches and Effective Co-Planning & Co-Assessing

- October 13, 2025
- March 10, 2026

7.4.3 Speech-Language Pathologists Collaborative Save the Date

Trainings will be held from 1:30 to 2:30 pm at the Desert Mountain Educational Service Center in Apple Valley.

Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)

- September 8, 2025
- November 5, 2025

Assessments/Report Writing

- February 4, 2026
- March 11, 2026

7.4.4 Upcoming Events

A list of upcoming trainings was provided in the material packet.

7.5 Resolution Support Services Summary and Update

7.5.1 Due Process Summary

When analyzing the data, one difference was that last year there were 6 filing for students who had emotional disabilities. That is not the case this year. The percentages for autism, other health impairment and SLD remained the same. Ethnicity remains about the same with a slight increase in African American students. ELL remains about the same. Sixth through ninth grades had the majority of filings for the year. Placement remains about the same. Last year, placement and disagreement with placement were listed.

A comparison between last year and this year was reviewed.

California Association of Health and Education Linked Professions,
 Joint Powers Authority (CAHELP, JPA)
DESERT MOUNTAIN SELPA STEERING and FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
June 13, 2025 – 9:00 a.m.
 Desert Mountain Educational Service Center, 17800 Highway 18, Apple Valley CA 92307

MINUTES

2023-2024	2024-2025
Ethnicity	
Caucasian 19%	Caucasian 16%
Hispanic 51%	Hispanic 35%
Hispanic/Caucasian 0%	Hispanic/Caucasian 12%
Not Hispanic 2%	Not Hispanic 0%
American Indian 0%	American Indian 5%
Native American 4%	Native American 0%
African American 24%	African American 32%

2023-2024	2024-2025
Language	
English 50%	English 75%
ELL 25%	ELL 25%
Reclassified 25%	Reclassified 0%

2023-2024	2024-2025
Grade	
Preschool 0%	Preschool 2%
TK 2%	TK 0%
K 9%	K 2%
1 st 4%	1 st 9%
2 nd 9%	2 nd 7%
3 rd 6%	3 rd 7%
4 th 15%	4 th 9%
5 th 6%	5 th 4%
6 th 9%	6 th 13%
7 th 9%	7 th 7%
8 th 6%	8 th 16%
9 th 7%	9 th 11%
10 th 6%	10 th 2%
11 th 6%	11 th 7%
12 th 4%	12 th 4%
12 th + 2%	12 th + 0%

2023-2024	2024-2025
Current Placement	
General Ed. 19%	General Ed. 9%
General Ed. Pull Out 30%	General Ed. Pull Out 45%
General Ed. Push In 4%	General Ed. Push In 0%
County 7%	County 9%
County Preschool 0%	County Preschool 4%
Alternative High School 2%	Alternative High School 0%

California Association of Health and Education Linked Professions,
 Joint Powers Authority (CAHELP, JPA)
DESERT MOUNTAIN SELPA STEERING and FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
June 13, 2025 – 9:00 a.m.
 Desert Mountain Educational Service Center, 17800 Highway 18, Apple Valley CA 92307

MINUTES

Extensive Support Needs 6%	Extensive Support Needs 14%
Non-Public Schools 2%	Non-Public Schools 5%
Mild Moderate SN 24%	Mild Moderate SN 5%
Mild Moderate Push In 0%	Mild Moderate Push In 5%
Special Day Class 2%	Special Day Class 0%
Home Hospital Instruction 4%	Home Hospital Instruction 4%

2023-2024	2024-2025
Underlying Issues	
Placement 45%	Placement 10%
Services 28%	Services 26%
Services 1:1 0%	Services 1:1 3%
Placement & Services 0%	Placement & Services 8%
Eligibility 6%	Eligibility 3%
Assessment 4%	Assessment 13%
Assessment Services 0%	Assessment Services 18%
Child Find 5%	Child Find 16%
ERMHS 2%	ERMHS 0%
Discipline 6%	Discipline 0%
Graduation Credits Transition 4%	Graduation Credits Transition 0%
Filed on Parent 0%	Filed on Parent 3%

ADRs: 72	
Initiated by LEAs	42
Initiated by a parent	30
Status	
Resolution/Signed IEP	33
Continuance	10
No resolution	29
SELPA Facilitated IEP	35
Coaching Sessions	14
LEA Facilitated IEP (SELPA Support)	12
Other	11

Issues/Concerns	
Advocate or Parent Disruption	16
Implementation of IEP (Accommodations/Services)	15
Communication/Collaboration Breakdown	12
Assessment/Eligibility	12
LRE/Placement	10
FAPE	3
Placement Rupe/Transitions	2
Other (1-Bullying; 1-Transportation)	2

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Joint Powers Authority (CAHELP, JPA)
DESERT MOUNTAIN SELPA STEERING and FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
June 13, 2025 – 9:00 a.m.
Desert Mountain Educational Service Center, 17800 Highway 18, Apple Valley CA 92307

MINUTES

Directors were encouraged to reach out to Sheila for additional details of the data to see if there are correlations with grade levels, ethnicity, disability, etc.

7.5.2 Due Process Activity Summary

There have been 47 filing for the school year not including the month of June. There were 3 formal medications, 2 of which were formal ADRs.

7.6 Compliance Update

Compliance and Improvement Monitoring Process (CIM) Progress Reports: Target Progress Report #3 is due July 10, 2025. The reporting period is January 1 – June 30, 2025.

IEP Implementation Data Collection – Cycle B: Data range for IEP Review is March 3 – April 30, 2025. Data Collection window is May 1 – June 30, 2025

Data collection final due date is June 30, 2025. Charters are asked to complete IEP Implementation Data by June 27th.

7.7 Non-Public Schools Update

In July, 89 students were placed LEAs, 7 were placed by residential, and 20 were placed by LCI Foster totaling 116. The total in June is 134 which is the highest there has ever been.

Desert View will be starting the 2025-26 school year at capacity and will not be taking new enrollments. Learn Academy is struggling with acquiring staff and will not be taking new enrollments for the 2025-26 school year. Dynamic Hope has not indicated any restrictions in enrollment.

7.8 California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS) Update

The 1st certification is due July 25, 2025. There is an amendment window to make changes. Final certification due date is August 8, 2025.

7.9 Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP) Update

DRDP did receive an extension to June 30, 2025 from CDE due to the fires. Directors were reminded that the TK group is part of DRDP.

7.10 Special Education Information System (SEIS) Update

Directors were reminded to check their SEIS dashboard. Pending records can be sent to CDE through the CALPADS software.

California Association of Health and Education Linked Professions,
Joint Powers Authority (CAHELP, JPA)
DESERT MOUNTAIN SELPA STEERING and FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
June 13, 2025 – 9:00 a.m.
Desert Mountain Educational Service Center, 17800 Highway 18, Apple Valley CA 92307

MINUTES

7.11 Career Technical Education (CTE) Updates

On July 1, 2025, CTE will change to Career Readiness and Employment Services (CRES). The team looked at all the services provided, and Career Readiness and Employment Services captures what the program does for LEAs.

7.11.1 CalWorks Subsidized Employment Program Report

The CalWORKS' Subsidized Employment Program (CSEP) contract goal is 38 placements and the year to date is 30 placements.

7.11.2 CalWorks Youth Employment Program Report

The CalWorks Youth Employment program contract goal is 20 placements and the year to date is 11 placements.

7.11.3 Transition Partnership Program Report

The Transition Partnership Program goals have been surpassed in the following areas.

Job Exploration Counseling Services
Workplace Readiness Training
Work-based Learning Experience Services
Work Experience Placements Services
Instruction in Self-Advocacy Services
Counseling in Post-Secondary Services
Receive DOR Services

7.11.4 WorkAbility I Report

WorkAbility contract goal is 243 and the year to date is 37. There is correlation with this low number and the fingerprinting law that went into effect this year.

7.11.5 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Report

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act contract goal is 335 and the year to date is 265.

7.11.6 Transition Partnership Program Annual Professional Learning and Collaboration

This is for LEA contracted TPP staff. It will be held on September 25, 2025, at the Desert Mountain Educational Service Center in Apple Valley from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm.

7.11.7 Transition Planning for All Students

Will be held on November 6, 2025 virtually from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

California Association of Health and Education Linked Professions,
Joint Powers Authority (CAHELP, JPA)
DESERT MOUNTAIN SELPA STEERING and FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
June 13, 2025 – 9:00 a.m.
Desert Mountain Educational Service Center, 17800 Highway 18, Apple Valley CA 92307

MINUTES

7.11.8 Postsecondary Education, Career & Community Showcase

The Resource Fair is being rebranded. There will be vendors and community resources for families and school sites and an inspirational speaker. It will be held on April 15, 2026, at the Desert Mountain Educational Service Center in Apple Valley from 5:00 to 7:00 pm.

7.12 Prevention and Intervention (P&I) Updates

7.12.1 Empowering Educators: A Pathway to Mental Health & Well-Being

This is a new hybrid course training pathway series of 6 days in-person from 1:30 to 3:30 pm at the Desert Mountain Educational Service Center in Apple Valley. The information portion will be in the canvas module online. This training is on foundational information related to mental health, literacy, social, emotional learning and how trauma and adverse childhood experiences impact learning.

7.12.2 Tier 3 Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports: Prevent-Teach-Reinforce Module

This is geared for preschool, TK, and kindergarten students. This 4 day in-person series is from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm at the Desert Mountain Educational Service Center in Apple Valley. Participants must attend all 4 days. Only 4 site teams will be accepted per semester.

7.12.3 Tier 3 Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports: Prevent-Teach-Reinforce for Young Children

This is geared for kindergarten to 12th grade students. This 4 day in-person series is from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm at the Desert Mountain Educational Service Center in Apple Valley. Participants must attend all 4 days. Only 4 site teams will be accepted per semester.

7.12.4 Tenth Annual CAHELP PBIS Recognition Event Save the Date

PBIS schools that worked with SELPA's PBIS team and completed the California PBIS application for recognition will be celebrated on September 17, 2025, from 5:00 to 7:00 pm at the Desert Mountain Educational Service Center in Apple Valley.

7.13 Occupational and Physical Therapy Services Reports and Updates

7.13.1 Occupational and Physical Therapy Client Services Report

For any questions or concerns, please contact Codi Andersen.

7.13.2 Understanding Dyslexia: Assessment & Intervention

California Association of Health and Education Linked Professions,
Joint Powers Authority (CAHELP, JPA)
DESERT MOUNTAIN SELPA STEERING and FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
June 13, 2025 – 9:00 a.m.
Desert Mountain Educational Service Center, 17800 Highway 18, Apple Valley CA 92307

MINUTES

This course presented by Penny Stack will be held on July 25, 2025 from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Desert Mountain Educational Service Center in Apple Valley.

8.0 INFORMATION / ACTION ITEMS

8.1 SELPA Form DM 114 – Behavioral Emergency Report (BER)

The final document was reviewed. There is a print use and an online version. They will be located in SEIS under reference and in the document library once approved. The font is larger, dropdown menus were added to race, ethnicity, LEA of residence, and LEA of attendance. These will be incorporated into the CPI training.

8.1.1 **BE IT RESOLVED** that a motion was made by David Wheeler, seconded by Leigh Anne Drake to approve the DM114 Behavioral Emergency Report (BER) as presented. The motion carried on the following vote: 12:0:0. Ayes: Marcelo Congo, David Wheeler, Leigh Anne Drake, Richard Frederick, Oscar Torres, Grecia Ortega-Rivas, Eric Land, Vici Miller, Jamie Wiesner, Pam De Renard, Amanda Smith, and Larry Brunson. Nays: None. Abstentions: None.

8.2 SBCSS Transfer of SLP services back to Bear Valley USD

In May of 2025, Desert Mountain Operations provided notification to transfer the SLP program back to Bear Valley USD effective July 1, 2026. It will be presented to the Governance council for approval in October of 2025.

8.3 SBCSS Desert Mountain Operations Audiological Services

For questions, please reach out to Stephanie Hedberg.

9.0 STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS' COMMENTS / REPORTS

Lisa Nash was recognized for her 26.6 years of work as she retires at the end of the month. She has been a valuable member of our organization working in multiple capacities. Her legal knowledge and willingness to grow are appreciated. She will be greatly missed. Congratulations Lisa on your retirement.

10.0 CEO COMMENTS

Grecia Ortega-Rivas was welcomed as the new Director of Health Sciences and Middle College in San Diego. She is taking over for Bryan Dale.

Directors were reminded that the DMCC ERHMS amendments will be going to them for approval signatures from SEIS starting in July.

San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools will be performing technology upgrades in August and September. The conference rooms will not be available during that time. The DMSELPA Steering and Finance Committee meeting on August 22, 2025 will be held virtually.

California Association of Health and Education Linked Professions,
Joint Powers Authority (CAHELP, JPA)
DESERT MOUNTAIN SELPA STEERING and FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
June 13, 2025 – 9:00 a.m.
Desert Mountain Educational Service Center, 17800 Highway 18, Apple Valley CA 92307

MINUTES

We are looking at the need to continue with the Steering and Finance Committee meetings as Brown Act meetings. Policies and procedures do not need to be voted on by this group as they are voted on by the Governance Council. Many multi-district SELPAs across the state are going away from Brown Act meetings. Our Local Plan will be reviewed to see if the Brown Act is a requirement.

For those who are interested in the alternative programming, we are meeting today. There is additional information to share. Sheila Parisian and others have been involved in discussions with other multi-district SELPAS regarding policies and procedures.

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 David Wheeler, seconded by Pam De Renard to adjourn the Desert Mountain SELPA Steering and Finance Committee Meeting at 10:08 am. The motion carried on the following vote: 12:0:0. Ayes: Marcelo Congo, David Wheeler, Leigh Anne Drake, Richard Frederick, Oscar Torres, Grecia Ortega-Rivas, Eric Land, Vici Miller, Jamie Wiesner, Pam De Renard, Amanda Smith, and Larry Brunson. Nays: None. Abstentions: None

The next regular meeting of the Desert Mountain SELPA Steering Committee will be held on Friday, August 22, 2025, at 9:00 a.m., by zoom.

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.