

MINUTES

Thursday, September 20, 2024 – 9:00 a.m.

DESERT MOUNTAIN SELPA MEMBERS PRESENT

Academy Academic of Excellence - Marcelo Congo, Adelanto Elementary – Dr. Amber Best, Apple Valley Unified– David Wheeler, Bear Valley Unified – Leigh Anne Drake, Excelsior – Deanna Crocker, Health Sciences – Bryan Dale via Zoom, Lucerne Valley – Vici Miller, Oro Grande – Scott Heitman, Snowline Joint Unified – Pam De Renard, Trona – Nicole Yeager via Zoom, Victor Elementary – Tanya Benitez, Victor Valley Union High – Larry Brunson

CAHELP, DM SELPA, AND DMCC STAFF PRESENT

Pam Bender, Annette Rego, Bobbie Taylor, Colette Garland, Daisie Lambert, Danielle Côté, Deborah Sarkesian, Guille Robles-Burgos, Heidi Chavez, Isaac Medina, Jennifer Rountree, Jennifer Sutton, Jessica Soto, Dr. Karina Quezada, Kayla Gerwartz, Linda Llamas, Linda Rodriguez, Maurica Manibusan, Misty Ubina, Miya Narvaiz-Ward, Dr. Peggy Dunn, Sheila Parisian, Veronica Rousseau, 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 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

None.

4.0 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

4.1 **BE IT RESOLVED** that a motion was made by David Wheeler, seconded by Dr. Amber Best, to approve the September 20, 2024, Desert Mountain SELPA Steering and Finance Committee Meeting Agenda as presented. The motion carried on the following vote: 12:0:0. Ayes: Marcelo Congo, Dr. Amber Best, David Wheeler, Leigh Anne Drake, Deanna Crocker, Bryan Dale, Vici Miller, Scott Heitman, Pam De Renard, Nicole Yeager, Tanya Benitez, Larry Brunson. Nays: None. Abstentions: None.

5.0 CONSENT ITEMS

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 clarification, discussion, or change.

5.1 **BE IT RESOLVED** that a motion was made by Leigh Anne Drake, seconded by David Wheeler, to approve the following Consent Item as presented. The motion carried on the following vote: 12:0:0. Ayes: Marcelo Congo, Dr. Amber Best, David Wheeler, Leigh Anne Drake, Deanna Crocker, Bryan

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Dale, Vici Miller, Scott Heitman, Pam De Renard, Nicole Yeger, Tanya Benitez, Larry Brunson. Nays: None. Abstentions: None.

5.1.1 August 16, 2024, Desert Mountain SELPA Steering and Finance Committee Meeting Minutes.

6.0 PRESENTATIONS

6.1 Career Technical Education (CTE)

Deborah Sarkesian, Bobbie Taylor, and Isaac Medina 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).

Bobbie 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. Isaac discussed 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. He 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. Partners with WDD and TAD. Isaac reviewed the eligibility and components of each program. 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. Looking forward to having students shop for the items needed for the menu. Being creative in raising money to grow even more.

7.0 FINANCIAL COMMITTEE ITEMS

7.1 Subsequent Year Tracking Form v3.1

Kayla Gewitz reviewed the Subsequent Year Tracking Form v3.1 that was 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, please reach out to Kayla.

Pam Bender added a reminder that this is to make sure that districts pass MOE. One dollar more than last year needs to be spent this year. Please call if your financial department is having trouble. It is due to SELPA September 15th so we can review it before it is submitted to CDE.

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 go into existence on January 1, 2025, and some will take effect in January of 2026, and in January of 2027. The governor has signed in two bills; AB2173 (Addis) replacing the emotional disturbance term with emotional disability; AB2268 (Muratsuchi) taking out the ELPAC so it will not be given to transitional kindergarteners as it is not developmentally appropriate for four-year-olds.

Pam Bender shared that the next two bills are in their second year. If they do not go through, they would start all over again. SB445 (Portantino) is the IEP translation bill. It looks very different than what it started out to be. It is on the governor's desk right now. We see this bill almost every year. What they are saying now is, by January of 2027 or no later than eighteen months after the draft of the State Standardized IEP template, CDE is going to have to take that IEP template and in a digital platform, translate the document into the ten most commonly spoken languages in California. It must be available on the CDE website, and they need to notify all county offices and all LEAs when they are available. It does not say how the information that goes into that document is translated yet.

Pam Bender discussed SB483 (Cortese), elimination of prone restraint. It is believed he will sign it.

Pam Bender discussed two-year bill AB438 (Blanco Rubio), the transition language and transition goals. It is on the governor's desk. If the IEP team decides that the student is not going to gain or benefit from the transition language, they can determine not to write it when the student goes to ninth grade, but it still needs to be completed by the time the student is sixteen. It also says districts have to appropriately justify the basis for postponing it. Not sure what appropriately justify means from a legal perspective.

Pam Bender discussed AB1938 (Gallagher) special education, inclusive practices. This bill comes from the deaf community advocacy and making sure that students who are hard of hearing and/or deaf have inclusive opportunities within the general education classroom. □

Pam Bender discussed AB2725 (Blanco Rubio), OT/PT Administrative Credentials that has gone to the governor's desk. Looking at meeting the basic skill requirements of having at least three years of experience as a school-based occupational or physical therapist. That would meet the ample requirement to be able to apply for a preliminary services credential with the specialization administrative services. It is on the governor's desk.

Pam Bender discussed SB1263 (Newman), Teacher Credentialing: Teacher Performance Assessments. Revamping TPAs, looking at those university programs that have low pass rates of TPAs. They want a workgroup to come together to really look at what is required and what needs to be done for the teacher performance assessments.

Pam Bender discussed SB1391 (Rubio), Preparation and data retention. Looking at the cradle to career data system. Want to look at teacher credit, teacher training and retention. Rubio is proposing a dashboard by 2026 to look at where are we losing teachers, what is happening, what are the cultural differences, what are we seeing from the school population, and what are we seeing culturally with teachers who are being hired? Are they staying? A creation of a work group to discuss, to investigate programs, and then how can we add something to be able to retain teachers.

Pam Bender spoke about the dead bills. AB1876 (Jackson) IPP/IFSP for regional center children zero to three-year-olds allowing parents to continue to have their meetings virtually if they choose. AB2768 (Berman), Golden State Teacher Grant Program non-public agencies and non-public schools to be seen as priority schools. Right now, it is only available to public schools.

8.2 Alternate Pathway Diploma

Pam Bender shared that Victor Valley Union High School district has proposed a pathway that was approved and passed by their board. They have agreed to present on October 29th from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. SELPA will send out invitations.

8.3 Credentials Bridge Authorization Update

Pam Bender shared that the SELPA will present a process to the Governance Council on November 1st. If approved, SELPA will meet with district HR staff, so they truly understand what is required and who is eligible. LEAs and human resources staff will have to approve it. SELPA will be talking with the superintendents. There is a \$100 fee for CTC. In-person and virtual trainings will be provided to those identified in each district. Cameras must be on, or they will have to redo the training. They must have a cleared credential and the autism authorization. LEAs will have to communicate with their teachers. There is no timeline. The purpose of this is so when audited teachers will have the credentials to be able to teach those students in programs i.e. OI.

Tanya Benitez shared that Rich Frederick and Stephanie Hedberg trained twelve VESD teachers who were able to bridge. It was excellent.

8.4 Interim Placements

Pam Bender mentioned that SELPA is working with DM Operations on some of the interim procedures. When students go to county programs, as the district of residence, the student's data will go to the district even though county is providing the services. If a student comes from out of state or if the student is young, districts need to get the SSID number for the student. County used to get the SSID number for districts but that was before we had district of residence. Districts need to track students in county programs. When billed for county services, make sure those students are the district's responsibility.

Larry Brunson asked if DM Operations can come up with some sort of protocol for county placements. Pam Bender shared that SELPA is working with county to get it in writing. It will be provided to the Steering committee for discussion.

Sheila Parisian added that SELPA is going to have an overall process on what should take place and what district staff should do when a student is received. Another consideration is the enrollment process. Some districts have district central enrollment while others have site-based enrollment. Districts should have some other systemic process. We can abide by the legalities of what is supposed to take place, what staff should do as far as inputting the record and sending the record to CALPADS. Districts need their own systemic process on how the district is going to do that within the district office or special education office.

Danielle Côté added that sometimes students are moving from a district in one SELPA and then move to a district in another SELPA.

Tanya Benitez shared that Victor Elementary School District enrolls every student including those being referred to DM Operations, so the district has the enrollment record and SSID number. Then they do the interim placement and update the IEP. It has been much cleaner because they have students in their database and then DM Operations is receiving a complete student. The district has an SOP that Tanya Benitez will share. CALPADS made an attendance dropdown with a holding spot to be used if parents choose to wait for the placement or while we do independent study or while we put them in the closest environment.

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8.5 Desert Mountain Children’s Center (DMCC) Client Services Reports and Update

Linda Llamas shared that if a district 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. If there are any changes on the client services report, like a child moving out of your district to another district, please let us know, so we can make sure we process the discharge for that client.

Linda Llamas shared news about contract awards and extensions with our San Bernardino County Department of Behavioral Health for four programs. The EIIS program is from age 0 to 9 and the SART contract is from age 0 to 5. SELPA wrote for it and were awarded for it. Received an extension through March 31, 2025, for the SATS and SAPS programs for children ages 6 to 21. DMCC staff go to school districts providing individual and other types of counseling. Linda stated that Pam will be sending out a request to districts 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.

8.6 [Professional Learning Opportunities](#)

Heidi Chavez went through the meeting materials provided. She shared that next month’s Director Training will take place on October 18th in-person at Desert Mountain Education Center in Apple Valley.

Pam Bender attended the first CAC meeting. There were about fourteen participants, mostly district representatives and a few parents. The CAC handbook was shared. A few updates will be forthcoming due to districts leaving and others joining. The parent survey was reviewed with twenty-six parent responses. Four different training/presentation topics were identified by parents. Danielle Côté and Miya Narvaiz-Ward will provide a behavioral supports presentation. Mental health and social emotional skills were other topics identified. Participants wanted to know more about inclusion. Dr. Dan Daher who is a coordinator with supporting inclusive practices, presented to the group. It was a very practical approach for both parents and educators. The inclusion was appreciated. The majority would like the meetings to stay virtual and continue to be held in the evenings.

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.

Heidi Chavez encouraged SLPs and SLPAs who are close to join these meetings in person so we can start building a sustainable network. These are open to contracted SLPs and SLPAs too.

8.7 Resolution Support Services Summary and Update

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

8.8 Compliance Update

Dr. Peggy Dunn reviewed the Compliance information provided in the meeting materials. She spoke with Vanessa Espinosa from CDE who advised districts to continue working with SIL, CDE, or whoever the district is working with to help through this process. 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

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27th from 3:00 to 4:00 pm. Please make sure IEPs are done on time. Check the dashboard for live updates.

Colette Garland thanked districts for completing pupil count early. Continuing SEIS trainings regionally extending them from three hours to four hours. Links are on the SEIS dashboard. Opening forums are held twice monthly for anyone to join. Finishing up “How To” training videos. The administrative meeting on September 10th provided good feedback. SELPA is building an internal SEIS administrative manual. A survey was sent out asking for topics for 1-hour mini-series. Met with translators and talked about using fillable forms outside of SEIS. Colette thanked Barstow for demonstrating how they use adobe acrobat. She thanked those who participated in the personal data report survey. There are three areas of an anomaly that was discussed with CDE. A survey was sent out and the data collected was submitted to CDE.

Nicole Yeager brought up a problem with the service tracking, Trona had a few students who were tardy when they were supposed to get their service time. How do they track that? If the student came in late when the service was supposed to be provided, does that mean the district is still responsible to provide those service minutes? They were able to provide some of the service minutes but not all minutes. Colette Garland stated that the partial minutes would be put in as being delivered and then use another service in the service tracker with the same date with the minutes you were unable to provide. The minutes that were unable to be delivered would be recorded as non-participatory. That is a dropdown menu under delivery code.

Dr. Peggy Dunn shared that SELPA is working with non-public schools (NPS) including the three that are up here. Quarterly meetings are held where updates are provided. We talk about things we observe, expectations as far as IEPs, and any other issues. Please let Dr. Dunn know if there are concerns, questions, or any topics that can be brought up with our NPSs. Also have residential treatment centers. There are about six students throughout the country. Dr. Karina Quezada is instrumental in going out to Utah and Florida, or other centers along with the DMCC staff to ensure that the facilities are meeting the needs of our students and that students are improving. There are about six or seven pending referrals.

8.9 Nonpublic School/Nonpublic Agency Update

Dr. Peggy Dunn asked that she be contacted if there are any issues with NPAs, NPSs, or RTCs.

Pam Bender reminded everyone that we have an overall contract with a lot of non-public agencies and if districts decide to connect with a non-public agency and have your own contract with them, districts may want to check with SELPA to see the rate we have. LEAs who have their own contracts are sometimes given higher rates. Some districts are almost paying double.

Pam Bender shared that non-public schools and residential are getting tough right now. They are telling us that they are not going to take students again. That is across the state. We are having difficult times placing our students.

David Wheeler stated that Apple Valley USD has a similar problem with county. Pam Bender shared that part of it may be that they do not have space, they do not have staff, and they have so many referrals. Pam posed a question: What do we do with those students in districts that cannot provide the service for? We do have to have that conversation about county school programs to see what we can do to help and what can we do to help to provide programming for districts. We can set up a meeting to brainstorm possible solutions.

Danielle Côté stated that it is not only taking students in, but also once the students are in, bringing them back a little faster than years past. Pam Bender agreed with that statement. What is the fade out plan?

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8.10 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 highlighting the 2023-24 annual reports for all CTE programs.

CTE: Deborah Sarkesian discussed education code 45125.1. In January of 2022, AB130 amended that section to make sure that if placing students in the community for the work-based experience or learning experience. Everyone in that business had 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. Our Work Incentive Technician do 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.

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.

8.11 Occupational and Physical Therapy Services Reports and Updates

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

8.12 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 are moving into a digital format only. The Woodcock Johnson Oral is no longer. Those subtests were broken down and will be part of a virtual test library. A virtual test library, a selection of subtests meant to provide more diagnostic kinds of information, is forthcoming. The 5th edition changes are based on the most recent census that occurred in 2020. They 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 the one that was being measured as to the latency. How quickly does the information travel from the iPad to the evaluator's laptop. Other tablets may have a latency that is extended. There is a two-year window where they begin to fade away and stop production.

Danielle Côté mentioned that there is confusion as to who can administer this assessment. Are there permissions for that? Dr. Quezada clarified that there are three different kinds of assessments. The Woodcock Johnson products are all moving into a digital format. With in that, the cognitive abilities for that need are for a classification C which is someone who has a school psychology, degree. That is specifically for school psychologists. The Woodcock Johnson Achievement is considered class B assessment. That is for someone who has an educational background which would be certificated teachers and who have also been trained to administer the test.

Priscilla Avila asked about the written part. Dr. Quezada clarified stating that it is being typed in and we are printing them in house. Priscilla asked if they are doing that for the Spanish too? It is in the works and is expected to be ready in two to three years.

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

Larry Brunson stated that there is information on the SELPA website in terms of who can serve as an LEA in an IEP meeting. It is very confusing because it states that someone can serve in multiple roles in IEP meetings. This has been incredibly problematic at Victor Valley Unified High School District. He believes that it was agreed to remove it, but it is still on the website. There are people referencing it. Pam Bender stated that there is a legal opinion, and she will bring it next month. It can be done but best practice is not to do that. She confirmed that this was brought up last year.

Annette Rego shared that she and Miya Narvaiz-Ward created a training for Barstow regarding this. Annette will run it through Barstow and run it through Larry Brunson to see if that is something they can do for Victor Valley Union High School District.

Vici Miller thanked Dr. Quezada for the school psychologist meeting this week. The speaker was beyond fantastic. It was phenomenal. Everyone was fixated on the speaker. It was really good. Thank you. She also thanked Colette Garland and Terri Nelson for their continued patience on SEIS.

Pam put a call in to one of our attorneys to get more of a legal opinion on the independent study question that came up last month. Not so much a legal opinion but more clarification of how they are seeing it from a legal perspective.

11.0 CEO COMMENTS

Pam Bender hopes everybody has been safe with all the fires going on. Snowline JUSD is hoping to be back next week possibly.

Leigh Anne Drake shared that Big Bear went back on Tuesday to a minimum half day schedule.

Pam Bender congratulated Dr. Amber Best who has been appointed the Special Ed. Director for Adelanto Elementary School District. Welcome as a Director today. Congratulations.

Pam Bender quoted Michael Deckman, "The only dreams impossible to reach are the ones you ever pursue."

12.0 MATTERS BROUGHT BY THE PUBLIC

None.

13.0 ADJOURNMENT

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LET IT BE 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 11:03 a.m. The motion carried on the following vote: 11:0:0. Ayes: Marcelo Congo, Dr. Amber Best, David Wheeler, Leigh Anne Drake, Deanna Crocker, Bryan Dale, Vici Miller, Scott Heitman, Pam De Renard, Nicole Yeger, Larry Brunson. Nays: None. Abstentions: None.

The next regular meeting of the Desert Mountain SELPA Steering Committee will be held on Friday, October 18, 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.