

MINUTES

Friday, October 18, 2024 – 9:00 a.m.

DESERT MOUNTAIN SELPA MEMBERS PRESENT

Academy Academic of Excellence - Marcelo Congo, Apple Valley Unified– David Wheeler, Barstow Unified – Heather Reid, Bear Valley Unified – Leigh Anne Drake, Desert Mountain Operations – Richard Frederick, Health Sciences – Bryan Dale via Zoom, Hesperia Unified – Eric Land, Lucerne Valley – Vici Miller, Oro Grande – Scott Heitman, Silver Valley – Cheri Rigdon, Snowline Joint Unified – Pam De Renard.

CAHELP, DM SELPA, AND DMCC STAFF PRESENT

Pam Bender, Angela Mgbeke, Bobbie Taylor, Colette Garland, Danielle Côté, Deborah Sarkesian, Guille Robles-Burgos, Heidi Chavez, Iván Campos, Jennifer Rountree, Dr. Karina Quezada, Kayla Gewirtz, Linda Llamas, Linda Rodriguez, Lisa Nash, Misty Ubina, Miya Narvaiz-Ward, Dr. Peggy Dunn, Sheila Parisian, 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 9:07 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 David Wheeler, seconded by Richard Frederick, to approve the October 18, 2024, Desert Mountain SELPA Steering and Finance Committee Meeting Agenda as presented. The motion carried on the following vote: 11:0:0. Ayes: Marcelo Congo, David Wheeler, Heather Reid, Leigh Anne Drake, Richard Frederick, Bryan Dale, Eric Land, Vici Miller, Scott Heitman, Cheri Rigdon, Pam De Renard. 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 Pam De Renard, to approve the following Consent Item as presented. The motion carried on the following vote: 11:0:0. Ayes: Marcelo Congo, David Wheeler, Heather Reid, Leigh Anne Drake, Richard Frederick, Bryan Dale, Eric Land, Vici Miller, Scott Heitman, Cheri Rigdon, Pam De Renard. Nays: None. Abstentions: None.

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5.1.1 September 20, 2024, Desert Mountain SELPA Steering and Finance Committee Meeting Minutes.

6.0 PRESENTATIONS

6.1 2023-2024 Fee-For-Service Year End Actuals

Selina Hurley, SBCSS Fiscal Analyst II, introduced SBCSS Internal Business Program Manager Anthony Warnecke. Selina presented the 2023-2024 Fee-For-Service Year End Actuals provided in the meeting materials. The budget to actuals shows that the revenue is 15 million dollars more than expected and budgeted. This is a direct correlation to the increase of 794 students. The ending balance is \$12,636,468. ADA also had an increase of over 220 students. The reserve came out to 2.4 million. The return is listed by district.

6.2 2023-2024 Final 50% LCFF Transfer

Selina Hurley presented the 2023-2024 Final 50% LCFF Transfer. The total LCFF came in at \$14.4 million. The 50% half was taken at second interim. The final transfer is going to be \$7.3 million.

6.3 Prevention and Intervention

Deborah Sarkesian and Angela Mgbeke introduced the Prevention and Intervention (P&I) team and provided the P&I brochure. The P&I team introduced themselves individually. Angela shared the team's professional experiences and types of memberships, who they supported, and Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS). The P&I team is comprised of many expertise and faculties, specialties, and different backgrounds including coaching and leadership expertise, applied behavioral analysis, and classroom experience.

Ariel Clark discussed establishing a Social Culture of membership that encompasses common language, common vision/values, and common experience. Available training includes behavior, PBIS, social emotional, trauma-informed, and customized trainings tailored to what LEAs need.

Daniel Anchondo discussed the fee for service. A full contract includes training and coaching. Prevention and intervention trainings can be individually designed. Cost varies per full or half day training. Services can be written in LCAP for associated items to assist with costs. Participating contracted schools and those participating in PBIS in California can be recognized by the CAPBIS Association. They are recognized with a bronze, silver, gold or platinum Implementation Award. CAHELP hosts a recognition event celebrating all schools that participate throughout the year and present them with plaques. A video of the recognition event was shared.

Debroah Sarkesian shared that if LEAs are using a different behavioral framework, LEAs are still eligible to be recognized if they meet the CAPBIS criteria through that system or program. Reach out to Deborah if interested.

7.0 PRESENTATIONS

7.1 Maintenance of Effort (MOE) Report

Kayla Gewitz reminded everyone that the MOE report was due in September. A reminder was emailed to those who have not yet turned in their report. Please reach out to Kayla if you are not passing your MOE; we can contact the county office for further support.

7.2 Excess Report

Kayla Gewitz stated that the Excess Report was also due. Sam Barker is in communication with those who have not turned it in. Feel free to reach out to Kayla, Kayla.Gewitz@cahelp.org or Sam, Samuel.Barker@cahelp.org.

Pam informed everyone that Kayla is copying directors when emailing district fiscal staff so directors are in the know.

8.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND STAFF REPORTS

8.1 Legislative Update

Pam Bender shared the following legislative updates.

AB217 (Addis) was signed ahead of time, changing emotional disturbance terminology to emotional disability. Everything is in the process of being transferred over.

AB2268 (Muratsuchi) was also signed ahead of time. The ELPAC is not going to be used for children in TK. It has been found not to be appropriate for four-year-olds.

SB445 (Portantino) was signed and goes in effect January 1, 2027, or no later than eighteen months after the final draft of the established IEP template is complete. Once adopted, CDE is required to translate the template into the ten most spoken languages and have it available on their website. Information will still need to be entered into the template.

A question came up yesterday with Charter SELPA on whether they are going to connect with the software programs. Pam stated that we do not know at this time.

Cheri Rigdon asked if that was going to drive more of the one IEP system for the whole state. Pam stated that she thinks that is what they are trying to do.

SB483 (Cortese), now being cited as the Max Benson's Law, the elimination of prone restraint. It goes into effect on January 1, 2025. We are in the process of putting together amendments right now to send to all nonpublic schools and nonpublic agencies, so they know that this is no longer allowed. We are also sending out amendments to our residential schools who are out of state because in order for our students to go to those schools, they have to be certified by CDE which requires them to follow our legislation.

AB438 (Blanco Rubio), the post-secondary goals and transition goes into effect on July 1, 2025. Training will need to take place for middle school teachers who will be writing transition goals and services so the student will have them in place by the time they enroll in ninth grade. The IEP team could decide that there is a benefit to the student and does not need those services until age sixteen with a justification. There is a plan to meet with CDE to look at these items.

Stephanie Hedberg, SBCSS Desert Mountain Operations, asked if the justification to not add transition goals and language in the IEP needs to be in the notes. Pam stated it would be safe to go in that direction.

AB2725 (Blanco Rubio), OT/PT Administrative Bill was vetoed by the Governor. OTs and PTs who have at least three years of school-based experience to be able to satisfy the respective requirements to enroll in a preliminary services credential program with a specialization in administrative services. In

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the Governor's memo, it states that he would like to move it to the CCTC to make that determination.

SB1263 (Newman) is the new teacher credentialing and teacher performance bill requires a workgroup to look at TPAs and the programs to find out what is going on. It goes into effect on July 1, 2025.

SB1391 (Rubio), teacher preparation and retention data, looking at the Cradle to Career data system being able to create and have a teacher training and retention dashboard in place before January of 2026. The Governor vetoed this bill stating that there is already a Cradle to Career system and a dashboard system that this bill should be worked into, instead of increasing or enacting another system that works side by side, and the cost that would go along with it.

8.2 Alternate Pathway Diploma

Pam Bender shared that Victor Valley Union High School district will be presenting on October 29th from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. There will be workgroups participation.

8.3 IEP Roles according to Education Code

Pam Bender shared that the SELPA handbook has a section on who can play what role in an IEP meeting according to the Education Code. We received a legal opinion and will have a summary we can put in our handbook available to districts to use when those questions arise. State and Federal law does allow us to fulfill more than one role if specific criteria are followed. Pam discussed possible conflicts.

Danielle Côté asked if that excludes program specialists. Pam answered, yes. Danielle shared that there may be some confusion as to say a single district down the hill allows program specialists to become that IEP representative or general education teacher. It is not possible here because we are not employees of the district and cannot play that role. Pam answered, correct.

Danielle Côté questioned non-public schools (NPS). Having a general education teacher does not become mandatory; the district employee becomes that person because the NPS would not have a general education teacher.

Sheila Parisian shared that CDE found a pattern of excusals. We learned that the general education teacher would also serve as the content knowledge expert to be able to develop goals or link them to state standards.

Pam will follow up with Kendra for the guidelines to include in the handbook.

8.4 Desert Mountain Children's Center (DMCC) Reports and Updates

Linda Llamas shared that the district point of contact was emailed the DMCC client services and client referral reposts by encrypted email from Keri Downing. If there are questions about the reports or if contact updates are needed, please reach out to Linda, Linda.Llamas@cahelp.org or Keri Downing, Keri.Downing@cahelp.org.

Linda Llamas provided a summary of two mental health articles. She shared information on a DMCC training, Responding to School Crises on October 24 and 25, 2024 from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Flyers were provided.

Cheri Rigdon shared that there is a trend with parents putting ADHD and autism together. There are cases where a student may have autistic characteristics and ADHD characteristics, but it is not a given. Linda contributed the overlapping of PTSA Autism and ADHD and how they can look very similar. When talking about where the symptomology derives from, it can tailor that down a little better.

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Jennifer Rountree added that there are just two characteristics, social communication deficits and repetitive cognitive behavior that does not automatically equate to ADHD symptomology but it can overlap.

8.5 [Professional Learning Opportunities](#)

Heidi Chavez shared the monthly summary for September. She shared information on the training Distressing Behaviors at Home: What Do I Do Now? at the upcoming CAC meeting on November 14th. The Director's Training, When ERHMS Is Not Enough, is being held today at 12:00 pm with Lauri Arrowsmith from Lozano Smith. The IMTSS symposium will be held on February 27, 2025, from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm at High Desert Church. Dr. Tina Payne Bryson will be presenting *No-Drama Discipline for Educators*. It costs \$175 for members and \$250 for non-members. If registrants request Spanish, a Spanish translator will be requested.

8.6 Resolution Support Services Summary and Update

Sheila Parisian reviewed the Resolution Supports Services Summary provided in the meeting materials highlighting that there are thirteen filings inclusive with Charter SELPA. There were four in October. Last month there were three and all three were dismissed.

8.7 Compliance Update

Dr. Peggy Dunn reviewed the Compliance information provided in the meeting materials. The cyclical monitoring for small LEAs is currently underway. Activities are due February 26, 2025. The annual determination letters are coming out February 25, 2025. Disproportionality will be pulled December 13, 2024. That data will be covered in the 2025 annual determination letters. She congratulated those who went through the compliance data process. The reduction in Late IEPS was significant and all should be commended for that. There are five hundred and seventy-six late annuals, two hundred and fifty late triennials, forty-one late initials, and fifty 30-day late reviews. Peggy encouraged districts to look into P&I offerings to assist in areas in the annual determination letters.

Pam Bender gave a shout out to Apple Valley Unified School District and Hesperia Unified School District for decreasing the number of late IEPS from eighty to six or eight.

Dr. Peggy Dunn went over the Compliance and Improvement Monitoring that was due October 10, 2024. Targeted progress report is due January 10, 2025. Those in intensive have eight progress reports due and those who are in target have four due.

Scott Heitman asked if feedback was provided. Peggy stated that feedback is provided but they may be behind. Peggy will inquire.

8.8 Nonpublic School/Nonpublic Agency Update

Dr. Peggy Dunn shared that 120 students are placed in non-public schools or residential treatment facilities.

Dr. Peggy Dunn is cognizant that there is an increased need for hearing and vision services. She is working with non-public agencies and trying to get them CDE certified.

8.9 SEIS Update

Colette Garland announced that CALPADS is open for the 2024-25 school year. We have access to

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the data discrepancy report in CALPADS early. December 13, 2024, is the due date. TOMS nightly exports are taking place. Open Forums and SEIS training is available.

8.10 Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP) Update

DRDP memorandum went out this past week. It is affecting TK and Kindergarten. Many attended the SEIS training last week. We are gathering handouts and all the information and will make it available on our website.

8.11 Career Technical Education (CTE) Update

Deborah Sarkesian shared that there is a Transition Planning for All Students training on November 7, 2024, via zoom from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

8.12 Prevention and Intervention and Career Technical Education Updates

Deborah Sarkesian highlighted that there were 61 schools in the high desert that were celebrated. Five schools starting out in the process received bronze, 25 received silver, 15 received gold, and 16 received platinum. She shared resource, *Positive Proactive Approaches to Supporting Children with Disabilities*. As Region 10's technical assistance center, know that PBIS and MTSS can be used for students in special education as they are students in general education first. Our MTSS sustainability network is coming back.

8.13 Occupational and Physical Therapy Services Reports and Updates

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

9.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

9.1 Emotional Disability Flyer

Pam Bender shared information on the Emotional Disability flyer. There are two attorneys that are going to discuss assessments and case law with emotional disabilities. This is supported through State SELPA and costs \$99. It will be held on February 27, 2025, from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm.

9.2 Legal Updates and Pro-Tips for 2025 Subscription

Pam Bender shared that the Legal Updates and Pro-Tips for 2025 is to be held on February 18th from 8:30 am to 3:15 pm. There are a total of five different attorneys that are going to be speaking about keeping out of trouble and providing resources. It is sponsored by the State SELPA organization. It is provided online and costs \$75.00. Jack Clark and Cynthia Vargas are presenting

9.3 Monthly Audiological Services

Richard Frederick asked to be contacted if there were any issues with the audiological services reports.

10.0 STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS COMMENTS / REPORTS

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Richard Frederick reminded everyone that on October 23, 2024, SBCSS is holding a Professional Development Day for all county programs bringing together all 1,400 employees together. SBCSS is completing a pilot on Teach Town for their K-12 programs.

Richard Frederick announced that Stephanie Hedberg has been selected as the new Area Director for the Desert Mountain Operations. Pam Bender congratulated and welcomed Stephanie Hedberg.

Pam Bender shared that the person doing the Teach Town has reached out to her asking if she could do a presentation at the SELPA level. Pam will provide more information as it becomes available.

Vici Miller asked what the make-up day will be for the Professional Development Day. Stephanie Hedberg stated that one day would be added to the end of the school year; it may be a minimum day. County principals and clerical staff have been asked to work with the transportation departments. Vici stated that it affects the transportation department, nutrition department, and ESY.

David Wheeler stated that there are no EL goal banks in SEIS. Is there a possibility of adding those goal banks? Pam Bender stated that SELPA will take a look at that and see what can be done to assist everyone.

11.0 CEO COMMENTS

Pam Bender spoke about the CYBHI grant fee-for-service that will be taken to Governance on November 1, 2024, for approval. It allows mental health services to be provided for students with funding that goes along with that. Linda Llamas stated that there was a meeting on the grant allocation funds that are distributed to districts if appropriate. One of the things that it could be used for is funding to build some infrastructure to apply for and bill for the multi payer fee schedule. That is one of the things that DMCC would like to offer to districts. DMCC has come up with a proposal that was submitted to Pam Bender that included what that could look like and the services that could be offered to districts via telehealth. It would be an added service that districts could opt in for. SELPA would take care of the hiring, training of staff, and Medi-Cal billing, and being able to invoice the third-party administrator for those services. Pam Bender stated that DMCC could be a contractor to provide those services to our member districts. With county school, the practice had been that we are not doing virtual. Through this process, services can be provided virtually.

Pam Bender shared that when looking at Low Incidence Requests, there are a few students that did not have a qualifying primary or secondary disability. Multi-disability and autism are not low incidence disabilities. When requests for low incidence equipment is received, she looks at the request and if they do not have qualifying disabilities, she will decline them.

Pam Bender quoted Leonardo da Vinci, "Learning is the only thing the mind never exhausts, never fears, and never regrets."

12.0 MATTERS BROUGHT BY THE PUBLIC

No matters brought by the public.

13.0 ADJOURNMENT

LET IT BE RESOLVED that a motion was made by Vici Miller, seconded by David Wheeler, to adjourn the Desert Mountain SELPA Steering and Finance Committee Meeting at 1:42 p.m. The motion carried on the following vote: 11:0:0. Ayes: Marcelo Congo, David Wheeler, Heather Reid, Leigh Anne Drake, Richard Frederick, Bryan Dale, Eric Land, Vici Miller, Scott Heitman, Cheri Rigdon, Pam De Renard. Nays: None. Abstentions: None.

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The next regular meeting of the Desert Mountain SELPA Steering Committee will be held on Friday, November 15, 2024, 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.