

California Association of Health and Education Linked Professions,  
Joint Powers Authority (CAHELP, JPA)  
**DESERT MOUNTAIN SELPA STEERING and FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
*December 13, 2024 – 9:00 a.m.*  
Desert Mountain Educational Service Center, 17800 Highway 18, Apple Valley CA 92307

## **MINUTES**

### **DESERT MOUNTAIN SELPA MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Academy Academic Excellence – Marcelo Congo, Adelanto Elementary SD – Dr. Amber Best, Apple Valley USD – David Wheeler, Desert/Mountain Operations – Stephanie Hedberg, Excelsior Charter Schools – Oscar Torres, Helendale SD – Chantell Butler, Hesperia USD – Eric Land (9:15 am), Lucerne Valley USD – Vici Miller, Needles USD – Jamie Wiesner via zoom, Oro Grande SD – Scott Heitman, Silver Valley USD – Cheri Rigdon, Snowline Joint USD – Pam De Renard, Victor Elementary SD – Tanya Benitez, Victor Valley Union High SD – Larry Brunson.

### **CAHELP, DM SELPA, AND DMCC STAFF PRESENT:**

Pam Bender, Deborah Sarkesian, Guille Robles-Burgos, Heidi Chavez, Kayla Gewirtz, Dr. Peggy Dunn, Sheila Parisian, Codi Andersen, Annette Rego, Isaac Medina, Iván Campos, Jennifer Rountree, Jennifer Sutton, Dr. Karina Quezada, Lisa Nash, Maurica Manibusan, Misty Ubina, Jennifer Harms, and Rory Hazen.

### **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 9:03 a.m., at the Desert Mountain Educational Service Center, Apple Valley CA.

### **2.0 ROLL CALL**

### **3.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No public participation.

At 9:06 am Stephanie Hedberg stepped out.

### **4.0 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

4.1 **BE IT RESOLVED** that a motion was made by David Wheeler, seconded by Vici Miller, to approve the December 13, 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, Oscar Torres, Chantell Butler, Vici Miller, Jamie Wiesner, Scott Heitman, Cheri Rigdon, Pam De Renard, 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 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 David Wheeler, seconded by Tanya Benitez, 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, Oscar Torres, Chantell Butler, Vici Miller,

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Jamie Wiesner, Scott Heitman, Cheri Rigdon, Pam De Renard, Tanya Benitez, and Larry Brunson.  
Nays: None. Abstentions: None.

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

### **6.0 FINANCIAL COMMITTEE ITEMS**

#### 6.1 Interim Reports

Kayla Gewirtz reviewed the 2024-25 1<sup>st</sup> interim balances. Will have the second interim in February.

At 9:13 am Stephanie Hedberg returned.

#### 6.2 2023-24 DM SELPA Table 8

The MOE Table 8 was submitted on October 31, 2024. The LEA level information is collected to ensure LEAs meet the IDEA part B, maintenance and effort reduction and coordination early intervening services requirements.

#### 6.3 2023-24 DM SELPA Table Extraordinary Cost Pool

The Extraordinary Cost Pool had a total of eight students in Non-Public Schools.

At 9:15 am Eric Land joined the meeting.

#### 6.4 DM SELPA Federal Grant Balances

Kayla Gewirtz reviewed the Federal Grant Funding (3310-3312). The next reporting period, Report 5, is due to Sam Barker on January 21. SELPA to submit to CDE on January 31.

### **7.0 PRESENTATIONS**

#### 7.1 PEERS Presentation

Jennifer Rountree presented the PEERS program. The 14<sup>th</sup> Cohort was completed on December 11, 2024. PEERS is a skills program designed to support teenagers in improving their social skills related to making and keeping friends. The program also provides training for parents, guiding them on how to effectively support their child.

Three video examples were presented and viewed.

A community autism grant was received, which contributed to the development of 57 role-playing videos focused on key skills such as conversation techniques, managing teasing, electronic

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communication, initiating individual conversations, and practicing good sportsmanship. These videos are being shared through the PEERS UCLA program and other platforms, making them accessible to anyone who may benefit from them.

Districts are encouraged to refer students to the program. Currently the program has two groups simultaneously based on ability levels. There could be up to 22 participants.

### 8.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND STAFF REPORTS

#### 8.1 Legislative Update

A total of 37 new lawmakers have been elected. Among them, 8 have prior experience in the Assembly, while approximately 25% are serving at the state level for the first time. The Assembly has 23 new members, with one vacancy, while the Senate has 12 new members, also with one vacancy. Governor Newsom is scheduled to hold a special election in 2025 to fill the two vacant seats. Despite these changes, Democrats maintain control of two-thirds of both legislative houses, granting them the ability to override vetoes from Governor Newsom.

##### Notable Item:

- Approximately 12 new lawmakers have prior experience working in schools or as elected school board members.

##### Historical Changes:

- The Senate now has 21 women members, and women make up 49% of all lawmakers (59 women in total).
- The Senate consists of 40 members, each serving 4-year terms, while the Assembly has 80 members with 2-year terms. Both houses have a lifetime maximum of 12 years for members.

##### Legislative Dates:

- New statutes will take effect on January 1, 2025, unless otherwise noted.
- The legislature will reconvene in January 2025.
- Governor Newsom's budget for 2025 is due by January 10, 2025.
- The last day for bill introductions is February 21, 2025.

#### 8.2 Credentials Bridge Authorization Update

Credential Analyst trainings for understanding the Credentials Bridge requirements are scheduled for December 13, 18, and 20. Districts will invite staff to register for the Credentials Bridge Authorization trainings they have identified. Participants must have a cleared credential with the Autism Authorization. They can also participate in early childhood and mild/moderate and moderate/severe. They must participate in both and pay for both. District Superintendents have said that they have funding for teachers who participate.

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### 8.3 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](mailto:Linda.Llamas@cahelp.org). If there has been a change in the point of contact, please notify Linda.

Article, ‘*Supporting ids with Mental Health Challenges Through the Holidays*’ was shared highlighting the need for emotional needs during the holidays. Districts are encouraged to share the article.

In November, 609 referrals were received, and 150 therapists are actively managing these referrals alongside their caseloads.

A discussion took place regarding districts going over the 20% of students with IEPs and penalizations from CDE and how it becomes a part of compliance.

A discussion took place regarding TK and considerations for behaviors at the State level.

### 8.4 [Professional Learning Opportunities](#)

In November, 627 participants attended a training/workshop, 482 attended on-sites, and 145 participated in regional trainings. For the year, 4,603 participated in trainings, with 3,124 attending on-sites and 1,479 attending regional trainings.

The upcoming Directors’ in-person training dates are February 21, 2025, and April 18, 2025. Michelle Brown will present ‘*Compliance and Data Leading Through an Equity Lens*’ on February 21, 2025. On April 18, 2025, E.B. Bell from AALRR will be presenting ‘*Special Education Legal Updates*.’

The IMTSS Symposium is being held on February 27<sup>th</sup> 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.

At 9:50 am Jamie Wiesner left the zoom meeting.

### 8.5 Resolution Support Services Summary and Update

There have been nineteen filings, not including ADDR or formal mediation, for this school year so far.

### 8.6 Compliance Update

Targeted Progress Report #2 (reporting period: July 2024 – December 2024) is due January 10, 2025. Dr. Peggy Dunn needs the Targeted Progress Report #2 as soon as possible to meet the January 16,

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2025, CDE deadline assuring CDE that Dr. Peggy Dunn has the report, has reviewed the report, and the district is complying with the requirements.

The Intensive Progress Report #4 (reporting period: October 2024 – December 2024) is due to CDE on January 10, 2025.

Cyclical Monitoring for Small LEAs Cycle B is due February 28, 2025, and includes a student record review, policy and procedures review, and infrastructure review.

A discussion took place regarding the attendance of General Education Teachers at IEPs and the use of the Excusal of IEP Team Member form.

### 8.7 Special Education Information System (SEIS) Update

December 13, 2024, is the certification date so everything must be cleared by then for CDE Open Forums and SEIS trainings are available in December.

### 8.8 Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP) Update

DRDP information is due in SEIS by January 10, 2025. DRDP video training is available on the [www.draccess.org](http://www.draccess.org) website. Staff conducting the testing must have an account and attend training.

### 8.9 California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System (CALPADS) Update

CDE sent emails on December 6 regarding data checks conducted on November 30. Information was forwarded to Directors on December 9.

In CALPADS, it is found in the Plan Container. In SEIS, it is found in the CALPADS Student Page and Information and Eligibility page. Attending School and Services need to be updated for NPS programs. Pupil Count is complete.

Directors are reminded to continue reviewing the Data Discrepancy Report and the 16.21 report in CALPADS. Fall 1 Certification is due December 13, 2024. The amendment window is December 14, 2024 – January 25, 2025.

### 8.10 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.

### 8.11 Prevention and Intervention (P&I) Updates

The MTSS Sustainability Network will be held on January 8, 2025, from 8:30 am to 10:30 am. The 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, from

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9:00 am to 11:00 am or 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

### 8.12 Occupational and Physical Therapy Services Reports and Updates

The next Occupational Therapy Professional Learning Collaborative will be held on January 13, 2025, from 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm at no cost. The next Physical Therapy Professional Learning Collaborative will be held on January 21, 2025, from 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm at no cost.

For questions, contact Codi Andersen at [Codi.Andersen@cahelp.org](mailto:Codi.Andersen@cahelp.org).

## 9.0 INFORMATION / ACTION ITEMS

### 9.1 Upcoming Trainings

As previously discussed, there are trainings coming up.

## 10.0 STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS COMMENTS / REPORTS

Larry Brunson requested an email with the SEIS training dates and times be sent to directors. Larry also requested that directors be included in the on-site request process.

Eric Land gave a shout out to Guille Robles-Burgos for her gentle reminders, helpfulness, politeness, and responsiveness.

Heidi Chavez introduced Rory Hazen as the newest Program Specialist.

## 11.0 CEO COMMENTS

2025 CAHELP JPA calendars were distributed. A calendar will be mailed to those who attended virtually or were unable to attend.

Thank you to Victor Valley Union High School District for the wonderful job with the Alternative Pathways to a Diploma training. The flyer is in the meeting materials provided.

The State Dashboard is expected next month. This brings General Education and Special Education together. The districts in San Bernardino County have improved in their dashboard. It would be great if we could have one plan for all students.

## 12.0 MATTERS BROUGHT BY THE PUBLIC

No matters were brought by the public.

## 13.0 ADJOURNMENT

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**BE IT RESOLVED** that a motion was made by Cheri Rigdon, seconded by David Wheeler to adjourn the Desert Mountain SELPA Steering and Finance Committee Meeting at 10:33 am. The motion carried on the following vote: 13:0:0. Ayes: Marcelo Congo, Dr Amber Best, David Wheeler, Sephanie Hedberg, Oscar Torres, Chantell Butler, Eric Land, Vici Miller, Scott Heitman, Cheri Rigdon, Pam De Renard, Tanya Benitez, Larry Brunson. Nays: None. Abstentions: None

The next regular meeting of the Desert Mountain SELPA Steering Committee will be held on Friday, January 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(s) for disabilities are requested to contact Cindy Quan at (760) 955-3555, at least seven days prior to the date of this meeting.*