

California Association of Health and Education Linked Professions
Joint Powers Authority (CAHELP JPA)
DESERT MOUNTAIN CHARTER SELPA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING
January 18, 2024 – 11:00 a.m.
Desert Mountain Educational Service Center, 17800 Highway 18, Apple Valley CA 92307

MINUTES

DESERT MOUNTAIN CHARTER SELPA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Allegiance STEAM Academy – Sebastian Cognetta, Aveson Global/Aveson School of Leaders – Ian Mc Feat via Web Ex (at Odyssey Charter location), Ballington Academy for the Arts & Sciences – Doreen Mulz via Web Ex, Elite Academic Academy – Meghan Freeman via Web Ex, Leonardo da Vinci Health Sciences – Courtney Cox via Web Ex, Odyssey Charter Schools – Carlos Garcia Saldana via Web Ex, and Southern California Flex Academy – Michelle Romaine.

CAHELP STAFF PRESENT:

Jamie Adkins, Pam Bender, Guille Burgos, Heidi Chavez, and Jennifer Sutton.

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 Charter SELPA Executive Council Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Pam Bender at 10:15 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 the adoption of the January 19, 2024 Desert Mountain Charter SELPA Executive Council Meeting Agenda failed due to lack of quorum.

5.0 CONSENT ITEM

It is recommended that the Desert Mountain Charter SELPA Executive Council 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 the following consent item be tabled to the April 18, 2024 meeting due to lack of quorum.

5.1.1 October 19, 2023 Desert Mountain Charter SELPA Executive Council Meeting Minutes.

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6.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND STAFF REPORTS

6.1 Legislative Update

Pam Bender provided a legislative update. She reported that on January 10, 2024, the Governor's Budget was released and it appears that the governor is keeping his promise with funding to schools including homeless and mental health. Pam continued that bills that were chaptered are effective January 1, 2024, unless otherwise stated. Pam highlighted the following chaptered bills.

- Assembly Bill (AB) 447 – UC and Cal State systems are required to have an inclusive college program for students with disabilities or intellectual disability.
- AB 248 is legislation that removes terminology of retardation so it becomes obsolete.
- Senate Bill (SB) 531 is regarding public safety ensuring local education agencies complete background checks for student safety.
- AB 1340 is legislation for school accountability ensuring statewide data based on disability is posted on the LEA website. Student confidentiality and protections continue to be a concern because in a smaller district, the slightest information could tell the public what disability a student has.
- SB 323 ensures LEAs have emergency safety procedures that are comprehensive to include students with disabilities. It is not required in a student's IEP but in the school plan.
- AB 611 requires nonpublic schools notify parents of change in certification within 14 days.
- AB 723 is in reference to foster children and makes the nonpublic school the school of origin for them.
- AB 1466 pertains to pupil discipline, ensures any restraint or seclusion used in the LEA is posted on the LEA website. Pam stated seclusion is not to be used and restraint done only by staff with the proper training.
- SB 88 requires transportation drivers to have a criminal background check including: fingerprinting, mandated reporter, tuberculosis testing, drug testing, and alcohol testing, along with training and classes.

6.2 SEIS Transition Update

Pam Bender provided a SEIS Transition update. Pam stated every LEA should be using the system and IEPs are no longer being entered by CAHELP JPA staff. She reported more than 1500 IEPs were entered by CAHELP JPA staff from fillable forms. Pam asked to be contacted by any LEA having difficulty with SEIS entry. Pam also stated she will not be sending weekly updates regarding SEIS.

Pam reported that CALPADS allowed leniency on errors that were special education only. The certification window has closed and the amendment window has opened, the errors are to be corrected by January 26, 2024. If there are still issues with CALPADS, notify Colette Garland or Terri Nelson. Pam noticed that some LEAs were certified and approved initially but are now receiving errors so it is important for the LEAs to double check.

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6.3 Use of Low Incidence Funds Balance

Pam Bender provided possibilities for using Low Incidence Funds balance. She said with the DMCS Low Incidence funds continuing to increase, the business office is looking for ways to make it useful for the charter member LEAs. Pam asked for ideas from the council members and also suggested the possibility of hearing assessments with Pacific Hearing as they are contracted with DMSELPA. Pam continued the funding is for deaf or hard of hearing, orthopedic, and/or visual impairments materials and equipment. Pam let the council members know that she will also be talking to the DMCS Steering and Finance Committee about the use of the funds at the meeting scheduled for January 25, 2024.

6.4 Educationally Related Mental Health Services (ERMHS) Funding Update

Pam Bender provided an update on Educationally Related Mental Health Services (ERMHS) funding. Pam reminded the council members that per AB 181, all ERMHS funding was distributed to LEAs. CAHELP JPA Governance Council voted in May 2023 for the funding to remain with DMSELPA for member LEAs that were within the desert/mountain region. For member LEAs not in the region, the funds would stay with the LEAs since they do not receive ERMHS from DMCC. She said the business office is working on fund transfers.

6.5 2024-25 Desert Mountain Charter SELPA Local Plan

Pam Bender provided information regarding the 2024-25 Desert Mountain Charter SELPA Local Plan. She reported that Section B Governance and Administration is due this year as it is completed every three years, along with Sections D (Annual Budget Plan) and E (Annual Service Plan). Pam said she will be putting together Local Plan Committees and will ask the DMCS Steering and Finance Committee as well as Community Advisory Committee (CAC) members to be part of it. The local plan is due to CDE by June 30, 2024 with the final version being presented to CAHELP JPA Governance Council on May 12, 2024. The member LEA boards will also be presented with the local plan for approval. Pam said the finalized timeline and committee member names will be emailed to DMCS Executive Council once the details are settled.

6.6 Compliance Updates

Pam Bender presented an update on compliance items from the California Department of Education (CDE). Pam shared the Annual Determination Letters are expected to be sent to DMSELPA in March who will provide the information to LEAs. The letters will provide the compliance status for the LEAs. LEAs that are newly identified will be required to develop a multi-year plan instead of a one-year plan because there is too much to handle within a year. The CDE was asked for compliance items to not be due in June since LEA staff are rarely available.

Pam reviewed the Compliance and Improvement Monitoring (CIM) process Step Four Progress Report due dates. Pam continued that for LEAs in San Bernardino County who are out of compliance on the dashboard have program specialists assisting. Pam noted that with charter

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schools noted for Differentiated Assistance, very few were listed for students with disabilities.

7.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

7.1 Professional Learning Summary

Heidi Chavez presented the Professional Learning Summary. She provided information on Celebrating Families resiliency training, Directors' Training dates for the year, and iMTSS Symposium scheduled for February 21, 2024. Heidi shared the next Community Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for February 22, 2024 with the representative meeting being held 4:30 p.m-5:00 p.m. virtually. Heidi reiterated that having a representative attend the meeting is a requirement of being a DMCS member.

*Note: Doreen Mulz joined the meeting via Web Ex at 10:44 a.m.

Pam Bender reported that based on the fillable forms that were received from LEAs to be entered in SEIS, there will be multiple trainings offered on writing IEPs including present levels and goals. She reminded the council members that information was entered in SEIS exactly as it was received with the fillable form uploaded to the system as documentation.

7.2 Resolution Support Services Summary

Pam Bender reported on Resolution Support Services Summary. It has been noticed that the same advocates are coming forward. Pam noted that a column was added to the summary report reflecting the number of cases filed on parents. She said it is our responsibility to file on a parent if they are not signing the IEP. Pam also noted that filings are not about money but about children receiving services. Pam continued that it is ideal to solve issues and concerns before advocates or attorneys are contacted. She said it is important for a principal or special education director to contact the parent as soon as issues arise to understand what the concern is.

Note: Michelle Romaine joined the meeting at 10:56 a.m.

7.3 Upcoming Professional Learning Opportunities

8.0 DESERT MOUNTAIN CHARTER SELPA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS COMMENTS / REPORTS

Sebastian Cognetta asked if he holds two votes for quorum. Pam Bender confirmed that each charter CEO represents one vote regardless of the number of campuses the LEA has.

9.0 CEO COMMENTS

Pam Bender shared a quote of "A new year is a fresh start with infinite possibilities". Pam thanked the

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councilmembers for their support and patience during the transition to SEIS and the LEA staff working towards making it happen.

*Note: Meghan Freeman left the meeting at 10:58 a.m.

10.0 MATTERS BROUGHT BY CITIZENS

None.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business to discuss, Pam Bender ended the meeting at 11:03 a.m.

The next regular meeting of the Desert Mountain Charter SELPA Executive Council will be held on Thursday, April 18, 2024, at 11:00 a.m., at the Desert Mountain Educational Service Center, Aster/Cactus Room, 17800 Highway 18, Apple Valley, CA 92307.

Individuals requiring special accommodations for disabilities are requested to contact Jamie Adkins at (760) 955-3555, at least seven days prior to the date of this meeting.