

California Association of Health and Education Linked Professions
Joint Powers Authority (CAHELP JPA)
DESERT MOUNTAIN CHARTER SELPA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING
April 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 (via Zoom) and Jacque Williams, Aveson Global/Aveson School of Leaders – Ian Mc Feat via Zoom, Desert Trails Prep/La Verne Elementary Prep – Chantal Mendoza, Elite Academic Academy – Misty Cervantes via Zoom, Julia Lee Performing Arts Academy – Nika Hall and Rachel Thomas via Zoom, Leonardo da Vinci Health Sciences – Courtney Cox via Zoom, Odyssey Charter Schools – Carlos Garcia Saldana via Zoom, Pasadena Rosebud Academy – Shawn Brown, Pathways to College – James Connell, and Southern California Flex Academy – Michelle Romaine.

CAHELP STAFF PRESENT:

Jamie Adkins, Pam Bender, Heidi Chavez, Peggy Dunn, Marina Gallegos, Deborah Sarkesian, Jennifer Sutton and Theresa Vaughan.

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 Steering and Finance Committee Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Pam Bender at 11:04 a.m., at the Desert Mountain Educational Service Center, Apple Valley.

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 James Connell, seconded by Michelle Romaine, to approve the April 18, 2024 Desert Mountain Charter SELPA Executive Council Meeting Agenda as presented. The motion carried on the following vote: 9:0:0, Ayes: Brown, Cervantes, Connell, Cox, McFeat, Mendoza, Romaine, Saldana, and Williams. Nays: None. Abstentions: None.

5.0 PUBLIC HEARING

5.1 Desert Mountain Charter SELPA Local Plan Section B: Governance and Administration (ACTION)

California Education Code requires that a Special Education Local Plan Section B: Governance and Administration be presented for public hearing prior to submission to the California Department of Education (CDE). The Local Plan describes how special education services are provided for eligible students who reside within a Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) region every three years. By June 30, 2024, all SELPAs are required to submit a Local Plan using CDE adopted templates. A final draft of the 2024-25 Desert Mountain Charter SELPA Local Plan will be presented for public hearing.

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MINUTES

5.1.1 **BE IT RESOLVED** that a motion was made by James Connell, seconded by Michelle Romaine, to approve the Desert Mountain Charter SELPA Local Plan Section B: Governance and Administration as presented. The motion carried on the following vote: 9:0:0, Ayes: Brown, Cervantes, Connell, Cox, McFeat, Mendoza, Romaine, Saldana, and Williams. Nays: None. Abstentions: None.

5.2 Desert Mountain Charter SELPA Annual Service Plan (**ACTION**)

California Education Code requires that an Annual Service Plan be approved by the CAHELP JPA Governance Council as part of the Local Plan. The 2024-25 Annual Service Plan describes all special education services currently provided in the Desert Mountain Charter SELPA broken down by type, location, and level of severity.

5.2.1 **BE IT RESOLVED** that a motion was made by Courtney Cox, seconded by James Connell, to approve the Desert Mountain Charter SELPA 2024-25 Annual Service Plan as presented. The motion carried on the following vote: 9:0:0, Ayes: Brown, Cervantes, Connell, Cox, McFeat, Mendoza, Romaine, Saldana, and Williams. Nays: None. Abstentions: None.

5.3 Desert Mountain Charter SELPA Annual Budget Plan (**ACTION**)

California Education Code requires that an Annual Budget Plan be approved by the CAHELP Governance Council as part of the Local Plan. The 2024-25 Annual Budget Plan describes the revenues and expenditures for special education for all local education agencies in the Desert Mountain Charter SELPA.

5.3.1 **BE IT RESOLVED** that a motion was made by James Connell, seconded by Jacque Williams, to approve the Desert Mountain Charter SELPA 2024-25 Annual Budget Plan as presented. The motion carried on the following vote: 9:0:0, Ayes: Brown, Cervantes, Connell, Cox, McFeat, Mendoza, Romaine, Saldana, and Williams. Nays: None. Abstentions: None.

6.0 CONSENT ITEMS

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.

6.1 **BE IT RESOLVED** that a motion was made by James Connell, seconded by Shawn Brown, to approve the following Consent Items as presented. The motion carried on the following vote: 10:0:0, Ayes: Brown, Cervantes, Connell, Cox, Hall, McFeat, Mendoza, Romaine, Saldana, and Williams. Nays: None. Abstentions: None.

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MINUTES

- 6.1.1 October 19, 2023 Desert Mountain Charter SELPA Executive Council Meeting Minutes.
- 6.1.2 January 18, 2024 Desert Mountain Charter SELPA Executive Council Meeting Minutes.
- 6.1.3 2024-25 Desert Mountain Charter SELPA Executive Council Schedule of Meetings.

Note: Nika Hall and Rachel Thomas joined the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

7.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND STAFF REPORTS

7.1 Legislative Update

Pam Bender presented a legislative update, highlighting the following bills that pertain to special education:

- Assembly Bill (AB) 438 Pupils with Exceptional Needs: Individualized Education Programs: Postsecondary Goals and Transition Services – states that students are to have transition goals in place by ninth grade. Also, if an IEP team determines a student does not need transition goals before going into ninth grade, it must be written in IEP why transition goals are not included.
- AB 2768 Golden State Teacher Grant Program: Nonpublic, Nonsectarian Schools or Agencies – to expand language so nonpublic schools, nonsectarian schools or agencies are considered priority schools as public schools are.
- AB 1938 Special Education: Inclusive Practices and Strategies – this bill is for children who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind, visually impaired, or deaf-blind to be part of inclusive practices and strategies to improve pupil outcomes.
- AB 2026 Disabilities: Person-First Terminology – looking to institute person-first terminology in Health and Safety Codes along with Welfare and Institutions Codes. The bill, however, is not written consistently using person-first language. DMSELPA and DMCS have had this in place for several years.
- AB 2173 Special Education: Emotional Disability – changing language only from “emotional disturbance” to “emotional disability”. The criteria would not change.
- AB 2784 Special Education: Nonpublic, Nonsectarian Schools: Waivers – is a “spot Bill” meaning there is no substance to the measure but the legislator has intent.
- Senate Bill (SB) 445 Special Education: Individualized Education Programs: Translation Services – the 2nd year of 2-year bill pursuing translations of IEPs to be completed within 30 calendar days of meeting or from when translation requested by parent. State SELPA is talking with the author of the bill in an attempt to change the timeline to 45 days and/or school days instead of calendar days.
- SB 483 Pupil Rights: Prone Restraint – bill would prohibit the use of prone restraint and prone containment in special education and general education.

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April 18, 2024 – 11:00 a.m.

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MINUTES

7.2 Credentials Bridge Authorization

Pam Bender presented SBCSS credentials bridge authorization information. With California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) allowing counties, SELPAs, and LEAs to put a bridge authorization together, SBCSS/Desert Mountain Operations (DMOPS) has created a training for their teachers that was shared with CAHELP Governance Council on March 29, 2024. Pam reviewed the previous credentials and the current credentials, noting that Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) can now teach transitional kindergarten and kindergarten for students with special needs. Pam also shared the federal disability categories now covered by Mild Moderate Support Needs (MMSN) and Extensive Support Needs (ESN). The DMOPS bridge authorization model is a two-hour training and eliminates the need for teachers to return to school to update their credentials. Governance asked that SELPA provide bridge training for member LEAs. The DMOPS model is a 2-hour class that is well-paced and leads to good discussion along with some outside work and reading. DMOPS is using Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds to pay the \$100 fee to CTC for their teachers. The SELPA version will be offered to both Desert Mountain Charter SELPA and DMSELPA member LEAs with the individual LEAs deciding on how the \$100 fee will be paid. Pam said when it is offered, the Human Resources portion of the process will be determined. She continued that when it is offered, the special education directors will provide the information to their teachers. It will not be required for LEAs to participate but will be offered to assist those that have a need. Pam stated that this will be worked on during the summer. Pam added she will confirm the timeline for having the bridge complete and will email the information to the LEAs.

7.3 Desert Mountain Charter SELPA Applications for Membership FY 2024-25

Pam Bender called on Heidi Chavez to provided information regarding the applications for membership from Options for Youth – Victor Valley and Ballington – San Bernardino for fiscal year 2024-25. Heidi shared interviews and site walk-throughs have been completed by a panel. The summaries will be provided to Pam who will present to this council then to CAHELP Governance Council in May 2024 with Governance making the final decision. Heidi reminded the executive council members that there are two representatives who sit on the Governance Council as the voice of the charter members.

7.4 SELPA Funding Cap

Marina Gallegos shared information pertaining to the SELPA Funding Cap. It is a new CDE funding requirement that is expected for only one year that reads “For 2023-24 FY, each SELPA shall at a minimum, allocate SPED funding to all members equal to the total sum of base grant funding in 2022-23 multiplied by the sum of 1 + the inflation factor (8.22%) for 2023-24 and then multiplied by the sum of 1 + the percent change in funded ADA of its member agencies.” The reason for the shortfall per LEA is the funding model and will be confirmed when P-2 is certified at the end of

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MINUTES

June 2024. Marina said the Governance Council could vote to continue the allocation as it is currently written or make revisions.

Pam Bender said State SELPA expects it only for one year. If it does continue, the allocation plan will need adjustments.

7.5 Proposed 2024-25 Desert Mountain SELPA Budget

Marina Gallegos presented the proposed 2024-25 Desert Mountain Charter SELPA Budget. She reviewed the primary funding sources and shared the budgets are based on the SBCSS budget assumptions since they are the administrative agency for CAHELP. Marina shared the budget does include two additional program specialists and one additional program manager. There is some deficit spending expected due to Elite Academic Academy leaving DMCS effective July 1, 2024, which could be offset with the pending membership applications. There is a proposal to continue the pause in the set-aside pool contribution due to the ending balance. Marina explained that Out-of-Home (OOH) Care is a new funding source received by DMCS with CDE recalculating the amount available.

7.6 Proposed 2024-25 Desert Mountain SELPA Fee-For-Service Rates

Marina Gallegos presented the proposed 2024-25 Desert Mountain SELPA Fee-For-Service rates. She said the FFS rates are for OT/PT services purchased and have been kept flat with no increases.

7.7 Compliance Updates

Peggy Dunn presented an update on compliance items from the California Department of Education (CDE). She reported on the number of LEAs in each level of Annual Determination Monitoring, compiled for both DMCS and DMSELPA. For LEAs in Compliance and Improvement Monitoring (CIM) Targeted 1, 2, and 3, progress reports are due July 10, 2024, which means they must be submitted before school dismisses for summer break. Peggy shared that she has received a number of phone calls from LEAs stating the data CDE is reviewing for Cyclical Monitoring is incorrect. Peggy explained that CDE is looking at data from a single date snapshot and that is the information used for the Annual Determination Letter. She said there are some discrepancies in the data that was pulled that she is working to correct. Peggy continued that in August 2024, CDE will gather another snapshot of LEAs that are in Cyclical Monitoring A, B, and C. It is important for LEAs to have their IEPs up to date so they are not placed in CIM Monitoring for Small Schools. Peggy reviewed the number of late annual and triennial IEPs. On May 1, 2024, the IEP Implementation list of randomly selected students will be provided so CDE can see if IEPs are being implemented with fidelity. This means that no less than 90% of services are being provided. Peggy was told by CDE that the Small Schools monitoring data was pulled from February 2023 with data being pulled from this school year to be used for next year's review.

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MINUTES

8.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

8.1 Professional Learning Summary

8.2 Resolution Support Services Summary

Jacque Williams wanted it on the record that Allegiance STEAM Academy has only had one filing in 2023-24 and that it was the school filing on the parent. This is being researched by DMCS staff.

8.3 Upcoming Professional Learning Opportunities

9.0 DESERT MOUNTAIN CHARTER SELPA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS COMMENTS / REPORTS

Michelle Romaine said thank you to everyone at DMCS for all they do.

Jacque Williams thanked Colette Garland, Peggy Dunn, and Terri Nelson for their amazing support in getting through SEIS transition.

Michelle Romaine agreed with Jacque and also thanked Marina Gallegos for being a lifeline.

10.0 CEO COMMENTS

Pam Bender said she sent an email to superintendents and CEOs copying the special education directors asking to be contacted if there are errors or data missing from SEIS, or if there are software issues so they can be resolved by June 30, 2024. Pam expressed that resolving any issues could prevent LEAs from having additional differentiated assistance or compliance issues. Pam reported Web IEP is closing June 30, 2024, so there will be no more access to data after that date. She continued that SBCSS Technical Services is working with Colette Garland to place Web IEP history on the LEA servers because Web IEP will be closing its doors June 30, 2024 eliminating all access to those records.

11.0 MATTERS BROUGHT BY CITIZENS

None.

12.0 ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business to discuss, a motion was made by James Connell, seconded by Ian McFeat, to adjourn the meeting at 12:23 p.m. The motion carried on the following vote: 10:0:0, Ayes: Brown, Cervantes, Connell, Cox, Hall, McFeat, Mendoza, Romaine, Saldana, and Williams. Nays: None. Abstentions: None

The next regular meeting of the Desert Mountain Charter SELPA Executive Council will be held on

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MINUTES

Thursday, May 9, 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.