

California Association of Health and Education Linked Professions  
Joint Powers Authority (CAHELP JPA)  
**DESERT MOUNTAIN CHARTER SELPA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING**  
*October 19, 2023 – 11:00 a.m.*  
Desert Mountain Educational Service Center, 17800 Highway 18, Apple Valley CA 92307

## **MINUTES**

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**DESERT MOUNTAIN CHARTER SELPA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Allegiance STEAM Academy – Sebastian Cogna, Jacque Williams, Aveson Global/Aveson School of Leaders – Ian Mc Feat, Ballington Academy for the Arts & Sciences – Doreen Mulz, Desert Trails Prep/La Verne Elementary Prep – Debra Tarver, Elite Academic Academy – Jen Edick via Web Ex, Leonardo da Vinci Health Sciences – Courtney Cox via Web Ex, Odyssey Charter Schools – Carlos Garcia Saldana via Web Ex (at Aveson location), and Southern California Flex Academy – Michelle Romaine.

**CAHELP STAFF PRESENT:**

Jamie Adkins, Pam Bender, Heidi Chavez, Peggy Dunn, Linda Llamas, Kathleen Peters, and Jennifer Sutton.

**1.0 CALL TO ORDER**

**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 Sebastian Cogna, seconded by Courtney Cox, to approve the October 19, 2023 Desert Mountain Charter SELPA Executive Council Meeting Agenda as presented. The motion carried on the following vote: 8:0:0: Ayes: Cogna, Cox, Edick, Garcia Saldana, Mc Feat, Mulz, Romaine, and Tarver. Nays: None, Abstentions: None.

**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 a motion was made by Sebastian Cogna, seconded by Courtney Cox, to approve the following Consent Item as presented. The motion carried on the following vote: 8:0:0: Ayes: Cogna, Cox, Edick, Garcia Saldana, Mc Feat, Mulz, Romaine, and Tarver. Nays: None, Abstentions: None.

- 5.1.1 Approve the May 18, 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 will present a legislative update, highlighting the following bills:

- Assembly Bill (AB) 248 (Mathis) Individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities: removes obsolete terminology including “mentally retarded persons” “mentally retarded children” “retardation” – To Governor 9/19/23 at 4:00 pm.
- AB 438 (Rubio) Pupils with exceptional needs: IEPs: postsecondary goals and transition services - change age to 14; possible amendment to “prior to ninth grade”. Two-Year Bill – Ordered to inactive file.
- AB 447 (Arambula) Public postsecondary education: SWD: inclusive college pilot programs- require California State Universities and request to Universities of California to create pilot college inclusive program for students with ID and DD – Approved.
- AB 1466 (Weber) Pupil Discipline: Restraint and Seclusion- requires restraint and seclusion data to be posted on the LEA website concern from ACSA regarding confidentiality – Approved.
- AB 1517 (Gallagher): SELPA Governance. Accountability and Transparency – support LEAs with Differentiated Assistance amongst other Compliance required data collection – Vetoed. In San Bernardino County, the SELPAs and San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools are involved with the LEAs in differentiated assistance.
- Senate Bill (SB) 88 (Skinner) Pupil Transportation: Driver Qualifications: for drivers who operate a vehicle with a max of 10; criminal background check, fingerprinting, mandated reporter, TB, drug and alcohol testing, training and classes – Approved. There is an exemption for parents/guardians.
- SB 323 (Portantino) Pupils with Exceptional Needs: IEPs: emergency safety procedures- comprehensive school safety plan includes access and equity component to support all students – Approved. Pam said the emergency safety procedures are for all students and not required in individual students’ IEPs.
- SB 354 (Ochoa Bogh) Inclusive Practices: Inclusive education using Universal Design for Learning – Vetoed. Pam reminded the committee that all students are general education students first. The bill is likely to be reintroduced. Pam will ask State SELPA Administrators if a work group will be created to work on the semantics of language such as team-teaching vs co-teaching, etc.
- SB 445 (Portantino) IEP Translations: requires translation of the IEP, assessments and progress used to determine IEP into the native language of the parent, or communication type; within 30 days of the meeting; top 8 languages; amendments submitted – Ordered to inactive file. Pam said the bill is likely to be presented again in the future.

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### 6.2 IDEA and Charter School Responsibilities

Pam Bender provided information on IDEA and charter school responsibilities. As a reminder, Pam said charter schools are responsible for providing whatever a student needs for their IEP. If the charter school is not able to provide what the student needs, the charter school maintains responsibility for obtaining the services whether it is paying for a seat in the district or at another charter school. Pam added that when a child enrolls in a charter school, the charter becomes the school of residence so the parent cannot be told to go back to their district for a better opportunity. She said if a student has significant behaviors, a nonpublic school may need to be considered. Pam continued that Dr. Karina Quezada is now the nonpublic schools and residential placement psychologist. If a student needs that type of placement or has been denied, Karina can assist with finding placement. Pam said at the Desert Mountain Charter Steering and Finance Committee meeting earlier in the day, there was discussion of CAHELP helping support the charter schools develop relationships where they are geographically to see if that will make it easier to place students. There was also discussion about possibly creating a committee to talk about difficulties and barriers being experienced so the LEAs can move forward.

### 6.3 Elite Academic Academy – Lucerne Status with CAHELP JPA and Desert Mountain Charter SELPA

Pam Bender provided information to the status of Elite Academic Academy – Lucerne with CAHELP JPA and Desert Mountain Charter SELPA. They provided notice that they will be leaving Desert Mountain Charter SELPA effective July 1, 2024 and joining a different SELPA.

### 6.4 SEIS Transition Update

Pam Bender provided a SEIS transition update. Pam said she continues to provide weekly updates via email. CAHELP JPA staff continue to add the information from submitted fillable forms to SEIS and attach the documents to the SEIS IEP for reference. Staff have helped several LEAs with getting their students affirmed. Pam asked to be contacted if any other LEAs need assistance. She went on to say there have also been temporary staff hired to attach the previous IEP to the student record so it is also available. Pam again offered to assist any LEAs that need extra support in affirming students or entering current documents. She explained the CAHELP staff have been accommodating. Pam advised the committee members to label priority IEPs as such when emailing them to the CAHELP SEIS Helpdesk so they can be processed and added to SEIS within 1-2 days of receipt. SEIS trainings continue to be provided virtually and on-site. The SEIS Open Forums are ongoing Tuesdays, 2:30pm-4:30pm and Thursdays, 8:30am-10:00am. Pam said since there has not been a large number of participants, this provides time to walk participants step by step through what they are struggling with.

### 6.5 Cyclical Monitoring for Small Schools Update

Peggy Dunn provided the Cyclical Monitoring for Small Schools update. Peggy explained that to be designated as a small school, an LEA has 100 or less students with disabilities. The LEAs in

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Cycle A Monitoring are Allegiance STEAM Academy, ASA Charter School, Aveson Global Leadership Academy, Pasadena Rosebud Academy, and Pathways to College. Those LEAs should have received an email from CDE with a link to view the LEA monitoring status. Peggy said the LEAs can also submit evidence of compliance to the same link. Peggy asked to be contacted with any questions.

Peggy reported Cyclical Monitoring has changed from a one-year process to a two-year process. She expects those who will be in Cycle B to be notified at the beginning of the 2024-25 school year. There are three cycles so all small schools will be involved.

### **7.0 INFORMATION ITEMS**

#### **7.1 Professional Learning Summary**

Heidi Chavez presented the Desert Mountain Charter SELPA's Professional Learning Summary. The Directors' Training to be held on October 20, 2023 will be in person and recorded. When the recording is accessible, it will be shared with the special education directors along with the materials. The trainings will have a virtual attendance option when that cannot be recorded. Heidi then said the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meetings are virtual this school year as requested by parents with the next being scheduled for November 16, 2023 on the topic of Fentanyl Awareness. CAC LEA representation and parent representation are a requirement of SELPA membership. The representative portion of the meetings are 4:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m. with the presentations being 5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. Heidi shared the 2023-24 IMTSS Symposium is scheduled for February 21, 2024 at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Ontario, California. The topic of the day will be reversing educator burnout with the keynote speakers being Dr. Rebecca Branstetter and Dr. Ron Powell. Both keynote speakers will also provide a breakout session. It is a full day symposium with breakfast and lunch being provided for a registration fee of \$250.00 per person.

#### **7.2 Resolution Support Services Summary**

Kathleen Peters shared that the charters have seen a rise in unilateral placements with parents placing their children in a private or nonpublic school then return to charter asking for reimbursement for that placement. Kathleen encouraged executive council members to contact her team as soon as there is an inkling there could be a filing. There have also been filings regarding visual processing concerns that are not educationally appropriate, but medical. Kathleen shared that parents are asking for ADR which is great to address issues at the lowest level.

#### **7.3 Upcoming Professional Learning Opportunities**

### **8.0 DESERT MOUNTAIN CHARTER SELPA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS COMMENTS / REPORTS**

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**9.0 CEO COMMENTS**

Pam Bender said she has been thinking about leadership and how the members of the committee are leaders. She provided the definition of leadership as the ability of an individual or group of people to influence and guide members of an organization, society, or team. It is often attributed to a person's title, seniority, or ranking in hierarchy. Pam said that is not always the case as leaders are seen in classrooms and schools that do not have titles. She continued stating an effective leader has the following characteristics: self-confidence, strong communication and management skills, creative and innovative thinking, perseverance, willingness to take risks, open to change, levelheaded, and reactivity in times of crisis. CAHELP staff have stepped up and supported LEAs during the day, in the evenings, and weekends to get the fillable forms entered in SEIS, including management and classified staff. She is thankful to the staff that have stepped up to say it is going to be handled and fixed. Classified staff have been amazing and shown incredible leadership in saying it will be handled and fixed. Pam is hoping that by December or January SEIS will be smooth sailing and the LEA staff being happy with the change.

**10.0 MATTERS BROUGHT BY CITIZENS**

None.

**11.0 ADJOURNMENT**

Having no further business to discuss a motion was made by Sebastian Cognetta, seconded by Courtney Cox, to adjourn the meeting at 12:07 p.m. The motion carried on the following vote: 8:0:0: Ayes: Cognetta, Cox, Edick, Garcia Saldana, Mc Feat, Mulz, Romaine, and Tarver. Nays: None, Abstentions: None.

The next regular meeting of the Desert Mountain Charter SELPA Executive Council will be held on Thursday, January 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.*