

DESERT MOUNTAIN CHARTER SELPA STEERING and FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

April 20, 2023 – 1:00 p.m.

Desert Mountain Educational Service Center, 17800 Highway 18, Apple Valley CA 92307

MINUTES

DESERT MOUNTAIN CHARTER SELPA MEMBERS PRESENT:

Allegiance STEAM Academy – Callie Moreno, Desert Trails Prep/LaVerne Elementary – Debbie Tarver via web Ex, Chantal Mendoza, Elite Academic Academy – Jen Edick, Adam Woodard both via Web Ex, Encore Jr/Sr High – Bernice Swingle, Julia Lee Performing Arts Academy – Hannah Morales via Web Ex, Leonardo da Vinci Health Sciences Charter – Anne Laird, Taylion High Desert – Brenda Congo, Karen Ware, and Virtual Prep-Lucerne – Malia Lovell.

CAHELP, DMSELPA, & DMCC STAFF PRESENT:

Jamie Adkins, Pam Bender, Ivan Campos, Heidi Chavez, Danielle Cote, Peggy Dunn, Marina Gallegos, Colette Garland, Derek Hale, Linda Llamas, Maurica Manibusan, Isaac Medina, Angela Mgbeke, Lisa Nash, Sheila Parisian, Karina Quezada, Linda Rodriguez, Jennifer Rountree, Veronica Rousseau, Adrienne Shepherd-Myles, 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 Steering and Finance Committee Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Pam Bender at 1:07 p.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 Callie Moreno, seconded by Karen Ware, to approve the April 20, 2023 Desert Mountain Charter SELPA Steering and Finance Committee Meeting Agenda as presented. The motion carried on the following vote: 8:0:0: Ayes: Edick, Laird, Lovell, Morales, Moreno, Swingle, Tarver, and Ware. Nays: None. Abstentions: None.

5.0 PUBLIC HEARINGS

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

California Education Code requires that an Annual Budget Plan be approved by the CAHELP JPA Governance Council as part of the Local Plan. The 2023-24 Annual Budget Plan describes the revenues and expenditures for special education for all local education agencies in the Desert Mountain Charter SELPA.

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5.1.1 **BE IT RESOLVED** that a motion was made by Malia Lovell, seconded by Callie Moreno, to approve the Desert Mountain Charter SELPA 2023-24 Annual Budget Plan as presented. The motion carried on the following vote: 8:0:0: Ayes: Edick, Laird, Lovell, Morales, Moreno, Swingle, Tarver, and Ware. 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 Governance Council as part of the Local Plan. The 2023-24 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 Callie Moreno, seconded by Malia Lovell, to approve the Desert Mountain Charter SELPA 2023-24 Annual Service Plan as presented. The motion carried on the following vote: 8:0:0: Ayes: Edick, Laird, Lovell, Morales, Moreno, Swingle, Tarver, and Ware. Nays: None. Abstentions: None.

6.0 INFORMATION/ACTION

6.1 Form D/M 120A Occupational Therapy Referral (**ACTION**)

Forms used in the operations of special education programs within the Desert Mountain Charter SELPA are developed, reviewed and revised throughout the year upon the recommendation of the Program Team. Forms are modified as necessary in order to support the operations of special education programs in an efficient, effective and legally compliant manner. Suggested revisions to SELPA Forms are submitted to the DMCS Steering Committee for consideration and approval.

6.1.1 **BE IT RESOLVED** that a motion was made by Callie Moreno, seconded by Malia Lovell, to approve the Form D/M 120A Occupational Therapy Referral as presented. The motion carried on the following vote: 8:0:0: Ayes: Edick, Laird, Lovell, Morales, Moreno, Swingle, Tarver, and Ware. Nays: None. Abstentions: None.

6.2 Form D/M 120B Physical Therapy Referral (**ACTION**)

Forms used in the operations of special education programs within the Desert Mountain Charter SELPA are developed, reviewed and revised throughout the year upon the recommendation of the Program Team. Forms are modified as necessary in order to support the operations of special education programs in an efficient, effective and legally compliant manner. Suggested revisions to SELPA Forms are submitted to the DMCS Steering Committee for consideration and approval.

6.2.1 **BE IT RESOLVED** that a motion was made by Callie Moreno, seconded by Malia Lovell, to approve the Form D/M 120A Physical Therapy Referral as presented. The motion carried on the following vote: 8:0:0: Ayes: Edick, Laird, Lovell, Morales,

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Moreno, Swingle, Tarver, and Ware. Nays: None. Abstentions: None.

7.0 CONSENT ITEMS

It is recommended that the Desert Mountain Charter 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.

7.1 **BE IT RESOLVED** that a motion was made by Callie Moreno, seconded by Malia Lovell, to approve the following Consent Items as presented. The motion carried on the following vote: 8:0:0: Ayes: Edick, Laird, Lovell, Morales, Moreno, Swingle, Tarver, and Ware. Nays: None. Abstentions: None.

7.1.1 Approve the January 26, 2023 Desert Mountain Charter SELPA Steering and Finance Committee Meeting Minutes.

7.1.2 Approve the March 23, 2023 Desert Mountain Charter SELPA Steering and Finance Committee Meeting Minutes.

8.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND STAFF REPORTS

8.1 Legislative Update

Pam Bender presented a legislative update, sharing the current status of several bills. She reported all bills must be heard by May 15, 2023. Wednesday, May 3, 2023 is Legislative Day when people can speak to the legislators about bills they support and the reasons for their support. Pam said she will provide an update as information is received.

8.2 Learning Recovery Support, Dispute Prevention and Resolution Funds Update

Pam Bender provided Learning Recovery Support, Dispute Prevention and Resolution Funds Update. She said there is still a large amount of money available in both funding sources and if funds are not used, it will be returned to the state. If ideas are needed for items that can be claimed, Pam asked for committee members to contact Heidi Chavez or Kathleen Peters. She said if there is concern about Maintenance of Effort (MOE), to contact Marina Gallegos. Pam suggested reviewing invoices and purchases as well as looking at funds from general education monies that were used and can be reimbursed. Pam shared that SELPAs across the state are facing the same issue with having funds remaining. Pam concluded by asking any LEAs that will not be using their allotted funds to notify Heidi or Kathleen so that portions can be accessed by another LEA.

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8.3 Alternative Diploma Pathway Update

Pam Bender provided an Alternative Diploma Pathway update. She explained Assembly Bill (AB) 181 contained many items, including Educationally Related Mental Health Services (ERMHS) funding going to LEAs and independent study. There was not much discussion around this bill or the many items it included. Pam reiterated that a student receiving the alternative diploma continues to have special education eligibility until they are 22 years of age. She reviewed the requirements of the pathway: parent notification by 10th grade, have taken the California Alternative Assessment (CAA) in 11th grade, and must complete state standard aligned coursework that meets the California state law. Pam continued that CDE still has not provided guidance though they have formed a workgroup. She continued that it is only 1% of the student population that is eligible to take the CAA and that it is important to begin having conversations with those parents. Pam said it is not based on functional skills but coursework.

8.4 Desert Mountain Children’s Center Client Services Reports and Update

Linda Llamas presented the Desert Mountain Children’s Center Client Services monthly reports and updates. She said the LEA point of contact has been sent the reports via encrypted email. Linda asked to be contacted if there are questions about the reports or if a committee member would like to review the reports with her. Linda shared a research article on the rise of eating disorders being prevalent in children during the pandemic.

8.5 Professional Learning Summary and Update

Heidi Chavez presented the Desert Mountain Charter SELPA’s Professional Learning Summary. She said her team will be scheduling professional learning conversations so get input on what the LEAs need. Heidi said these meetings can include other LEA staff that so that everyone is on the same page. She reported the Directors’ Training will take place on April 21, 2023 at noon in person with Jack Clarke, attorney from Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud and Romo (AALRR). She asked for people who will be attending to register to ensure adequate materials. Heidi continued sharing the LGBTQIA+ Language, Sensitivity, and Legislation training that will take place on Wednesday, May 17, 2023, 8:30am-12:30pm with Ami Davis. Heidi reported Celebrating Families is a resiliency program that goes beyond drug and alcohol use. It is a 16-week program and the next cohort begins in August. Heidi shared the IMTSS Symposium Save the Date flyer for February 21, 2024. She reported there will be a Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting on April 20, 2023 with the representative meeting from 5:00-5:30pm followed by a presentation on PBIS in the home. Heidi concluded that a survey will be emailed to the special education directions asking for input on topics for the 2023-24 Directors’ Trainings.

Jennifer Rountree provided information on CAHELP Peers Training program. She shared it is a social skills program for adolescents with social skills challenges, primarily autism but it also supports other social needs as well. There is also a component for parents or anyone 18 or older

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that supports these students. There is a referral process and August when the next cohort begins. Jennifer said she is asking for any LEAs that might be interested in doing the school-based curriculum to contact her as there is an option for LEAs to offer training at the school level.

8.6 Resolution Support Services Summary and Update

Lisa Nash presented the Desert Mountain Charter SELPA’s Resolution Support Services Summary and update. Lisa reminded the committee member to be sure IEPs are closed that they contain a firm offer of free appropriate public education (FAPE). Lisa spoke about the recent Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals decision of *Perez v. Sturgis Community Schools*. The decision states the exhaustion requirement does not apply when plaintiff brings suit under another federal law (IDEA or Section 504) for compensatory damages. This will cause an uptick in claims for monetary damages by students with IEPs because under Due Process, plaintiffs can get compensatory services.

8.7 Compliance Update

Peggy Dunn presented an update on compliance items from the California Department of Education (CDE). She reported two charter schools received the Annual Determination Letters this year. The DMCS team will work with the schools to satisfy the required activities. Peggy continued that LEAs involved in Cyclical Monitoring are now in Phase 3 which is student records review. The IEP Data Collection window will be open March 1-April 28, 2023 and is the period when CDE will pull their data. Peggy will forward any information she receives from CDE to the appropriate LEA. Peggy reported the number of overdue IEPs is increasing and encouraged directors to continue working on decreasing those numbers.

Colette Garland provided a SEIS Overview for the directors. She reviewed the PowerPoint that included the training dates and formats, the transition process, and data on CALPADS End-of-Year information. Colette shared that if any LEA needs deeper discussion, she is available for discussion and to assist.

8.8 Prevention and Intervention Update

Angela Mgbeke presented the Prevention and intervention Update. She shared the California PBIS Recognition Timeline stating the application window will close on May 12, 2023. Angela said that if an LEA is not contracted with DMCS for prevention and intervention services, the LEA can contact the team for supports.

9.0 FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORTS

9.1 Proposed 2023-24 Desert Charter Mountain SELPA Budget

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Marina Gallegos presented the proposed 2023-24 Desert Mountain SELPA Budget. She shared the different funding sources and budget assumptions as well as the specifics for the different allocations.

9.2 Proposed 2023-24 Desert Charter Mountain SELPA Fee-For-Service Rates

Marina Gallegos presented the proposed 2023-24 Desert Mountain SELPA Fee-For-Service rates. She explained the fees are to support the OT/PT services and some mental health services. Marina continued that the SELPA-Related Services fees are what apply to DMCS. She reported the 8.3% increase is what was presented in the governor's January budget proposal.

Marina talked about Learning Recovery Support, Dispute Prevention and Resolution funds. She said funds are to be encumbered by June 30, 2023 and spent by September 30, 2023. Marina reported the LEAs can submit for prior year expenses 2021-22 and encouraged the members to review their books for any expenses that might be covered.

10.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

10.1 2022-23 Personnel Data Reports

10.2 Monthly Occupational & Physical Therapy Services Reports

10.3 Upcoming Professional Learning Opportunities

11.0 STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS COMMENTS / REPORTS

None.

12.0 CEO COMMENTS

Pam Bender shared a quote about leadership and working with teams. She reminded the attendees to be kind and mindful of the people they lead as the end of the year activities gear up.

13.0 MATTERS BROUGHT BY THE PUBLIC

None.

14.0 ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Callie Moreno, seconded by Malia Lovell, to adjourn the meeting at 2:25 pm. The motion carried on the following vote: 8:0:0: Ayes: Laird, Lovell, Morales, Moreno, Swingle, Tarver, Ware, and Woodard. Nays: None. Abstentions: None.

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The next regular meeting of the Desert Mountain Charter SELPA Steering Committee will be held on Thursday, May 18, 2023, at 1:00 p.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.