

DESERT MOUNTAIN CHARTER SELPA STEERING and FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

August 17, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.

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

MINUTES

DESERT MOUNTAIN CHARTER SELPA MEMBERS PRESENT:

Alliance STEAM Academy – Jacque Williams, ASA Charter School – Anthony Lucey via Web Ex, Aveson School of Leaders – Kelly Jung via Web Ex, Ballington Academy – Shannon Brandner, Doreen Mulz via Web Ex, Desert Trails Prep Academy/Laverne Elementary Prep – Chantal Mendoza, Elite Academic Academy – Adam Woodard via Web Ex, Encore Jr/Sr High – Madison Dennison, Julia Lee Performing Arts Academy – Hannah Morales via Web Ex, Leonardo da Vinci Health Sciences Charter – Anne Laird via Web Ex, Odyssey Charter Schools – Chasityflame Price via Web Ex, Pathways to College – James Connell, Southern California Flex Academy – Malia Lovell, and Taylion High Desert – Karen Ware.

CAHELP, DMSELPA, & DMCC STAFF PRESENT:

Jamie Adkins, Codi Andersen, Pam Bender, Ivan Campos, Heidi Chavez, Danielle Cote, Peggy Dunn, Marina Gallegos, Colette Garland, Marysol Hurtado, Linda Llamas, Maurica Manibusan, Isaac Medina, Yazmin Medina, Lisa Nash, Vianca Padilla, Sheila Parisian, Ana Perez, Kathleen Peters, Linda Rodriguez, Yolanda Roman, Deborah Sarkesian, Jessica Soto, Jennifer Sutton, and Bobbie Taylor.

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 James Connell, seconded by Malia Lovell, to approve the August 17, 2023, Desert Mountain Charter SELPA Steering and Finance Committee Meeting Agenda as presented. The motion carried on the following vote: 13:0:0: Ayes: Brandner, Connell, Dennison, Jung, Laird, Lovell, Lucey, Mendoza, Morales, Price, Ware, Williams, Woodard. Nays: None. Abstentions: None.

5.0 PRESENTATION

5.1 Resolution Support Services Program Update

Kathleen Peters presented the Resolution Support Services (RSS) Program Update. Kathleen did a partial review of the Resolution Support Services Program Improvement Survey, provided an overview of the due process system, themes and components of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) and due process data comparisons for national, state and local levels. Kathleen reported there will be a flyer coming soon for a low-cost Region 10 ADR training. She continued that a Key2Ed for facilitated IEPs can be offered if the minimum registration is met due to cost. CAHELP staff will continue to be trained in facilitated IEPs to provide support to the LEAs. Kathleen also shared Key2Ed also offers a stakeholders training that is intended to assist people who do not facilitate or lead IEP teams but may hear complaints at the lowest level and teach them about their role. The stakeholders training can be provided virtually or in-person and is a half-day in length. Kathleen encouraged the committee members to reach out to parents if a records request is received to let them know a request has been received and to ask how the LEA can help the family and

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if there is something that can be done to meet the family needs. She reviewed the Due Process Timeline and explained an expedited claim refers to a safety issue or a discipline manner that is pending expulsion. The 2021-23 Alternative Dispute Resolution Grant supported early intervention, proactive strategies, and building positive relationships and communications with parents. Kathleen added that this school year, the RSS focus will continue to be building an effective, sustainable system that consists of outreach activities to help parents be comfortable with expressing their concerns related to special education.

6.0 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.

6.1 **BE IT RESOLVED** that a motion was made by Malia Lovell, seconded by Karen Ware, to approve the following Consent Items as presented. The motion carried on the following vote: 13:0:0: Ayes: Brandner, Connell, Dennison, Jung, Laird, Lovell, Lucey, Mendoza, Morales, Price, Ware, Williams, Woodard. Nays: None. Abstentions: None.

6.1.1 Approve the June 15, 2023, Desert Mountain Charter SELPA Steering and Finance Committee Meeting Minutes.

7.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND STAFF REPORTS

7.1 Legislative Update

Pam Bender presented an update on the status of current Assembly and Senate Bills:

- Assembly Bill (AB) 87 - Section 504 Meetings and Team Meetings: 504 meetings can now be recorded in the same format as IEP meetings included in IDEA,
- AB 248 - Individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities: removes obsolete terminology including “mentally retarded persons” “mentally retarded children” “retardation” in any document, not just education,
- AB 438 - Pupils with exceptional needs postsecondary goals and transition plans changing to age of 14 with a possible amendment to state prior to ninth grade,
- AB 447 - Public postsecondary inclusive pilot program – for students with disabilities, pending decision,
- AB 611 - Nonpublic School (NPS) Certification – requires LEA to notify parent within 14 days of a change in NPS certification status has passed,
- AB 748 - Mental Health Resources: requires that on or before the start of the 2023-2024 school year, each school site in a school district, county office of education, and charter school serving pupils in any of grades 6 to 12, create a poster that identifies approaches and shares resources regarding pupil mental health. Pam referred LEAs to Care Solace if resources are needed,
- AB 1466 - Pupil Discipline in restraint and seclusion – would require restraint and seclusion data to be posted on LEA website for each student who was a participant in restraint or seclusion, Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) has issues with confidentiality involved, the bill is still in

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- process,
- AB 1517 - SELPA Governance of Accountability and Transparency, looking at the role SELPAs have in assisting LEAs in differentiated assistance and Compliance required data collection,
 - Senate Bill (SB) 88 - Driver qualification for student transportation, sitting for more clarification of who this affects because parents often drive students who have missed their other transportation,
 - SB 354 - Inclusive Practices: Inclusive education using Universal Design for Learning, has not passed and is still being worked on,
 - SB 445 - IEP Translations – requires translations to be completed within 30 days of meeting, amendments to lengthen the 30-day timeline have been submitted,
 - SB 691- Dyslexia Risk Screening: assessing every student kindergarten through third grade based on specific timelines. Dr. Karina Quezada will be providing a presentation on the law and how it will affect LEAs at the September Steering meeting.

7.2 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. Linda asked to be contacted with questions about services or any other general questions. She shared a research article on social media and the impacts on youth. Linda said the article can be disseminated to anyone who would benefit from the information.

7.3 Professional Learning Summary and Update

Heidi Chavez presented the Desert Mountain Charter SELPA’s Professional Learning Summary and updates. She said there was a large increase in participant numbers in 2022-23 which reflects the LEAs are seeing the value of the trainings that are offered. Heidi reported the annual IMTSS Symposium titled Reconnecting the Dots will be held on February 21, 2024, and a flyer will be provided soon. Heidi then reviewed the dates for 2023-24 Directors’ Trainings. She said the trainings will be in-person with the hybrid option being dependent on the individual presenters. Heidi provided the dates for the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meetings, noting the flyers will be emailed soon and that the meetings will be virtual for 2023-24.

Ivan Campos and Linda Rodriguez presented data from the Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP) and Assistants (SLPA) Empathy Interviews. The purpose of the interviews was to better understand the story of SLPs and SLPAs. They shared there were 20 random participants selected for the interviews with open-ended questions on general topics of what the staff and students need. The results were categorized into three broad areas of: what they wish they would have had in the beginning of the profession, what they need in their current position, and what they see as their professional development needs. Linda and Ivan will be working to adjust and grow the collaborative to provide access to principles that will help SLPs and SLPAs grow in their practice to be able to support students with communication skills and providing an immersive experience. The involved SLPs and SLPAs were thankful to have been asked for their input and for Linda and Ivan actively listening to the answers that were provided. The interviewees asked for professional development that included increasing collaboratives and increasing communication skills in a meaningful and interactive format. Linda and Ivan were overwhelmed by the feeling that staff want to improve in their craft and were vulnerable with their answers. Those involved in the interviews were LEA staff, not contract employees. A Save-the-Date Flyer was shared for the Speech-Language Pathologists

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Collaborative Group where there will be engagement activities for those attending in-person.

7.4 Resolution Support Services Summary and Update

Kathleen Peters presented the Desert Mountain Charter SELPA's Resolution Support Services Summary. She said DMCS has no new cases filed for the 2023-24 school year as of the meeting date.

7.5 Compliance Update

Peggy Dunn presented an update on compliance items from the California Department of Education (CDE). She said Compliance and Improvement Monitoring (CIM) is ongoing with DMCS doing well. An email was sent to the LEAs that are in Targeted II or III regarding what is needed in the current phase including root cause analysis. Peggy encouraged the committee members to continue working on the overdue IEPs.

Colette Garland shared the CalPads End of Year (EOY) 4 deadline was met and it does not look like the amendment window will be needed for our LEAs. CalPads is currently undergoing a redesign that will likely go live on September 15, 2023. MIS users will continue to have access to Web IEP until December 31, 2023, with "view only" access. Web IEP history of all completed annuals, triennials, and addendums, including the attachments from 2006 through June 30, 2023, is being downloaded on to extended drives. Colette will be scheduling meetings to disseminate the data to special education directors. Colette did notify the special education directors how much space would be needed for the historic data download. She reported the baseline and goals will also be pulled and provided to the LEAs. Colette is currently working on the last data files that need to be sent to SEIS so they can upload it to their system. Once SEIS has the data, it will take approximately a week before user information will be sent to appropriate LEA staff. She stated fillable forms are on the CAHELP website. Colette concluded the Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP) information will be provided soon to the LEAs with preschool students, including testing course links.

7.6 Prevention and Intervention Update

Deborah Sarkesian presented the Prevention and Intervention update. She shared the California Integrated Supports Project (CA-ISP) is grant funded professional development in culturally relevant and sustaining practices along with trauma informed practices and emotional learning that is embedded in MTSS framework. Cohort 2 will start next school year as a 2-year program. Deborah asked to be contacted by any interested LEAs. She then reviewed two training flyers for Creating a Responsive Classroom and Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Bootcamp. Deborah shared a save the date for the PBIS Recognition Event that will take place on Wednesday, October 4, 2023, stating the official invite is coming soon if being recognized. Deborah shared the PBIS Assessment Window Calendar and said an LEA does not have to be contracted for PBIS services to receive PBIS assessments.

7.7 Career Technical Assistance (CTE) 2022-23 Year End Reports

Isaac Medina presented the 2022-23 CTE Year End Reports.

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7.8 Outreach Team Update

Jessica Soto provided an Outreach Team update. She introduced the Outreach Team staff and highlighted the upcoming Denim Drive and Resource Fair. The team shared they attend community and school events to provide resources to families as well as providing social emotion learning activities to the children. The Outreach Team attends Farmers Markets, National Night Outs as well as support school districts with mental health awareness fairs and college and career fairs.

8.0 FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORTS

8.1 Principal Apportionment Summary for Special Education Mental Health Services

Marina Gallegos reported on the Principal Apportionment Summary for Special Education Mental Health Services. She said mental health funding is being distributed directly to LEAs but reminded the committee members that at the May 2023 Governance Council meeting it was approved that specific LEAs would send the funding to CAHELP in order for educationally related mental health services to continue to be provided by DMCC. The summary Marina presented reflects estimated LEA revenue which will be tried up on June 30, 2024.

8.2 P-2 Certified Funding Distributions

Marina Gallegos presented and reviewed the P-2 Certified Funding Distributions along with the supporting reports.

8.3 Federal Grant Funding Update

Marina Gallegos presented the Federal Grant Funding Update. She stated Report 3 is reflective of April 1, 2022, through June 30, 2022, with the next reporting period being July 1, 2022, through September 1, 2022. Samuel Barker emailed the information to the LEA business department and the reports are due back to him by mid-October.

9.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

9.1 Monthly Occupational & Physical Therapy Services Reports

Codi Andersen highlighted two upcoming trainings as well as an OT/PT collaborative that will be offered this year, noting flyers will be emailed at a later date.

9.2 Upcoming Professional Learning Opportunities

10.0 STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS COMMENTS / REPORTS

Malia Lovell reported Virtual Prep-Lucerne has changed their name to Southern California Flex Academy and with that change comes new email addresses for staff.

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Pam Bender reminded the committee members that there would be an opportunity to talk about the SEIS transition after a brief break following the adjournment of the current Steering meeting.

11.0 CEO COMMENTS

Pam Bender welcomed the attendees back to the new school year. She shared CAHELP JPA is currently short four program specialists with the remaining staff sharing the workload. Pam advised the committee members to contact Heidi Chavez if they need to confirm their assigned program specialist. There have been challenges with the transition to SEIS that CAHELP JPA is working to resolve.

Pam reported that the federal government has put the Alternative Pathway Diploma requirement on hold though it is California law. Adding to the issue, the state special education director position has been recently vacated. Pam would like to create an Alternative Pathway Diploma work group working towards the possibility of the member LEAs following the same requirements for the pathway. Pam asked to be emailed by anyone is interested in participating in the workgroup. There are several SELPAs in San Diego have been collaborating and creating some basics that could be mirrored instead of starting from scratch. Pam reminded everyone that DMOPS is a service provider and each student's district of residence requirements must be met.

Pam ended by sharing a quote by Neil Gaiman, "I hope you have a wonderful year, that you'll dream dangerously and outrageously, that you'll make something that didn't exist before you made it, that you will be loved and that you will be liked, and that you will have people to love and to like in return. And, most importantly (because I think there should be more kindness and more wisdom in the world right now), that you will, when you need to be, be wise, and that you will always be kind".

12.0 MATTERS BROUGHT BY THE PUBLIC

None.

13.0 ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Malia Lovell, seconded by Madison Dennison, to adjourn the meeting at 11:29 a.m. The motion carried on the following vote: 13:0:0: Ayes: Brandner, Connell, Dennison, Jung, Laird, Lovell, Lucey, Mendoza, Morales, Price, Ware, Williams, Woodard. Nays: None. Abstentions: None.

The next regular meeting of the Desert Mountain Charter SELPA Steering Committee will be held on Thursday, September 21, 2023, at 9:00 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.