

California Association of Health and Education Linked Professions,  
Joint Powers Authority (CAHELP, JPA)  
**DESERT MOUNTAIN SELPA STEERING and FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
*May 17, 2024 – 9:00 a.m.*  
Desert Mountain Educational Service Center, 17800 Highway 18, Apple Valley CA 92307

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## **MINUTES**

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### **DESERT MOUNTAIN SELPA (DMSELPA) STEERING AND FINANCE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Academy for Academic Excellence – Marcelo Congo, Adelanto SD – Amber Best, Apple Valley USD – Priscilla Avila, Pat Schlosser, David Wheeler, Baker Valley USD – Michael Esposito via Zoom, Bear Valley USD – Leigh Anne Drake, Desert Mountain Operations (SBCSS) – Cristian Castellanos, Dale Folkens, Excelsior Charter Schools – Deanna Crocker, Amber Englehart, Health Sciences HS and Middle College – Bryan Dale via Zoom, Helendale SD – Chantell Butler, Hesperia USD – Shannon Garibay, Elaine Nelson, Lucerne Valley USD – Vici Miller, Needles USD – Jamie Wiesner via Zoom, Oro Grande SD – Scott Heitman, Silver Valley USD – Cheri Rigdon, Snowline JUSD – Pam De Renard, Trona JUSD – Nicole Yeager, Rebecca Workman both via Zoom, Victor Elementary SD – Tanya Benitez, and Victor Valley Union HSD – Larry Brunson, Krystal Kerns.

### **GUESTS:**

Kaleb Manahl – Apple Valley USD Student, Ryan Ostlie – Apple Valley USD Computer Science Teacher, Christina Leal – Options for Youth, Selina Hurley – SBCSS.

### **CAHELP, DMSELPA, & DMCC STAFF PRESENT:**

Jamie Adkins, Daniel Anchondo, Codi Andersen, Pam Bender, Ivan Campos, Heidi Chavez, Danielle Cote, Mia Day-Butler, Peggy Dunn, Marina Gallegos, Colette Garland, April Hatcher, Linda Llamas, Maurica Manibusan, Isaac Medina, Angela Mgbeke, Miya Narvaiz-Ward, Lisa Nash, Sheila Parisian, Karina Quezada, Annette Rego, Linda Rodriguez, Jennifer Rountree, Deborah Sarkesian, Jessica Soto, Bobbie Taylor, and Misty Ubina.

### **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 SELPA Steering and Finance Committee Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Pam Bender at 9:06 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 Tanya Benitez, seconded by David Wheeler, to approve the May 17, 2024 Desert Mountain SELPA Steering and Finance Committee Meeting Agenda as presented. The motion carried on the following vote: 17:0:0, Ayes: Benitez, Best, Brunson, Butler, Congo, Dale, De Renard, Drake, Englehart, Esposito, Folkens, Heitman, Miller, Rigdon, Wheeler, Wiesner, and Yeager. Nays: None, Abstentions: None.

### **5.0 PRESENTATIONS**

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### 5.1 2024-25 Proposed County Operated Special Education Fee-For-Service Budget

Selina Hurley with SBCSS Internal Business Services presented the 2024-25 Proposed County Operated Special Education Fee-For-Service (FFS) Budget. Selina went over the budget assumptions that include changes to COLA, changes to health and welfare costs, any retirement rate changes, changes to indirect cost. Selina also showed the FFS to provide services to our student population by the area director, Rich Frederick. Budget expenditures are expected to be at 8.9 to 9 million with some offsetting revenue which is from grants and LCFF revenue bringing the cost to about 67.2 million. Selina reviewed the counts and FFS rates that SBCSS is projecting for the 24-25 school year. Selina reviewed the supporting documentation and asked if there were any questions. No questions, concerns, or comments were made.

### 5.2 Student Presentation of Action Skills

Apple Valley High School student Kaleb Manahl presented Action Skills, accompanied by Ryan Ostlie, Apple Valley High School Computer Science teacher. Deborah Sarkesian, Program Manager with CAHELP, introduced Kaleb and Mr. Ostlie. Deborah explained that Kaleb won first place in the category of action skills and will be representing the State of California at the National Skills USA competition next month in Atlanta, GA. Mr. Ostlie added that action skills is a contest for students that have an IEP. Kaleb attends Mr. Ostlie's AP Computer Science Principles class where he has been very successful. Kaleb introduced himself and talked about the video games he likes to play such as Sonic and Mario and describes how those have influenced the games he created. Kaleb went on to demonstrate his game and gave a glimpse of the needed coding to make a character jump, run, flip, etc. Kaleb showed the audience how to change background colors and objects within the screen using the keyboard to code, showing off his expertise. Kaleb is excited to move forward in his gaming capabilities.

## **6.0 INFORMATION / ACTION**

### 6.1 DMSELPA Steering and Finance Committee Meeting scheduled for June 21, 2024 (**ACTION**)

The DMSELPA Steering and Finance Committee members discussed the possibility of the June 21, 2024 meeting being cancelled. Pam Bender explained that many schools will be out of session and there is not much legislative change expected at this time of year.

6.1.1 **BE IT RESOLVED** that a motion was made by Cheri Rigdon, seconded by Leigh Anne Drake, to approve the June 21, 2024 DMSELPA Steering and Finance Committee meeting be canceled as presented. The motion carried on the following vote: 17:0:0, Ayes: Benitez, Best, Brunson, Butler, Congo, Dale, De Renard, Drake, Englehart, Esposito, Folkens, Heitman, Miller, Rigdon, Wheeler, Wiesner, and Yeager. Nays: None, Abstentions: None.

## **7.0 CONSENT ITEMS**

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It is recommended that the 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 David Wheeler, seconded by Pam De Renard, to approve the following Consent Item as presented. The motion carried on the following vote: 17:0:0, Ayes: Benitez, Best, Brunson, Butler, Congo, Dale, De Renard, Drake, Englehart, Esposito, Folkens, Heitman, Miller, Rigdon, Wheeler, Wiesner, and Yeager. Nays: None, Abstentions: None.

7.1.1 April 19, 2024 Desert Mountain 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. Assembly Bill (AB) 2173 changing emotional disturbance to emotional disability; it is not changing the criteria, but changing the label. ACSE presentation and template letter to Senate Education Committee with portal submission demonstration was shared. Reviewed Senate Bill 445 will require funds to hire translators; this bill comes to us every 4 or 5 years and proposes that translation be done in the top 8 languages in your district or LEA and have that done within 30 days. State SELPA was proposing 30 working days, 45 days, or 60 days to match with other assessment timelines; it has been placed in the inactive file due to the amount asked for, around 6 million dollars. It will most likely be rewritten and come back. SB 483 elimination of prone restraint is going to the Assembly Education Committee, there is not a hearing date set, but there is a high volume of support and moving quickly. AB 438 “encourages” transition goals before high school but can be postponed with reasons listed in IEP. Significant costs in professional development so 8<sup>th</sup> grade teachers are trained may also be of consequence This bill will be headed to the governor very soon. AB 2026 is using person first terminology however, within the bill language, person first terminology was not used consistently. Bill was amended but missed the deadline to resubmit. Some disability communities do not want person first terminology used, i.e.; autism and deaf community. AB 2563 does not affect special education at this time but could later, when services are diagnosed. AB 1876 extends remote meetings. AB 1938 special education inclusive practices and strategies. The deaf community is looking at inclusive practices. There is advocacy from SB 354 Inclusion Bill using UDL there are some major revisions being made. SB 1263 repealing teacher performance assessments (TPA), TPA tends to be a time consuming process. This in the suspense file, probably not going forward. There could be some new TPAs coming forward. SB 1391 examines teacher preparedness, preparation and retention data. This bill would require a cradle to career data system so that they can create a teacher training and retention dashboard, with a

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possible completion date by January 1, 2026. It is also in the suspense file so will not be going forward. Pam is not sure of the purpose other than trying to take a look at teacher shortages and determine why teachers are leaving the education field.

Vici Miller asked about the Xerox program that translates documents in different languages. She talked with Rich about it several years ago. Curious if anyone used this option. No one was aware.

Artificial intelligence is an option but it would need to be reviewed. Dr. Karina Quezada shared Microsoft Word can be used for an initial translation but there are errors.

### **8.2 2024-25 DMSELPA Steering and Finance Committee Schedule of Meetings**

Pam Bender presented the 2024-25 DMSELPA Steering and Finance Committee Schedule of Meetings. The agenda will be changed with Finance Committee being moved to the beginning. This could increase Finance Committee participation and will allow business staff and special education directors to hear the same information. Hearing the same financial information at the same time is very helpful and valuable to the director and business representative.

### **8.3 Alternate Pathway Diploma**

Pam Bender reviewed recent Alternate Pathway Diploma sub-committee plans. She said there are some districts that are further along in planning and implementing their alternate diploma pathway. There will be a presentation/workshop meeting held so all member LEAs can hear the same information on standards and credits needed as well as the implications of the decisions. County students are affected by different criteria of different LEAs and it would be beneficial to have a conversation about the different standards and how to streamline the requirements if possible. The decision of process is to be made at the local level with DMSELPA offering support and suggestions for the member LEAs. Pam said K-8 LEAs are not expected to attend but are welcome to send a representative if they are interested in the information.

### **8.4 Credentials Bridge Authorization**

Pam Bender shared the SELPA plan for assisting member LEAs. Training will be finalized this summer. Working on options for participation to allow more teachers to participate. Superintendents and special education directors will receive the training details when finalized for them to forward to teachers. Once finalized it will go to the Governance Council and then move forward from there.

### **8.5 SEIS Transitional Update**

Pam Bender shared an update for Web IEP data storage. Tech services is downloading the Web IEP data for each of the LEAs with the expected completed date no later than May 29, 2024. Tech

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Services is providing training on how to search for data. If there are IEPs that need to be input in SEIS from the transition period, it must be done so that LEAs do not get placed in monitoring.

### 8.6 CALPADS Support

Pam Bender shared the support provided to LEAs and their Special Education Directors, MIS staff, and CALPADS staff preparing for P2 certification. Colette is reviewing SEIS reports for errors caused by the transition or due to the CALPADS redesign.

Pat - The changes made directly to CALPADS should be fine without explanation. What would make our CALPADS team feel better is that what you just said about this being a one off is true. Do we know that for certain? Pam stated that she cannot guarantee that this will not happen again and understands that the CALPADS teams want to ensure that everything is accurate. Pat stated that it is difficult to have someone else fixing or inputting their data. That it interrupts the data flow and he wants to confirm this is a one off so that data is not being entered twice. Pam stated she would follow up with some of the other SELPA and Brandi with CDE.

### 8.7 Desert Mountain Children's Center Client Services Reports and Update

Linda Llamas presented the Desert Mountain Children's Center Client Services monthly reports and update. Any questions or corrections, contact DMCC. DMCC received a 3-month extension on contracts with San Bernardino Department of Behavioral Health for SART and EIIS programs, which are the Medi-cal contracts for the 0-5 year old population in our Apple Valley, Big Bear and Yucca Valley region. DMCC submitted a proposal to continue serving in these contracts for the next 3 years with 2- 1 year extensions. DMCC will receive a 6 month extension on contracts for SATS and SAP programs which is DMCC's Medi-cal contracts for the 6-21 year old population. The proposal for these contracts should come out early next fiscal year and DMCC plans to write for them to continue services for the next 3 years with 2 – 1 year extensions as well. Linda shared a Mental Health Services article on how kids are doing in terms of mental health since the shutdown from the pandemic. This article, along with others, can be found on the DMCC website.

### 8.8 Professional Learning Summary and Update

Heidi Chavez presented the Desert Mountain SELPA's Professional Learning Summary and update. Total of 730 participants for the month of April 2024; 514 were for onsite trainings and 216 were for regional trainings. Year-to-date, that is 8, 561 participants (5,139 on-sites, 3,422 regional) this is a 129% increase over last year's participation rate. SEIS trainings are part of individual protections and does account for a part of the increased numbers, however Behavioral Supports is the largest category of attendance. Two additional program specialist positions will be added to assist with trainings and facilitated IEPs. Contact Heidi if a training is needed that is not available or a piece added to an existing training. Email sent with three surveys for: Directors Training topics, Community Advisory Committee (CAC) topics, and contact for training flyers. The CAC survey can be sent to families of special education students so they have input as to

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training topics and how they are offered. It was suggested that the flyers be placed in a shared drive for easy access. Heidi said that is a possibility but without knowing they have been added, the flyers will not be accessed. The third survey addresses who you want the training advertisements/flyers to be sent to. Celebrating Families is a resiliency program for families. It does take a team of 8-10 people each cohort for the program to be successful. There are two cohorts each year. There are some expenses involved as the families are provided with dinner. It can also be used as part of the SARB process.

Ivan Campos reported on Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP). Each section will have two parts. Assessment/Report Writing participants will bring their own reports to review. Alternative Augmentative Communication (AAC) will be discussion and getting more comfortable using AAC skills. Will also offer coaching sessions to support participants in these topics. CAHELP is working to purchase a system (OWL) that will allow hybrid trainings to be available more often. Because it will be a collaborative format, all knowledge levels will be welcomed.

### **8.9 Resolution Support Services Summary and Update**

Pam Bender called on Sheila Parisian to present DMSELPA's Resolution Support Services Summary and update. Five due process cases open in the month of April 2024, 2 remain open with same attorney who is known to increase settlement demands by using ADA issues. As of May 17, 2024 there are five open filings. Sheila commended Norton's team and Marcelo Congo in being prepared for a hearing. Sheila reviewed impairment types and ethnicities as well as reasons for filings that are cited. She noted that 52% of filings involve a speech and language impairment (SLI) disability. Based on the data analysis, the top three ethnicities for due process complaints are Hispanic (62%), African American (20%), white (15%), and Native American (3%). Based on the analysis of due process complaints, the top underlying issues identified are placement issues (52%), services (24%), child find (7%), and discipline (7%). There is also a large increase in Assistive Technology (AT) and Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) referrals as a result of settled cases. This has increased SELPA's AT and AAC referrals this year.

### **8.10 Compliance Update**

Dr. Peggy Dunn presented an update on compliance items from the California Department of Education (CDE). IEP Implementation due by June 28, 2024 to ensure fidelity of students receiving at least 90% of what is listed in IEP. Compliance Improvement Monitoring (CIM) does not require new plan but building on the previous plan. Progress report #2 due on July 10 for Targeted #3 only that is progress report 1. Progress report #2 is due July 10 for those who are in Intensive, which is a higher degree of monitoring. If you are in intensive 1, 2, or 3 your second report is due July 10. Cyclical monitoring is for small schools, 100 or less students with disabilities. Late IEPs plan reviews 1,215 and 382 reevaluations. This does affect monitoring and compliance.

Colette Garland said IEPs must be affirmed if the meeting happened. If part 1 or part 2, continuation, affirm the first meeting. This allows records to go to CALPADS and be documented

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in Pupil Count. When signature received, update SEIS. This creates plan and service records in SEIS. The SEIS dashboard has real time data. Each part is to be affirmed. One on one meetings are being held with MIS and CALPADS staff. DRDP email will remind all of data needed in SEIS. Post-secondary for exited students is being worked on. Ivan Campos asked if each part (part, 1, 2 and 3) needs to be affirmed and Colette answered yes. For post-secondary students we are working with the WebIEP portal because exited students are not in SEIS for this year. Colette reiterated how important it is to affirm the IEPs and Addendums in SEIS. No questions, comments or concerns.

### 8.11 Nonpublic School/Nonpublic Agency Update

Dr. Peggy Dunn provided a nonpublic school/nonpublic agency update. Any concerns or needs, contact Peggy for assistance to meet the needs of students.

Dr. Karina Quezada reported there are currently 10 students in RTC with 3 returning to district by the fall. DMOPS is providing step down support. There are two additional students where we are looking for step down support. One pending placement looking for school. Continue to invite DMSELPA to IEP meetings when RTC placement is being considered. We want to be partners with you in this process and collaborate about the support and experience of the student. Local residential placements are wrapping up the standard school year and preparing for extended school year (ESY). No questions, comments or concerns.

Pam Bender said there is a trend that residential treatment centers are starting to deny placements and costs are increasing significantly. California has requirements for their students including oversight.

### 8.12 Prevention and Intervention Update

Deborah Sarkesian provided the Prevention and Intervention update. PBIS Recognition window closed May 10. The team has been helping complete applications. Invitations for the recognition event will be sent to all schools once the date is set. Thank you for looking at the whole child.

No questions, comments or concerns.

Pat Schlosser (AVUSD) works with a national agency other than PBIS and is wondering if there is a way for their sites to get recognized locally as well. Deborah said yes, we can also look at MTSS because there are several different programs that share similar framework. A specialist would need to set a time in the fall and spring to come out and conduct a tiered fidelity indicator (TFI), this is the measurement that is used for the recognition event. Deborah asked Pat to reach out to her to set this up.

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### 8.13 Occupational and Physical Therapy Service Reports and Update

Codi Andersen provided the Occupational and Physical Therapy Service Reports and updates. Codi mentioned the student services reports are being emailed monthly, if you would like those to go to someone else in your district let her know. Many new training courses coming for the new school year open to special education directors and teachers. These focus on helping students access their education. Transportation presenter is an OT and certified in transport of students with behavioral and physical disabilities. Size Matters Handwriting and S'cool Moves trainings are being offered to the DMSELPA OTs, PTs, COTAs and PTAs as well as LEA employees. On-site request can include training requests for general education staff as well.

Note: Michael Esposito left the meeting at 10:43 a.m.

## **9.0 FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### 9.1 Mental Health Average Daily Attendance (ADA)

Marina Gallegos provided information regarding Federal Mental Health ADA funding. 2023-24 is the first year funding is going directly to districts instead of SELPA. Each LEA would have received a Grant Notification Award letter. These letters need to be signed and returned to the CDE. Marina displayed the instructions from the CDE about filling out the expenditure reports and what reports/forms are needed for the SELPA. New processes due to the change in ERHMS funding are being put into place.

Note: Scott Heitman left the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

### 9.2 Low Incidence Fiscal Report

Marina Gallegos spoke to the status of low incidence reimbursement requests. Reviewed encumbered amount, reimbursed, and balance. Final transfer at year end close and are due by August 30, 2024.

### 9.3 Independent Educational Evaluation (IEE) and Assistive Technology Assessment (ATA) Funding

Marina Gallegos reported on the status of available funding for independent educational evaluations (IEE) and assistive technology assessments (ATA). Each district has a maximum of \$10,000 available for reimbursement, request due by August 30, 2024. Submit the DM83 form for reimbursement.

### 9.4 State Mental Health

Marina Gallegos presented district fund transfer information for state mental health funding. Transfer for January through April the week of May 20, 2024. Will be finalized at year end.

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### **10.0 INFORMATION ITEMS**

- 10.1 Monthly Audiological Service Reports
- 10.2 Monthly Nonpublic School Placement Report
- 10.3 Upcoming Professional Learning Opportunities

### **11.0 STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS COMMENTS / REPORTS**

Leigh Anne Drake is having trouble finding speech providers. Asked if anyone has a virtual NPA that they can recommend. Can DMSELPA help increase capacity for speech providers? Discussion about the lack of spots at universities for students wanting to become SLPs. Pam will bring it up at State SELPA Administrators. Codi shared a clause in the NPA contract where services can be cancelled 20 days before services begin if a permanent employee is hired.

Sheila shared Scrubbing the Question training on June 4, 2024 as an all day training.

Note: Dale Folkens left the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Cheri Rigdon left the meeting at 11:04 a.m.

Pam De Renard left the meeting at 11:08 a.m.

### **12.0 CEO COMMENTS**

Pam Bender welcomed Dr. Chantell Butler as the new special education director at Helendale and Leigh Anne Drake at Bear Valley USD. Next year's meeting will be different with Jamie Adkins leaving CAHELP.

### **13.0 MATTERS BROUGHT BY THE PUBLIC**

None.

### **14.0 ADJOURNMENT**

Having no further business to discuss, a motion was made by David Wheeler, seconded by Tanya Benitez, to adjourn the meeting at 11:13 a.m. The motion carried on the following vote: 12:0:0, Ayes: Benitez, Best, Brunson, Butler, Congo, Dale, Drake, Englehart, Miller, Wheeler, Wiesner, and Yeager. Nays: None, Abstentions: None

The next regular meeting of the Desert Mountain SELPA Steering and Finance Committee will be held on Friday, August 16, 2024, at 9:00 a.m., at the Desert Mountain Educational Service Center, Aster/Cactus Room, 17800 Highway 18, Apple Valley, CA 92307.

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