

California Association of Health and Education Linked Professions,  
Joint Powers Authority (CAHELP, JPA)  
**DESERT MOUNTAIN SELPA STEERING and FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
*March 22, 2024 – 9:00 a.m.*  
Desert Mountain Educational Service Center, 17800 Highway 18, Apple Valley CA 92307

## **MINUTES**

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

Academy for Academic Excellence – Marcelo Congo, Apple Valley USD – Priscilla Avila, Barstow USD – Heather Reid, Bear Valley USD – Lucinda Newton, Desert Mountain Operations (SBCSS) – Cristian Castellanos, Stephanie Hedberg, Selina Hurley via Web Ex, Health Sciences High School and Middle College – Bryan Dale via Web Ex, Helendale SD – Joshua Behnke, Hesperia USD – Eric Land, Elaine Nelson, Lucerne Valley USD – Vici Miller, Needles USD – Jamie Wiesner via Web Ex, Snowline JUSD – Pam De Renard, Trona JUSD – Nicole Yeager, Rebecca Workman both via Web Ex, Victor Elementary SD – Tanya Benitez, Collin Rowe, and Victor Valley Union HSD – Krystal Kerns.

### **GUESTS:**

Christina Leal – Options for Youth.

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

Jamie Adkins, Samuel Barker, Pam Bender, Guille Burgos, Ivan Campos, Heidi Chavez, Danielle Cote, Peggy Dunn, Colette Garland, Linda Llamas, Letitia Macaraeg, Maurica Manibusan, Lisa Nash, Sheila Parisian, Linda Rodriguez, Veronica Rousseau, Deborah Sarkesian, and Bobbie Taylor.

### **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 9:03 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 Lucinda Newton, seconded by Tanya Benitez, to approve the March 22, 2024 Desert Mountain SELPA Steering and Finance Committee Meeting Agenda as presented. The motion passed on the following vote: 12:0:0: Ayes: Avila, Benitez, Congo, Dale, De Renard, Hedberg, Land, Miller, Newton, Reid, Wiesner, and Yeager. Nays: None, Abstentions: None.

### **5.0 PRESENTATIONS**

5.1 2023-24 Desert Mountain County Operated Special Education Fee-For-Service Budget – 2nd Interim Update

Selina Hurley, SBCSS Accountant, presented the 2023-24 Desert Mountain County Operated

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Special Education Fee-For-Service (FFS) Budget – 2<sup>nd</sup> Interim Update. Selina reported revenues have increased due to AB602 and services increasing by 826 students. There was also an increase in LCFF transfer due to an increase in average daily attendance (ADA) of 205 students. Selina said there was a large increase in related services and specialized academic instruction (SAI) leading to an increase in expenditures. There were expenditures savings related to vacancy savings because of positions that were not filled. The estimated FFS ending balance is \$9,701,137 plus the reserve amount of \$1,780,172 brings the estimated total ending balance to \$11,481,309.

5.2 2023-24 1<sup>st</sup> 50% Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) Revenue Transfer – District Funded Students in County Operated Special Education Programs

Selina Hurley presented the 2023-24 1<sup>st</sup> 50% LCFF Revenue Transfer – District Funded Students in County Operated Special Education Programs. Selina stated the LCFF Revenue Transfer amount is based on P1 certified data with a projected LCFF ending fund balance of \$13,975,821.

### **6.0 CONSENT ITEMS**

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.

6.1 **BE IT RESOLVED** that a motion was made by Eric Land, seconded by Pam De Renard, to approve the following Consent Item as presented. The motion passed on the following vote: 12:0:0: Ayes: Avila, Benitez, Congo, Dale, De Renard, Hedberg, Land, Miller, Newton, Reid, Wiesner, and Yeager. Nays: None, Abstentions: None.

6.1.1 February 23, 2024 Desert Mountain SELPA Steering and Finance Committee Meeting Minutes.

### **7.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND STAFF REPORTS**

7.1 Legislative Update

Pam Bender presented a brief legislative update. She highlighted that Assembly Bill (AB) 2173 is to change the terminology of emotional disturbance to emotional disability and it has been passed by the Education Committee so it will continue to move forward. It was shared that many parents do not like the terminology of emotional disturbance and will not allow it to be used for their child's eligibility. This could cause the child to miss out on services that are available to them.

Pam continued that AB 2768 would allow teachers at nonpublic schools to apply for the Golden

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State Teacher grant program. It is at the assembly education committee. Pam said AB 2340 would require managed health care plans to cover all medically necessary services and not allow imposed limits. This bill could affect DMCC billing.

### 7.2 Alternative Pathway Diploma Update

Pam Bender provided an update on the Alternative Pathway Diploma. The committee has met once and will meet again this week to develop a plan. Pam said the committee has decided that instead of looking at curriculum, they will focus on what state standards must be met to achieve the alternative pathway diploma.

### 7.3 Desert Mountain Operations Update

Stephanie Hedberg provided a Desert Mountain Operations (DMOPS) Update. Stephanie reported that she and Rich Frederick, along with their clerical staff and Cristian Castellanos have moved to 12530 Hesperia Rd, Suite C in Victorville. Their new phone number is 760-276-4070. She said Rich will maintain an office at DMESC as well.

Stephanie continued that DMOPS is moving forward with assisting their teachers in bridging credentials. They are using professional developments that were received from the state. Stephanie said if any districts are interested in bridging credentials for their teachers, they can contact Rich Frederick for the materials. She added that SBCSS is paying for their teachers' fees. Stephanie said DMOPS is willing to collaborate with DMSELPA and districts.

Pam Bender said she will provide the information to CAHELP Governance Council as information for input.

Stephanie shared that DMOPS will not be taking referrals during the state testing window of April 15-May 17, 2024 for grades 3-8 and 11. They will accept referrals outside of those grade levels though. She said if an exception needs to be made to please ask.

Stephanie stated that DMOPS is working to accommodate all referrals being received but they are now at capacity for the first time based on safety and student progress. She reported that as of March 13, 2024, DMOPS is serving 1,586 students in their moderate/severe and SUCCESS programs. Stephanie said that Rich will be reaching out again to each district about space being needed. She said districts can reach out to DMOPS for options which could include making arrangements with other districts and using transportation. Stephanie added that none of their staff is classrooms using for office space, all classrooms are being used for students.

Pam Bender reported that DMCC is moving their CARE center to free up space for DMOPS. She will provide the information to CAHELP Governance Council for options as well.

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Note – Collin Rowe left the meeting at 9:25 a.m.  
Joshua Behnke joined the meeting at 9:25 a.m.

### 7.4 Desert Mountain Children’s Center Client Services Reports and Update

Linda Llamas presented the Desert Mountain Children’s Center (DMCC) Client Services monthly reports and update. DMCC is averaging 650 referrals each month, prioritizing high risk with an assessment within a few days. Linda shared that comments on the referral forms are very helpful.

Linda shared Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI) is being offered so schools can apply for and become eligible to bill Medi-Cal Services and private insurances for many services. As part of the initial pilot program, Linda stated Redlands USD and Rialto USD were selected as pilot schools. The pilot schools were to start billing in January 2024 but they have been asked to postpone until April 2024. She continued that applications will be accepted again in July 2024 and in January 2025. Linda said after January 2025, applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis. Linda also presented the draft reimbursement rates. She stated the rates are low because the idea is for schools to combine funding to make the services whole or fully funded. Linda encouraged the committee members interested in applying for the opportunity to review the materials in the meeting packet as well as the videos. She added that DMCC was asked by San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools (SBCSS) to be part of a series of collaborative meetings with other healthcare entities and the two districts approved as part of the pilot program to create a toolbox for support and technical needs. Linda said there will be much more information to come. She added there has been a third party involved to assist with billing. She also stated DMCC is working to determine the supports they can provide to districts regarding billing.

Pam added that those that have Medi-Cal Administrative Activities (MAA) could form a community partnership with another agency that is familiar with Medi-Cal billing and the audit process.

### 7.5 Professional Learning Summary and Update

Heidi Chavez presented the Desert Mountain SELPA’s Professional Learning Summary and update. She said the increase in behavioral supports training attendance could reflect the students’ unknown traumas that occurred during the pandemic along with the lack of interaction with others outside of the home during that time. Heidi added DMSELPA is looking to provide more behavioral support trainings including understanding trauma. Heidi said program specialists will be reaching out to committee members to schedule time to discuss professional development for the upcoming school year.

She shared Region 10 and Captain X will be presenting *NeuroHarmony: Fostering Inclusion through Evidence Based Practices for Individuals with Autism* on April 11, 2024. This training will be at West End Educational Service Center and is for educators as well as families. Heidi said

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funding is available for families with children receiving services through Inland Regional Center (IRC) using a dedicated vendor number when registering. SELPA Administrators of California will be presenting *The Promise & Potential: Universal Screenings for Reading Difficulties including Dyslexia & Considerations for Future Implementation and Intervention*. The training is virtual and is scheduled for April 15, 2024. SELPA Administrators of California will be presenting *Legal Trends for 2024* on April 16, 2024 and it will be held virtually. Community Advisory Committee is scheduled for April 18, 2024 with the topic of *IEP Meetings 101: Understanding the IEP Process* and will be held virtually. The final Directors' Training of the school year is scheduled for April 19, 2024 on the topic of *Special Education Updates* and will be held in person.

### 7.6 Resolution Support Services Summary and Update

Sheila Parisian presented the Desert Mountain Charter SELPA's Resolution Support Services Summary and update. She said with the end of the year approaching, be aware of contentions in IEPs and be proactive by looking at parent requests as well as unsigned IEPs.

Pam Bender reviewed a 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit court decision regarding a student who is deaf/hard of hearing. The family asked for computer assisted/aided real-time transcription (CART) and the LEA denied the request but offered a very similar service to ensure the student needs were met. The LEA prevailed in the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) decision because they did provide FAPE. Pam said the case was taken to the 9<sup>th</sup> District court, where the LEA showed the student needs were met under Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Parents then went to the supreme court where they also found the district provided FAPE however the court found that the LEA did not meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Pam said ADA states a person is to be provided with whatever it is they want for their disability and this applies to students that are deaf and hard of hearing only at this time. Pam said a Section 504 Plan is a general education function so it is not addressed on the CAHELP JPA website but there will be information added as well as for ADA. Pam encouraged the committee members to review materials for Agenda Item 6.5 to see what might change and to also review LEA policy pertaining to ADA and Section 504 Plans.

Pam said districts provide services based on IDEA so students are to be able to meet their goals. If services are provided based on ADA, the funding could come from general education.

Lisa Nash added there are instances when a student could have an IEP and a Section 504 plan, specifically when it comes to after school programs because FAPE is for what happens during the school day.

Note - Krystal Kerns joined the meeting at 10:05 am.

### 7.7 Compliance Update

Peggy Dunn presented an update on compliance items from the California Department of

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Education (CDE). She said that districts should have received their Annual Determination Letters and those that have an existing plan do not have to create a new plan. The existing plan can be modified and built on. Peggy reported one more school was added to significant disproportionality. LEAs in intensive monitoring have stepped down a level. Peggy said that most LEAs in targeted remained in place at the same level. Peggy said cyclical monitoring is for schools with 100 or less students with disabilities. Peggy reviewed the progress report due dates for Compliance and Monitoring (CIM). For LEAs in Prong II, CDE shared there are issues with Box.com so the due date has been delayed as long as LEAs have been working on their reports and are in contact with CDE. Peggy said for IEP Implementation, LEAs will receive a list of randomly selected students whose records will be reviewed to ensure 90% of services have been implemented. Peggy said that services provided by nonpublic agency (NPA) staff must be documented on site because they do not have access to SEIS. Peggy has a sample tracking sheet that was created by Karina Quezada for any LEAs needing support.

Colette Garland provided information on the SEIS Service Tracker option. She demonstrated how to add services for a group of students as well as for an individual student. Colette said the LEAs are to continue tracking services provided as it will be required beyond CDE looking for a snapshot from March 1, 2024 through April 29, 2024. Colette said in case of student absence, track services that would have been provided had the student attended, noting if it was an excused or unexcused absence. If a student attends a field trip or school assembly, they are still receiving their SAI services and it should be tracked accordingly. Colette continued that when a substitute teacher provides services, a note should be left for the teacher of record to enter as substitute teachers do not have access to SEIS. She shared that SEIS is working to create reports that will allow LEAs to pull the data. Colette reiterated that DMSELPA is working on a video tutorial for tracking services. She also said that some LEAs may have purchased the Medi-Cal billing module as it is a separate module.

Linda Llamas said DMCC services are tracked on a separate platform and asked to be contacted if reports are needed.

Pam Bender said that with SEIS providing a 365-day calendar, it is one method that can be used but LEAs have a choice how to track services provided. Pam added that DMSELPA and DMCC services providers will discuss how they provide tracking reports to LEAs.

Peggy reviewed the number of late IEPs, including Plan Reviews and Re-Evaluations for the DMSELPA.

Heidi Chavez added that for Small Cyclical Monitoring, CDE will review late IEPs in August and December each year to determine if LEAs are compliant.

### 7.8 Nonpublic School/Nonpublic Agency Update

Peggy Dunn provided a nonpublic school/nonpublic agency update. Peggy said again that services

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provided by nonpublic agencies must be tracked and documented at the school site.

Peggy said that nonpublic schools continue to be monitored and supported by DMSELPA. She reported that Learn Academy is not accepting new students at this time as they are working to add a second teacher to the site.

### **7.9 Career Technical Education Update**

Deborah Sarkesian provided the Career Technical Education (CTE) update. She shared the Transition Resource Fair is scheduled for April 16, 2024, 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. The audience is students who are in 9-12<sup>th</sup> grades, their families, and educators. Families will be given resources to help them transition to the workforce or post-secondary education.

### **7.10 Occupational and Physical Therapy Service Reports and Update**

Pam Bender provided the Occupational and Physical Therapy Service Reports and update. Pam encouraged committee members to review their service reports for accuracy and asked them contact Codi Andersen with any errors or questions.

## **8.0 FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **8.1 Federal Funding Allocation**

Samuel Barker provided an update on the Federal Funding Allocation. He reviewed the 2023-24 Local Assistance Entitlements (3300). Samuel said federal funding is paid as a reimbursement so funds are not provided until a claim is submitted. He previously emailed forms to the LEAs that are to be returned by April 20, 2024. Sam provided a list of reporting periods for federal expenditure reports. He said it is preferred for the funds to be spent within the fiscal year for tracking purposes.

## **9.0 INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **9.1 Monthly Audiological Service Reports**

### **9.2 Monthly Nonpublic School Placement Report**

### **9.3 Upcoming Professional Learning Opportunities**

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

Tanya Benitez shared that she has recently found the Served By and For reports to be harder to read and with errors in the student address section. Samuel Barker replied that the addresses in the report are

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generated from Parent 1 in SEIS. He said the districts can update that section for accuracy. Pam Bender made note of the reports being difficult to read and will look into it.

### **11.0 CEO COMMENTS**

Pam Bender shared a YouTube video: [World Down Syndrome Day Video for Kids](#).

### **12.0 MATTERS BROUGHT BY THE PUBLIC**

None.

### **13.0 ADJOURNMENT**

Having no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Lucinda Newton, seconded by Eric Land, to adjourn the meeting at 10:56 a.m. The motion passed on the following vote: 14:0:0: Ayes: Avila, Behnke, Benitez, Congo, Dale, DeRenard, Hedberg, Kerns, Land, Miller, Newton, Reid, 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, April 19, 2024, 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.*