

California Association of Health and Education Linked Professions,
Joint Powers Authority (CAHELP, JPA)
DESERT MOUNTAIN SELPA STEERING and FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
August 18, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.
Desert Mountain Educational Service Center, 17800 Highway 18, Apple Valley CA 92307

MINUTES

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

Academy for Academic Excellence – Marcelo Congo, Adelanto SD – Kim Guthrie, Apple Valley USD – Priscilla Avila, David Wheeler, Baker Valley USD – Cecil Edwards via Web Ex, Barstow USD – Heather Reid, Bear Valley USD – Lucinda Newton, Linda Rosado, Desert/Mountain Operations (SBCSS) – Dale Folkens, Excelsior Charter Schools – Deanna Crocker, Amber Englehart, Helendale SD – Michael Esposito, Hesperia USD – Elaine Nelson, Lucerne Valley SD – Vici Miller, Needles USD – Jamie Wiesner via Web Ex, Silver Valley USD – Cheri Rigdon, Snowline JUSD – Pam De Renard, Trona JUSD – Nicole Yeager via Web Ex, Victor Elementary SD – Tanya Benitez, and VVUHSD – Larry Brunson, Krystal Kerns.

GUESTS:

Christina Leal – Options for Youth.

CAHELP, DMSELPA, & DMCC STAFF PRESENT:

Jamie Adkins, Jacob Aguilera, Codi Andersen, Pam Bender, Guille Burgos, Ivan Campos, Danielle Cote, Marina Gallegos, Marysol Hurtado, Linda Llamas, Maurica Manibusan, Yazmin Medina, Lisa Nash, Vianca Padilla, Sheila Parisian, Ana Perez, Kathleen Peters, Linda Rodriguez, Yolanda Roman, Jennifer Rountree, 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 Elaine Nelson, seconded by Michael Esposito, to approve the August 18, 2023, Desert Mountain SELPA Steering and Finance Committee Meeting Agenda as presented. The motion carried on the following vote: 17:0:0: Ayes: Benitez, Brunson, Congo, De Renard, Edwards, Englehart, Esposito, Folkens, Guthrie, Miller, Nelson, Newton, Reid, Rigdon, Wheeler, Wiesner, and Yeager. 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 stakeholder training that is intended to assist people who do not facilitate or lead IEP teams but may hear complaints at the lowest level

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and teach them about their role. The stakeholder 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 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.

Cheri Rigdon thanked the team for their support and assisting with resolution support services. Vici Miller and Mike Esposito both said that CAHELP staff being accessible is very helpful and allows them to respond to parents immediately.

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 motion was made by Michael Esposto, 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, Brunson, Congo, De Renard, Edwards, Englehart, Esposito, Folkens, Guthrie, Miller, Nelson, Newton, Reid, Rigdon, Wheeler, Wiesner, and Yeager. Nays: None. Abstentions: None.

6.1.1 Approve the May 19, 2023, Desert Mountain SELPA Steering and Finance Committee Meeting Minutes.

6.1.2 Approve the June 16, 2023, Desert Mountain 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

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- 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 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 meetings.

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

Linda Rodriguez presented the Desert Mountain 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. Linda reported the annual IMTSS Symposium titled Reconnecting the Dots will be held on February 21, 2024, and a flyer will be provided soon. Linda 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. Linda 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 SLPA. 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

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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 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 DMSELPA's Resolution Support Services Summary and update. She provided a brief summary of a current LEA case.

7.5 Compliance Update

Sheila Parisian presented an update on compliance items from the California Department of Education (CDE). She encouraged committee members to continue working on overdue IEPs. She said Compliance and Improvement Monitoring (CIM) is ongoing. 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. Sheila said those LEAs will continue to work with her, Peggy, and the program specialists.

Sheila continued that 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. Sheila shared that Colette will be scheduling meetings to disseminate the data to special education directors. The special education directors should collaborate with their IT department on the amount of space that will be needed to store historic data from Web IEP. She reported the baseline and goals will be put in an Excel spreadsheet to make it easier for teachers to copy and paste the information. Sheila stated fillable forms are on the CAHELP website in the educator portal. She said the forms in the educator portal will be updated as needed so it is best to visit the originals regularly to ensure the most recent version is being used.

7.6 Nonpublic School/Nonpublic Agency Update

Sheila Parisian provided a nonpublic school/nonpublic agency update. She reported Bright Futures Academy will be changing their name effective September 1, 2023, to Dynamic Hope Schools and will also have a new principal. Though Desert View school had staffing challenges last school year, they are currently fully staffed. Sheila continued that Academy for Advancement of Autism has secured a location in Apple Valley and they are currently working on CDE stipulations with the expectation of opening soon. Sheila shared that Beach Cities Learning Academy has a projected open date of October 1, 2023, for a location in Hesperia. Sheila said any questions or concerns relating to nonpublic schools or agencies can be directed to Peggy Dunn.

Pam Bender shared that Academy for Advancement of Autism will possibly present information at the September Steering meetings.

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7.7 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 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.

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

Bobbie Taylor presented the 2022-23 CTE Year End Reports.

7.9 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 that 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 schools would send the funding to CAHELP in order for educationally related mental health services to continue to be provided by DMCC. Marina pointed out the funding also helps support residential placements, and to match funding of DMCC contracts with Department of Behavioral Health. The summary Marina presented reflects estimated LEA revenue which will be trued up on June 30, 2024.

Note: Kim Guthrie left the meeting at 11:08 a.m.

8.2 P-2 Certified Funding Distributions

Marina Gallegos presented 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.

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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. Codi stated the department has migrated to a new reporting system so the services reports will have a different appearance. She asked the special education directors to review the monthly reports for accuracy as some students have changed schools.

9.2 Monthly Nonpublic School Placement Report

Pam Bender reported a memo will soon be sent to special education directors listing students that are in nonpublic school placement along with the costs.

9.3 Upcoming Professional Learning Opportunities

10.0 STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS COMMENTS / REPORTS

None.

11.0 CEO COMMENTS

Pamela Bender shared Derek Hale accepted a position with DMOPS. Pam stated interviews were conducted to fill that position and Dr. Karina Quezada was selected and will begin to take over the role when she returns to work in September. With these changes, there are currently five program specialists and four vacancies. The remaining program specialists are working hard to cover all duties. There have been delays in posting the vacant positions but it is being worked on. Pam asked the committee members to contact program specialists, program managers, or her if something is needed so it can be addressed right away.

Pam asked the committee members to review the Professional Learning Guide as it contains all trainings offered by CAHELP. 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 who 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 shared the new seating arrangement allows for voting members and program specialists, program managers with monthly reports to sit facing each other to engage in the meeting discussions. Classroom style seating towards the back of the room is for other staff and visitors to hear the meeting and discussions with the opportunity to address the committee.

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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 Lucinda Newton, seconded by Tanya Benitez, to adjourn the meeting at 11:22 a.m. The motion carried on the following vote: 16:0:0: Ayes: Benitez, Brunson, Congo, De Renard, Edwards, Englehart, Esposito, Folkens, Miller, Nelson, Newton, Reid, Rigdon, 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, September 22, 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.