

California Association of Health and Education Linked Professions,  
Joint Powers Authority (CAHELP, JPA)  
**DESERT MOUNTAIN SELPA STEERING and FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
*November 17, 2023 – 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 – Kimberly Guthrie, Apple Valley USD – Priscilla Avila, Bear Valley USD – Lucinda Newton, Desert Mountain Operations (SBCSS) – Rich Frederick, Health Sciences High School and Middle College – Bryan Dale via Web Ex, Hesperia USD – Eric Land, Lucerne Valley SD – Vici Miller, Needles USD – Jamie Wiesner via Web Ex, Oro Grande SD – Scott Heitman, Silver Valley USD – Cheri Rigdon, Snowline JUSD – Pam DeRenard, 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, Codi Andersen, Guille Burgos, Heidi Chavez, Danielle Cote, Peggy Dunn, Marina Gallegos, Colette Garland, Linda Llamas, Isaac Medina, Lisa Nash, Sheila Parisian, Kathleen Peters, Jennifer Rountree, and Deborah Sarkesian.

**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 Program Manager Heidi Chavez at 9:04 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 Pam DeRenard, to approve the November 17, 2023 Desert Mountain SELPA Steering and Finance Committee Meeting Agenda as presented. The motion carried on the following vote: 14:0:0, Ayes: Avila, Benitez, Brunson, Congo, Dale, DeRenard, Frederick, Guthrie, Heitman, Land, Newton, Rigdon, Wiesner, Yeager. Nays: none, Abstentions: none.

**5.0 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.

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5.1 **BE IT RESOLVED** that a motion was made by Kim Guthrie, seconded by Rich Frederick, to approve the following Consent Item as presented. The motion carried on the following vote: 14:0:0, Ayes: Avila, Benitez, Brunson, Congo, Dale, DeRenard, Frederick, Guthrie, Heitman, Land, Newton, Rigdon, Wiesner, Yeager. Nays: none, Abstentions: none.

5.1.1 Approve the October 20, 2023 Desert Mountain SELPA Steering and Finance Committee Meeting Minutes.

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

#### 6.1 Legislative Update

Heidi Chavez presented the legislative update. She stated that when a bill is chaptered it means it has been approved and will be implemented. Heidi also reported that the legislature will reconvene January 2024 with the governor's budget being released on January 10, 2024. Heidi highlighted that for Senate Bill (SB) 323, emergency safety procedures do not have to be included in student IEPs but instead must be included in the school emergency plan. Regarding Assembly Bill (AB) 1466, it was stressed that seclusion is not allowed in the educational setting. Heidi reviewed the requirements implemented in AB 1722 – Pupil Health: credentialed school nurses, registered nurses, and licensed vocational nurses. She said for AB 1722, more information and clarification will be provided as it is received.

\*Note: Vici Miller joined the meeting at 9:31 a.m.

#### 6.2 SEIS Transition Update

Peggy Dunn provided a SEIS transition update. She said there are approximately 30 staff who have been trained to do the data entry with some doing it after hours, during down time in their workday, and some on weekends.

Colette Garland referred to Pam Bender's update email from November 15, 2023. Colette thanked the committee members for responding to DMSSELPA emails asking for additional information so that IEPs can be entered. For the LEAs that are submitting for CAHELP assistance, IEPs that are labeled as Priority are done within 1-2 days of receipt. Priority means a parent called and is requesting an amendment so the eligibility evaluation or plan review needs to be entered right away. Colette asked to be contacted by LEAs that need assistance with the initial affirming. She said that she is working on the IEPs that require more information or someone with more experience to work through. Colette emails the case manager and copies the special education directors and coordinators so they are aware. She reminded the attendees that SEIS Office Hours are continuing two days each week for staff to ask SEIS related questions.

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### 6.3 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. Linda reminded the committee members that historically, the reports had been sent to the district of residence and the district of service but based on committee member input, it had been changed to only district of service. After group discussion, it was decided that two reports would begin being emailed to both involved districts to assist with collaboration. Also, Linda clarified that for students who will no longer receive DMCC services, an IEP will be called to present the information so the IEP team can make the decision. Linda said for the DMCC dates for Progress of Goals, Pam Bender does want a discussion so it will be addressed at the December meeting. Linda shared that DMCC staff are adding services in SEIS for children who meet the criteria based on the date of assessment. She presented the mental health research article and asked for it to be shared with anyone that would benefit from the information provided. In response to a request, Linda said she would research the possibility of all articles being housed on the DMCC website since they are a great resource.

### 6.4 Professional Learning Summary and Update

Heidi Chavez presented the Desert Mountain SELPA’s Professional Learning Summary and update. There was a large amount of training provided during the summer and family engagement training requests have grown, which is a great reflection of the Outreach Team.

Cheri Rigdon thanked the Outreach Team for working with her schools. They assisted with the family wellness night at Ft. Irwin and it was a huge success. Cheri said that parents have come to the office requesting the team to return every year. She said it provides extra support that the parents need.

Heidi provided a summary of the Celebrating Families program and shared the next cohort begins January 16, 2024 and lasts for 16 weeks. Families also receive resources that are in their communities so they can continue to receive support once the program is over. The program is provided in English and Spanish with two cohorts each year. Heidi continued that the SLP Collaborative is scheduled for January 17, 2024 with the topic of Non-biased assessment for English learners with potential developmental language disorder. The iMTSS Symposium is scheduled for February 21, 2024 at the Doubletree Hotel in Ontario, California with a cost of \$250.00 per person. Heidi shared that the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting held on November 16, 2023 was very impactful. The district attorney shared that her presentation is on the website as well as other resources. The next CAC meeting is scheduled for February 22, 2024 and will be provided by the CAHELP JPA Outreach Team. Heidi continued that HOLA Language Services training is scheduled for November 29-30, 2024 and is for any staff that assist with translating in IEPs so they can be legally compliant. The fee for HOLA training is \$200.00.

Heidi provided additional information on Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) training as follow up from the previous meeting. She said that DMSELPA will pay for one person to attend the

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facilitator 3-day training at the cost of \$4349, as a reimbursement. After that the renewal will be the responsibility of the LEA, which is currently a one-day training every two years and costs \$1849. Heidi confirmed the LEA trainer can only provide training for their LEA and that two neighboring LEAs cannot work together to train each other's staff. The LEAs are responsible to log training hours and participants. Heidi said the training does include de-escalation. During the week of November 27, 2023, Heidi will email a survey to the committee members asking if they are interested and have someone in mind.

\*Note: Krystal Kerns joined the meeting at 10:22 a.m.  
Scott Heitman left the meeting at 10:23 a.m.

### 6.5 Resolution Support Services Summary and Update

Kathleen Peters presented the DMSELPA's Resolution Support Services Summary and update. Kathleen introduced new program specialist Annette Rego. Kathleen shared that when she does suggest an additional step be taken to provide for a struggling student and family, it is with respect for the LEA knowing the LEA is working hard to provide FAPE as well.

### 6.6 Compliance Update

Peggy Dunn presented an update on compliance items from the California Department of Education (CDE). She shared that LEAs have been asked by CDE to provide feedback to help them improve future monitoring cycles. Step 3 of Compliance and Improvement Monitoring Process (CIM) is currently underway with a window of October 1-November 30, 2023. Peggy needs to receive all plans by November 30 so the DMCS assurances can be submitted to CDE. She reminded any LEAs in Small Schools Monitoring to submit required documents as requested.

### 6.7 Nonpublic School/Nonpublic Agency Update

Peggy Dunn provided a nonpublic school/nonpublic agency update including the DMSELPA 2023-24 NPS Directory. She shared that Nicole Langley supports nonpublic agencies and Jennifer Holbrook supports nonpublic schools. Peggy provided the Nonpublic School Directory stating DMSELPA holds the master contract for the included schools.

Peggy reported that the Academy for Advancement of Children with Autism wants students to be transported to their existing site before they will open a campus in Apple Valley. There is one student that makes the commute to the Lancaster site daily but it is a long commute. Peggy continued that she has visited The Learn Academy in Victorville. Their emotionally disturbed program will open in February but can submit applications now and they are open to tours. Peggy shared they are expected to present at December Steering.

Priscilla Avila asked about an NPS denying a student with reasoning of no educational benefit due to time involved in transportation after observation and the parent being willing to provide

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transportation. Peggy said that DMSELPA does not have jurisdiction over NPS decisions. She asked to be contacted when these denials happen so that DMSELPA is aware and can review the master contract with the concerns.

Peggy continued that the quarterly meetings NPS are continuing from last school year in which there is discussion about legislative updates, IEP expectations and other topics.

### **6.8 Career Technical Education Update**

Deborah Sarkesian provided the Career Technical Education (CTE) update. She shared that as of the meeting, the goal of 275 has been surpassed by 11 referrals. November 15, 2023, they have received 259 referrals and their goal is 275. Deborah reported the instructional supply deadline is December 31, 2023 which allows teachers \$250 to use for purchasing program supplies.

### **6.9 Prevention and Intervention Update**

Deborah Sarkesian provided the Prevention and Intervention update. She reported onsite requests have been for scaling up Tier 1 Supports and Interventions to help prevent overload in Tiers 2 and 3. There has also been an increase in requests for providing PBIS in the home as well as understanding classroom management supports. As a parent of two children with IEPs, Deborah thanked the committee members for what they do for special education students. She is thankful for their hard work and all they do.

## **7.0 INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **7.1 Monthly Audiological Services Reports**

### **7.2 Monthly Occupational & Physical Therapy Services Reports**

Codi Andersen referred to SB 323 and stated that the PT and OT staff can support LEAs in addressing how to ensure students are safe during emergencies. She said the LEAs can contact her with any questions or if assistance is needed. Codi continued that currently OT and PT services are offered at Tier 3 MTSS but DMSELPA is envisioning an infrastructure that will provide solid interventions for Tiers 1 and 2 including OT and PT. It is in the planning phase with possible pilot studies this school year that can include providing for students in general education and not just those with IEPs. Codi asked to be emailed by committee members that would be interested in participating in the pilot. It will be presented to superintendents in February at Governance. Codi also shared that California will pass regulations that as of March 2024, occupational therapists will be considered licensed mental health providers.

### **7.3 Monthly Nonpublic School Placement Report**

### **7.4 Upcoming Professional Learning Opportunities**

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

Priscilla Avila asked if any of the other committee members have experienced behavior companies that provide in-home supports putting pressure on parents to get the supports provided at school. She said they have received an influx of requests for temporary intensive support assistants (TISA) and independent educational evaluation (IEE). Priscilla said the schools are not seeing a need in the educational setting after assessment and observation. Priscilla agreed to notify Kathleen Peters and Peggy Dunn of the agencies in case DMSELPA is contracted with them. There was discussion about the possibility of the children's medical insurance no longer paying for in-home supports so the agencies are suggesting it be picked up under educational needs. The same provider could not provide supports on campus as it would be conflict of interest. Also, the increase in requests shows that the parents are struggling at home so LEAs should continue to offer support and resources as possible.

Rich Frederick asked if any of the LEAs are working with their teachers to bridge credentials based on 2022-23 legislation. He shared that Sonoma County used Keenan and Associates to provide online classes to meet the training requirement. Sonoma County also used grants to pay for their teachers to attend. Rich continued that when the teachers bridge to the new credential, it expands their ability to serve more students. There does need to be documentation of the required professional development. He is working to have the county teachers complete the bridge process.

In response to a question, Heidi Chavez stated Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP) can be completed by transitional kindergarten students but it is not necessarily required. There are revisions being made to the DRDP framework and timeline with a pilot coming in the spring. Heidi continued that test administrators must be trained before administering the assessment and stated if an LEA assesses any student, they must assess all age-appropriate students. It was suggested to contact Heather Smith at SBCSS as she is the SBCSS DRDP administrator and has wealth of knowledge.

### **9.0 CEO COMMENTS**

Deborah Sarkesian read a poem by Henri Frederic Amiel "Thankfulness is the beginning of gratitude. Gratitude is the completion of thankfulness. Thankfulness may consist merely of words. Gratitude is shown in acts." She also read "Beginning of November" from Innergrowth Reset.

### **10.0 MATTERS BROUGHT BY THE PUBLIC**

None.

### **11.0 ADJOURNMENT**

Having no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Tanya Benitez, seconded by Lucinda Newton, to adjourn the meeting at 11:07 a.m. The motion carried on the following vote: 14:0:0, Ayes: Avila, Benitez, Brunson, Congo, Dale, DeRenard, Frederick, Guthrie, Land, Miller, Newton, Rigdon, Wiesner, Yeager. Nays: none, Abstentions: none

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The next regular meeting of the Desert Mountain SELPA Steering and Finance Committee will be held on Friday, December 15, 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.*