

California Association of Health and Education Linked Professions  
Joint Powers Authority (CAHELP JPA)  
**DESERT/MOUNTAIN SELPA STEERING and FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
*October 21, 2022 – 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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### **D/M SELPA MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Academy for Academic Excellence – Marcelo Congo, Adelanto SD – Michael Baird, Apple Valley USD – Priscilla Avila, David Wheeler, Baker Valley USD – Cecil Edwards, Barstow USD - Heather Reid, Bear Valley USD – Lucinda Newton, Desert Mountain Operations/SBCSS – Rich Frederick, Excelsior Charter Schools – Amber Englehart, Marie Silva, Helendale SD – Mike Esposito, Hesperia USD – Shannon Garibay, Eric Land, Elaine Nelson, Lucerne Valley SD – Vici Miller, Needles USD – Jamie Wiesner, Oro Grande SD – Scott Heitman, Snowline JUSD – Pam DeRenard, Trona JUSD – Nicole Yeager, Victor Elementary SD – Melanie Arroyo, Tanya Benitez, and Victor Valley UHSD – Margaret Akinnusi.

### **GUEST:**

Christina Leal – Options for Youth.

### **CAHELP, SELPA, and DMCC STAFF PRESENT:**

Jamie Adkins, Daniel Anchondo, Codi Andersen, Sam Barker, Pam Bender, Guille Burgos, Ivan Campos, Heidi Chavez, Craig Cleveland, Danielle Cote, Tara Deavitt, Peggy Dunn, Adrien Faamausili, Marina Gallegos, Renee Garcia, Colette Garland, Derek Hale, Linda Llamas, Maurica Manibusan, Angela Mgbeke, Lisa Nash, Sheila Parisian, Kathleen Peters, Karina Quezada, Jennifer Rountree, Veronica Rousseau, Adrienne Shepherd-Myles, Jessica Soto, Pamela Strigglers, Jennifer Sutton, and Athena Vernon.

## **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 9:02 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 Rich Frederick, seconded by Vici Miller, to approve the October 21, 2022 Desert/Mountain SELPA Steering and Finance Committee Meeting Agenda as presented. The motion carried with the following vote 17:0 Ayes: Akinnusi, Baird, Benitez, Congo, DeRenard, Edwards, Englehart, Esposito, Frederick, Heitman, Land, Miller, Newton, Reid, Wheeler, Wiesner, and Yeager, Nays: None, Abstentions: None.

## **5.0 INFORMATION/ACTION**

5.1 Assembly Bill 361 Exemptions to Brown Act Virtual Meeting Requirements

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Assembly Bill (AB) 361 requires local agencies to consider the circumstances of the state of emergency and make the following findings by a majority vote: 1) the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person; or 2) state or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing.

5.1.1 **BE IT RESOLVED** that a motion was made by Tanya Benitez, seconded by David Wheeler, to approve the Assembly Bill 361 Exemptions to Brown Act Virtual Meeting Requirements as presented. The motion carried with the following vote 17:0 Ayes: Akinnusi, Baird, Benitez, Congo, DeRenard, Edwards, Englehart, Esposito, Frederick, Heitman, Land, Miller, Newton, Reid, Wheeler, Wiesner, and Yeager, Nays: None, Abstentions: None.

### **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 Rich Frederick, seconded by Scott Heitman, to approve the following Consent Item as presented. The motion carried with the following vote 17:0 Ayes: Akinnusi, Baird, Benitez, Congo, DeRenard, Edwards, Englehart, Esposito, Frederick, Heitman, Land, Miller, Newton, Reid, Wheeler, Wiesner, and Yeager, Nays: None, Abstentions: None.

6.1.1 Approve the September 23, 2022 Desert/Mountain SELPA Steering and Finance Committee Meeting Minutes.

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

7.1 Legislative Updates from State SELPA Administrators

Pam Bender provided a legislative update as it pertains to special education. Both Senate Bill (SB) 1113 re: inclusive education and universal design for learning and SB 870 for developmental services were vetoed. Pam reported the following bills were chaptered: SB 291, Assembly Bill (AB) 1868, and SB 692. SB 1016 Special Education, eligibility of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder was also signed into law with being listed as Other Health Impairment (OHI). Pam noted that many of these students may already be identified as OHI but were identified with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) or other executive function issues. She said to also remember that even if a student has a medical diagnosis of FASD, they still must be assessed and meet eligibility criteria to receive special education services.

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### 7.2 Transition to Special Education Information System (SEIS)

Pam Bender provided an update on the transition to Special Education Information System (SEIS) from CAHELP JPA Governance Council. Governance did table the decision because there is one more year on the DocuSign contract with approximately \$240,000 due April 2023. Pam said DocuSign is not used solely in Web IEP but for many other processes within CAHELP. She reported Governance Council tabled the decision, but three Governance members have contacted Pam regarding the strain the extended timeline will have on implementation and training. She is working to see if there are other options instead of waiting until the Governance Council meeting in January 2023. The plan is to continue to move forward as soon as it is approved and begin training CAHELP JPA staff including program specialists then train appropriate staff at the LEAs.

Pam confirmed there will be one year of records transferred to SEIS and she is researching how long we will have access through Web IEP.

### 7.3 Bridge to Added Authorizations

Pam Bender presented information regarding the bridge to added authorizations. The California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) is changing current credentials for special education: Mild Moderate Disability is now Mild Moderate Support Needs, Moderate Severe Disabilities is now Extensive Support Needs, Early Childhood Special Education continues to be Early Childhood Special Education but they will be able to teach both transitional kindergarten and kindergarten. Pam shared State SELPA Administrators is working with CTC and CDE to create a bridge that will assist teachers in getting the authorizations. The teachers will have to submit the \$100 filing fee, but the trainings will help meet the requirements instead of the teachers returning to a university program.

Pam confirmed the Early Child Special Education credential will allow those teachers to teach transitional kindergarten and kindergarten which will give more leeway for students placed in those classrooms.

### 7.4 Alternative Diploma

Pam Bender provided information on the alternative diploma. Pam reported there is significant discussion at State SELPA Administrators meetings about what an alternative diploma will look like but at this time, it is a local decision with no additional guidance from CDE. State SELPA Administrators want to make sure they are doing what is right for students. Pam said the conversations are continuing and she will report out as she receives information.

### 7.5 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. She asked to be contacted with any questions about the service reports or referral

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reports.

### 7.6 Desert/Mountain Children's Center Mental Health Research Report

Linda Llamas shared the Desert/Mountain Children's Center Mental Health Research Report. Linda asked to be notified if there are specific topics the committee members would like to hear about. She said the articles can be shared with families and staff that might find them helpful.

### 7.7 Professional Learning Summary and Update

Heidi Chavez presented the D/M SELPA's Professional Learning Summary and update. She said the October 21, 2022 Directors' Training is available in-person and virtually.

Heidi shared the next Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting is scheduled for November 17, 2022 at Hesperia USD. Hesperia Police Department will be presenting on drug use and social media. Heidi said it is a requirement of D/M SELPA membership that each LEA have a representative attend the meeting as well as another representative of the community, preferably a parent of student with a disability or someone in the community that is passionate about or related to a student with a disability. Also, CAC nominations for chairperson, vice chair, and secretary are open now with voting taking place at the November meeting. Heidi said she emailed the committee members on October 20, 2022 and asked to be emailed back with nominations.

### 7.8 Resolution Support Services Summary and Update

Kathleen Peters presented the D/M SELPA's Resolution Support Services Summary and update. She reported the current trend she is seeing is filing more on parents as well as very complex and difficult cases that continue without settling. Kathleen reported all cases from 2021-22 have been resolved. She shared that Nicole Langley is the new Office Specialist II supporting Resolution Support Services.

Kathleen reminded committee members to be very specific and deliberate when requesting services from a nonpublic agency, especially for students with high needs or when applied behavioral analysis (ABA) is needed.

Kathleen shared when she receives questions about how to proceed with discipline for students in special education, especially related to suspension and expulsion, she refers to *Guidelines on Discipline, Due Process, Suspension and Expulsion Handbook* from Sherman Garnett and Associates. She also uses *San Bernardino County Educational Service Plan for Expelled and High-Risk Students*. Kathleen also referred directors to their Child Welfare and Attendance (CWA) departments.

Tanya Benitez uses Bravo that provides guidance to schools and assists with parent notifications. Tanya welcomed the directors to join her LEA for that training.

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Kathleen reminded the attendees that 504 Plan training is scheduled for November 2, 2022 which will be a virtual training with Ernest Bell of Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo (AALRR). Kathleen shared *Taking the “A” Out of ADR* will be a virtual training on November 4, 2023, 9:00am-12:00pm with David Dowling as the trainer. She said the skills learned will help not only with IEP meetings but with any difficult meetings. Kathleen said the registration fees can be reimbursed through the one-time learning recovery funds.

### 7.9 Case Law Review

Kathleen Peters reported there was no case law review for the meeting.

### 7.10 Career Technical Education (CTE) Update

Adrienne Shepherd-Myles provided a Career Technical Education (CTE) update. She said she will be facilitating the Transition Planning for All training on November 3 from 9:00am-12:00pm. Adrienne encouraged all teachers, including veteran teachers to attend the training.

Adrienne presented an updated CAHELP Career Technical Education Programs At-A-Glance. She said there have been minor revisions as to who is responsible for each program as well as to phone numbers. Adrienne asked to be contacted with any questions regarding CTE programs.

### 7.11 Compliance Update

Peggy Dunn presented an update on compliance items from the California Department of Education (CDE). Activities for LEAs in significant disproportionality, targeted, and intensive have a November 1, 2022 deadline. Peggy said there is a total of 1074 late IEPs throughout the member LEAs and she encouraged the directors to continue to work on reducing that number.

### 7.12 Nonpublic School/Nonpublic Agency Update

Peggy Dunn provided a nonpublic school/nonpublic agency update. She reported there are five pending students for residential treatment centers and six currently enrolled. Peggy said there are approximately 90 students placed in nonpublic schools. She continued the nonpublic schools are continuing to work diligently to have enough nurses to meet the need.

## **8.0 FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Marina Gallegos provided an update on Maintenance of Efforts (MOE) and excess cost reports. She there are only a couple of LEAs that have not submitted but the rest of the LEAs are ready to be submitted to CDE.

## **9.0 INFORMATION ITEMS**

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- 9.1 Desired Results Access Project (DRDP) Memo
- 9.2 Monthly Audiological Services Reports
- 9.3 Monthly Occupational & Physical Therapy Services Reports
- 9.4 Monthly Nonpublic School Placement Report
- 9.5 Upcoming Professional Learning Opportunities

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

Rich Frederick shared he is excited about the implementation of Student Annual Needs Determination Inventory (SANDI) used with students with moderate to severe disabilities and preschool students. The SANDI drives IEP development and instructional planning. Rich said there was 98% participation of students in the fall SANDI which closed September 30, 2022. He continued the focus on quality data as an important piece of building quality programs. Rich reported the Apple Valley County Education Center is still on modified program with independent study agreements signed by all the students participating in the modified day or instructional periods. The campus will be reverting to the traditional schedule upon return from winter break. A job skills training lab has been built on campus and will be extending the CTE offerings. Rich said there is also a Victor Valley Community College partnership working with students.

### **11.0 CEO COMMENTS**

Pam Bender provided information regarding the possible program transfer for Bear Valley USD. She said notification has been received from Bear Valley USD that they are wanting to transfer the 3<sup>rd</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> grade moderate severe classroom be transferred back to the district. Pam said she and Rich Frederick will meet with Bear Valley USD to review information as their final decision must be made by October 31. She stated that according to educational code when an LEA transfers programs, the staff currently providing the services are given first right to the Bear Valley USD positions created by the LEA taking back the program. Rich will provide Bear Valley USD with an accounting of the cost for each student so they have a realistic understanding of what will be needed.

Pam reported Desert View Nonpublic School has been struggling with attendance. Desert View has been advised to work with the districts of residence in School Attendance Review Board (SARB) process instead of continuing to mark the students absent and not addressing the issue. Peggy Dunn and Derek Hale have been working with the nonpublic schools in creating plans to boost attendance and asking if IEP meetings are being held to discuss the student absences.

Pam said regarding the service tracker, at State SELPA Administrators, it was confirmed that a specialized instruction (SAI) student in a special day class (SDC), attendance can be used instead of minutes to

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document them being in the special day class. Pam reminded the committee members to document all of the minutes including related services. When CDE requests the information, they will not look at specific children but instead they will be ensuring students are receiving at least 80% of services based on the number of minutes on the IEP. Teachers must note why students are not receiving services: student absence, service provider absence, etc.

Pam reminded the committee members that AB 2449 is effective January 1, 2023 that will change Brown Act and virtual participation. She will be getting legal opinion on the bill to see what it means for the LEAs that are not close that would spend more time traveling than in the meeting.

Pam Bender acknowledged that schools are busy, and things keep coming up but in that there is a certain sense of accomplishment. She read a Maya Angelou quote and reminded the meeting attendees that the work they are doing is making things better for children and sometimes that is forgotten. Pam said it is also important to make time for yourself to feel good and rest to have the energy needed to continue supporting students.

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

None.

### **13.0 DIRECTORS' TRAINING**

### **14.0 ADJOURNMENT**

Having no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Vici Miller, seconded by Margaret Akinnusi, to adjourn the meeting at 1:02 p.m. The motion carried with the following vote 17:0 Ayes: Akinnusi, Baird, Benitez, Congo, DeRenard, Edwards, Englehart, Esposito, Frederick, Heitman, Land, Miller, Newton, Reid, 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, November 18, 2022, 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.*