

California Association of Health and Education Linked Professions  
Joint Powers Authority (CAHELP JPA)  
**DESERT/MOUNTAIN SELPA STEERING and FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
*November 18, 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, Samantha Gonzalez, Adelanto SD – Michael Baird, Apple Valley USD – Priscilla Avila, Baker Valley USD – Cecil Edwards, Barstow USD - Heather Reid, Bear Valley USD – Lucinda Newton, Raven Uhler, Excelsior Charter Schools – Marie Silva, Helendale SD – Mike Esposito, Hesperia USD – Eric Land, Elaine Nelson, Lucerne Valley SD – Vici Miller, Oro Grande SD – Scott Heitman, Snowline JUSD – Pam DeRenard, Dennis Zimmerman, Trona JUSD – Nicole Yaeger, Victor Elementary SD – Melanie Arroyo, Tanya Benitez, and Victor Valley UHSD – Margaret Akinnusi.

### **GUESTS:**

Christina Leal – Options for Youth and Dr. Ron Powell.

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

Jamie Adkins, Sam Barker, Pam Bender, Ivan Campos, Heidi Chavez, Craig Cleveland, Danielle Cote, Peggy Dunn, Adrien Faamausili, Thomas Flores, Marina Gallegos, Renee Garcia, Colette Garland, Derek Hale, Angela Mgbeke, Sheila Parisian, Kathleen Peters, Karina Quezada, Veronica Rousseau, Adrienne Shepherd-Myles, Jennifer Sutton, Theresa Vaughan, 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 9:05 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 Mike Esposito, seconded by Marie Silva, to approve the November 18, 2022 Desert/Mountain SELPA Steering and Finance Committee Meeting Agenda as presented. The motion carried on the following vote 15:0: Ayes: Akinnusi, Avila, Baird, Benitez, Congo, DeRenard, Edwards, Esposito, Heitman, Land, Miller, Newton, Reid, Silva, and Yaeger. Nays: None, Abstentions: None.

### **5.0 PRESENTATION**

#### **5.1 Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)**

Dr. Ron Powell presented information pertaining to Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD).

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### **6.0 INFORMATION/ACTION**

#### **6.1 Assembly Bill 361 Exemptions to Brown Act Virtual Meeting Requirements**

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.

6.1.1 **BE IT RESOLVED** that a motion was made by Mike Esposito, seconded by Vici Miller, to approve the Assembly Bill 361 Exemptions to Brown Act Virtual Meeting Requirements as presented. The motion carried on the following vote 15:0: Ayes: Akinnusi, Avila, Baird, Benitez, Congo, DeRenard, Edwards, Esposito, Heitman, Land, Miller, Newton, Reid, Silva, and Yaeger. Nays: None, Abstentions: None.

### **7.0 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.

7.1 **BE IT RESOLVED** that a motion was made by Mike Esposito, seconded by Margaret Akinnusi, to approve the following Consent Item as presented. The motion carried on the following vote 15:0: Ayes: Akinnusi, Avila, Baird, Benitez, Congo, DeRenard, Edwards, Esposito, Heitman, Land, Miller, Newton, Reid, Silva, and Yaeger. Nays: None, Abstentions: None.

7.1.1 Approve the October 21, 2022 Desert/Mountain SELPA Steering and Finance Committee Meeting Minutes.

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

#### **8.1 Legislative Updates from State SELPA Administrators**

Pam Bender stated there were no legislative updates from State SELPA Administrators Meeting at this time as elections and voting had just taken place. She said there will be information shared at the December meeting of what to expect in January.

#### **8.2 Desert Mountain Operations Update**

Rich Frederick was not present to provide a Desert Mountain Operations Update.

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

Theresa Vaughan presented the Desert/Mountain Children’s Center Client Services monthly reports and update. Theresa asked for questions and changes to be directed to Linda Llamas.

### 8.4 Desert/Mountain Children’s Center Mental Health Research Article

Theresa Vaughan shared the Desert/Mountain Children’s Center Mental Health Research Article.

### 8.5 Professional Learning Summary and Update

Heidi Chavez presented the D/M SELPA’s Professional Learning Summary and update. Heidi asked to be contacted for any additional supports that might be needed.

Heidi reported on the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting that was held on November 17, 2022 at Hesperia Unified School District Office with Hesperia Police Department presenting on social media and drug and alcohol abuse. She called on Eric Land who thanked the D/M SELPA team for coming to decorate and provide food. Eric shared the parents had questions and were very engaged with it being more of a discussion than presentation.

### 8.6 Resolution Support Services Summary and Update

Kathleen Peters presented the D/M SELPA’s Resolution Support Services Summary and update. She reported on a recent case published by Office of Administrative Hearing (OAH) regarding a student that was to be placed in residential treatment center. Because the LEA did not identify the location on the IEP, the judge deemed there was not a clear offer of free appropriate public education (FAPE).

Kathleen reported that Education Code requires nonpublic agency (NPA) staff members be trained in crisis intervention emergency procedures and evidence-based practices specific to the needs of the assigned child within 30 days of hire. She continued that a SELPA cannot require an NPA to use a certain model of intervention. Kathleen said when contracting with an NPA for a 1:1 aide, ensure the aide knows the degree of the student needs and confirm what interventions the aide has been trained to use. She reminded the committee members that CAHELP contracts with the NPA but does not screen the individual employees. Kathleen said it is the role of the special education director to put systems in place that to provide the best services to students with the best employees. She continued that it is acceptable for an NPS employee to be interviewed before they are placed with a student. If an NPS employee is not working out or meeting the needs of the LEA, they can be let go by contacting the agency.

Kathleen shared that David Dowling will be presenting Core Communication Skills on February 2, 2023 8:30am-3:30pm. The training will be in-person to allow face-to-face practice in enhancing active listening skills and questioning techniques.

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### 8.7 Compliance Update

Peggy Dunn presented an update on compliance items from the California Department of Education (CDE). She reported that for 2020-21 Annual Determination, everyone met the deadline of November 1, 2022 with a few LEAs having extensions. LEAs that were in Significant Disproportionality, Disproportionality, Targeted, and Intensive Monitoring have submitted all documentation.

Colette Garland reported the first CalPads certification will be December 16, 2022. She asked to be contacted with any CalPads questions.

### 8.8 Nonpublic School/Nonpublic Agency Update

Peggy Dunn provided a nonpublic school/nonpublic agency update. There are currently six students in residential treatment centers with six additional students pending. Peggy said it is best for children to be in the least restrictive environment.

Peggy said that there are ongoing issues with nurses due to most nonpublic agencies wanting full day assignments when IEPs only authorize half day services. Peggy shared she and her staff continue to meet all of the needs in the area of nonpublic agencies.

## **9.0 FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### 9.1 2021-22 Federal Expenditure Summary

Marina Gallegos provided an update on the balances of the 2021-22 American Rescue Plan Local Assistance Entitlements. She said the next reporting period will be October 1-December 31, 2022 with claims being due to the SELPA in January. Marina continued that Sam Barker, the new fiscal analyst, emailed the expenditure report forms in October.

Marina said the grant award notifications have not yet been received but the data will be emailed once the Fall 1 count is finalized and the award letters have been received. She continued the first 2022-23 report for the period of July 1 through March 31, 2023 will be due approximately April 20, 2023.

### 9.2 Learning Recovery Support, Dispute Prevention and Resolution Claim Status

Marina Gallegos revisited the status of the Learning Recovery Support and Dispute Prevention and Resolution funding that remains available. She said funds must be encumbered by June 30 and paid by September 30. Marina continued that some of the LEAs are projecting increases in expenditures or contributions that are likely supported by unrestricted revenue contributions. She said in lieu of using the restricted revenue contribution, the LEAs should consider using their

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available Learning Recovery Support and/or Dispute Prevention and Resolution funding. Marina suggested reviewing the anticipated 2022-23 anticipated expenditures to see if they align with the approved activity plans. She referred any questions and requests for assistance to Heidi Chavez or Kathleen Peters.

### **9.3 2021-22 Subsequent Year Tracking Worksheet**

Marina Gallegos provided the 2021-22 Subsequent Year Tracking Worksheet. She recommended the Finance Committee members refer to the document as the year progresses to ensure the LEA is set to pass Maintenance of Effort (MOE) for 2022-23 based on the budget.

## **10.0 INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **10.1 Monthly Audiological Services Reports**

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

### **10.3 Monthly Nonpublic School Placement Report**

### **10.4 Upcoming Professional Learning Opportunities**

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

Marie Silva thanked D/M SELPA staff including Kathleen Peters, Karina Quezada, Linda Rodriguez, Bonnie Garcia, and Sheila Parisian for assisting in the past few weeks that have been stressful.

Mike Esposito thanked Colette Garland for her support and assistance during a challenging time.

## **12.0 CEO COMMENTS**

Pam Bender reported that she received legal opinion regarding Assembly Bill (AB) 2449 stating that when the state of emergency ends, legislative bodies can implement the provisions of AB 2449 or follow the traditional rules of the Brown Act, posting the meeting agenda at sites where there will be space for public participation due to virtual attendance of committee members. She continued this will require the JPA Administrative Services Assistant, currently Jamie Adkins, being notified of virtual attendance before the agenda is posted publicly.

Pam continued that Governance Council will be holding a special meeting in the next couple of weeks solely to vote on whether to transition to Special Education Information System (SEIS) from WebIEP. Pam anticipates they will go forward with moving to SEIS, allowing time for program specialists to be trained in the system before training LEA staff.

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Pam wished everyone a happy thanksgiving and expressed her gratefulness for the CAHELP team and the staff of the LEAs. She thanked Marie Silva and Mike Esposito for sharing out about the opportunities SELPA staff have had to assist them.

**13.0 MATTERS BROUGHT BY THE PUBLIC**

None.

**14.0 ADJOURNMENT**

Having no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Marie Silva, seconded by Vici Miller, to adjourn the meeting at 10:32am. The motion carried on the following vote 15:0: Ayes: Akinnusi, Avila, Baird, Benitez, Congo, DeRenard, Edwards, Esposito, Heitman, Land, Miller, Newton, Reid, Silva, and Yaeger. Nays: None, Abstentions: None.

The next regular meeting of the Desert/Mountain SELPA Steering and Finance Committee will be held on Friday, December 16, 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.*