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## **MINUTES**

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### **GOVERNANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Academy of Academic Excellence – Lisa Lamb, Allegiance STEAM Academy – Dr. Sebastian Cognetta, Apple Valley USD – Trenae Nelson, Barstow USD – Deanna Swearingen, Hesperia USD – Dr. Michelle Smith, Lucerne Valley USD – Peter Livingston, Oro Grande SD – Derek Delton, Silver Valley USD – Jesse Najera, Snowline JUSD – Dr. Ryan Holman, Trona JUSD – Jerry Jennex, Victor Elementary SD – Lori Clark, and Victor Valley Union HSD – Carl Coles.

### **GUESTS PRESENT:**

Selina Hurley, SBCSS Fiscal Analyst.

### **CAHELP JPA STAFF PRESENT:**

Pamela Bender, Jennifer Sutton, Linda Llamas, Kayla Gewirtz, Dr. Peggy Dunn, Shelley Walsh, Deborah Sarkesian

### **1.0 CALL TO ORDER**

### **2.0 ROLL CALL**

Following roll call, a quorum was confirmed to be present in accordance with the Brown Act and satisfied all legal requirements.

### **3.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no public participation.

### **4.0 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

4.1 **BE IT RESOLVED** that a motion was made by Dr. Ryan Holman, seconded by Lisa Lamb, to approve the November 21, 2025 CAHELP JPA Governance Council Meeting Agenda as presented. The motion carried on the following vote: 12:0:0, Ayes: Lamb, Cognetta, Nelson, Swearingen, Smith, Livingston, Delton, Najera, Holman, Jennex, Clark, and Coles. Nays: None, Abstentions: None.

### **5.0 CLOSED SESSION**

The Governance Council went into closed session at 9:10 am.

5.1 Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release/Reassignment/Transfer/Resignation

5.2 Chief Executive Officer Evaluation

The Governance Council returned to open session at 10:08 am.

### **6.0 PRESENTATIONS**

6.1 SBCSS D/M Operations 2024-25 Fee-For-Service Year-End Actuals

Selina Hurley, Program Manager, Fiscal Services, presented the SBCSS D/M Operations Year End Actuals. The revenue budget is \$82.9M. The actual is \$90.1M, which includes the AB602 increase of \$4.1M due to increased services and the LCFF increase of \$2.7M due to increased ADA for SAI classes. The total revenue is \$90.1M, the total expense is \$83.7M, and the FFS ending balance is

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\$6.4M. The unused balance is \$2.5M and the total ending balance is \$8.9M. The 2024-25 unused reserve was \$2.5M; \$400K was added to the reserve making it \$2.9M. The total return is \$6M

- 6.2 SBCSS D/M Operation Final 2024-25 Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) Revenue Transfer  
The final 50% transfer is \$8.7M.

### 7.0 CONSENT ITEMS

Consent Items are routine in nature and can be enacted in one motion without further discussion. Consent items may be called up by any Council Member at the meeting for clarification, discussion, or change.

- 7.1 **BE IT RESOLVED** that a motion was made by Dr. Sebastian Cогnetta, seconded by Dr. Ryan Holman, to approve the Consent Items as presented. The motion carried on the following vote: 12:0:0, Ayes: Lamb, Cогnetta, Nelson, Swearingen, Smith, Livingston, Delton, Najera, Holman, Jennex, Clark, and Coles. Nays: None, Abstentions: None.

- 7.1.1 May 9, 2025, CAHELP JPA Governance Council Meeting Minutes.
- 7.1.2 Occupational Therapy Association of California Corporate Membership for CAHELP JPA in an amount not to exceed \$1,200.00.
- 7.1.3 California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists annual membership for Linda Llamas not to exceed \$300.00.
- 7.1.4 2025-26 Desert Mountain Charter SELPA Association dues not to exceed \$1,660.00 and \$200.00 for retirees.
- 7.1.5 2025-26 Desert Mountain SELPA Association dues not to exceed \$1,660.00 and \$200.00 for retirees.  
2025-2026 Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) Annual Membership for Miya Narvaiz-Ward, Agustina Garcia, Misty Ubina, Iván Campos, Jennifer Rountree, Ariel Clark, Craig Cleveland, Melissa de Silva, and Veronica Rousseau in an amount not to exceed \$200.00 each.
- 7.1.6 2025-2026 Kahoot! Annual Membership for CAHELP in an amount not to exceed \$800.00.
- 7.1.7 Declaration of Low Incidence Equipment as Salvage or Surplus.

### 8.0 INFORMATION / ACTION

- 8.1 On June 26, 2025, Victor Valley Union High School District notified San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools of their intent to take back students in the county operated programs located at Cobalt Institute of Math and Science, Lakeview Leadership Academy, and Victor Valley High School beginning 2026-27 school year. The letter of intent was received by Desert Mountain SELPA on June 30, 2025.
- 8.1.1 **BE IT RESOLVED** that a motion was made by Lisa Lamb, seconded by Deanna Swearingen, to approve Victor Valley Union High School District to take back students

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in county operated programs located at Cobalt Institute of Math and Science, Lakeview Leadership Academy, and Victor Valley High School beginning with the 2026-27 school year. The motion carried on the following vote: 12:0:0, Ayes: Lamb, Cognetta, Nelson, Swearingen, Smith, Livingston, Delton, Najera, Holman, Jennex, Clark, and Coles. Nays: None, Abstentions: None.

8.2 On May 20, 2025, Bear Valley Unified School District received notification from Desert Mountain Operations, SBCSS, of their intent to transfer provision of 415 Speech and Language Services to students whose primary enrollment is in district-operated programs commencing July 1, 2026. Bear Valley Unified School District students enrolled in and attending Desert Mountain Operations Specialized Academic Instruction (SAI) programs will continue to be provided 415 Services through Desert Mountain Operations' Speech and Language service providers

8.2.1 **BE IT RESOLVED** that a motion was made by Derrick Delton, seconded by Carl Coles, to approve the SBCSS Desert Mountain Operations transfer of 415 Speech and Language Services to Bear Valley Unified School District students whose primary enrollment is in district-operated programs on July 1, 2026. The motion carried on the following vote: 12:0:0, Ayes: Lamb, Cognetta, Nelson, Swearingen, Smith, Livingston, Delton, Najera, Holman, Jennex, Clark, and Coles. Nays: None, Abstentions: None.

8.3 Nigro and Nigro 2023 -2024 Audit Report (ACTION)

No issues or concerns were found.

8.3.1 **BE IT RESOLVED** that a motion was made by Dr. Ryan Holman, seconded by Lori Clark, to approve the Nigro and Nigro 2023-2024 Audit Report as presented. The motion carried on the following vote: 12:0:0, Ayes: Lamb, Cognetta, Nelson, Swearingen, Smith, Livingston, Delton, Najera, Holman, Jennex, Clark, and Coles. Nays: None, Abstentions: None.

8.4 Fiscal Updates (INFORMATION)

8.4.1 DM SELPA 1<sup>st</sup> Interim

The DM SELPA projected ending balance is \$21.5M. The balance for low incidence funds can only be used for students who have low incidence disabilities.

8.4.2 DM Charter SELPA 1<sup>st</sup> Interim

The DM Charter SELPA projected ending balance is \$2.7M.

8.4.3 DMCC 1<sup>st</sup> Interim

The DMCC projected ending balance is \$17.9M. The new rates for Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) are still forthcoming. Starting January 1, 2026, the full DBH contract will be received through May of 2026. In June of 2026, the new rate structure will apply. First interims for SELPA are due to SBCSS in October whereas districts submit in December.

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CYBHI is only for LEAs, not community-based providers directly. Districts can partner with a community-based organizations with an MOU, contract, or agreement and determine what those rates would be. CYBHI rates are low. The CYBHI line encompasses three programs: the CYPA grant, PCIT grant, and the capacity grant.

The plan for the \$18M is to reallocate Fee-for-Service funds to the districts.

### 8.5 Review of Out-Of-Home Funding Purposes and Expenditures (INFORMATION)

Review of the excess revenue of Out-of-Home funding will include reallocations of funds between all the districts as each district contributes.

The funding also supports the Outreach and Prevention and Intervention teams that work with all districts.

### 8.6 CAHELP Desert Mountain Children's Center Budget (ACTION)

A recommendation was made not to take action on any amount until the council fully understands the funding structure. The intention is to reallocate the fee-for-service money back to districts. Guidance on how districts can spend the rebates was requested.

8.6.1 **BE IT RESOLVED** that a motion was made by Lisa Lamb, seconded by Lori Clark, to table item CAHELP Desert Mountain Children's Center Budget to the February Governance Council meeting. The motion carried on the following vote: 12:0:0, Ayes: Lamb, Cognetta, Nelson, Swearingen, Smith, Livingston, Delton, Najera, Kolman, Jennex, Clark, and Coles. Nays: None, Abstentions: None.

### 8.7 Virtual Attendance (INFORMATION)

Quorum is met when the members are within our boundaries which is San Bernardino County. Those outside of our boundaries that may attend these meetings are very few. Holding virtual meetings would not affect quorum. Roll call vote would be implemented. The Brown Act telescript would be read at the beginning of each meeting.

### 8.8 Special Education Connections Subscription (INFORMATION)

Districts have received their log-in information. At Steering, Directors shared they are using their memberships consistently.

### 8.9 Department of Behavioral Health Annual Compliance Forms

8.9.1 DMCC Governance Council Policies and Trainings Checklist

8.9.2 DMCC conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement

8.9.3 DMCC governance Council Member Data Collection

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Review of the compliance forms required for the contract with Department of Behavioral Health.

### 9.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND STAFF REPORTS

#### 9.1 Legislative Update

Review of the upcoming legislative calendar was outlined. Approved bills go into effect on January 1, 2026, unless it is an urgency bill or otherwise noted.

- **AB560** (Addis) Approved by the Governor on October 10, 2025. LEAs to take all reasonable steps to distribute initial assessment workload across resource specialists in an equal manner. Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPPI) to *recommend* a maximum recommended adult-to-pupil staffing ratios for special classes serving pupils with similar or intensive educational need(s). They must be posted on the CDE website by July 1, 2027.
- **AB606** (Quirk-Silva) Approved by the Governor on October 6, 2025. Provides alternative measures for those with out-of-state credentials with a specialization in pupil personnel services without having to go through the credential program again. The credential would be valid for 2 years and eligible for renewal. The bill mandates a clear public checklist of requirements, and it must be available by August 1, 2026.
- **AB1224** (Valencia) Vetoed by the Governor. The bill regarding administrative credentialing; 60-day substitute teachers. The bill needs more specific information about available training.
- **AB1009** (Blanca Rubio) Approved by the Governor on October 11, 2025. Occupational and Physical Therapists with a valid license who meet the basic skills requirement and 5 years of experience as a school-based OT or PT may apply to an administrative services credential program. They must satisfy the requirements to apply for a preliminary services credential with a specialization in Administrative Services.
- **AB284** (Hoover) Approved by the Governor on July 14, 2025. DHH services can be a standalone service to support students.
- **SB389** (Ochoa Bogh) Approved by the Governor on July 14, 2026. Licensed vocational nurses are able to continue respiratory services under the direction of a licensed nurse.
- **AB1119** (Patel) Approved by the Governor on October 10, 2025. Teacher Dual Credentialing, “One System for All Students.” Create efficient pathways for teachers to earn dual credentials for both general and special education. By March 1, 2027, the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) must develop clear, streamlined routes for dual credentialing; align coursework where requirements overlap; identify and reduce barriers for teachers and programs; consider supplementary authorizations and best practices from other states.
- **HR2333** (Mannion) Protecting Students with Disabilities Act passed making sure that funds are not eliminated or reduced when the restructuring of the Department of Education takes effect.
- **HR 2598** (Huffman & Van Hollen) Full Funding Act passed for full federal funding of IDEA. IDEA has never been fully funded.

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- **AJR-7** (Addis) Chartered by Secretary of State on August 29, 2025. Ensures the President of the United States and Congress continue services and funding for students with disabilities are uninterrupted.

### 9.2 Compliance Update

Compliance and Improvement Monitoring (CIMS) progress reports are due January 10, 2026 for reporting period July 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025. The new Local Plan will have Part C that addresses how SELPA is working with district bringing their LCAP and CIMS together.

The upcoming Annual Determination Letters will be based on what is in CALPADS on December 12, 2025. There were 19 LEAs identified as having noncompliance issues based on the 2025 monitoring year. The IEP implementation measure period will be from January 2, 2026 through February 27, 2026 Data must be submitted by April 30, 2026.

### 9.3 Non-Public Schools

There are 140 students placed including non-public schools and residential schools. There are 4 non-public schools in our area. SELPA meets with them regularly to monitor. There is a high turnover of staff. A conversation took place on funding.

### 9.4 Desert Mountain Children's Center Updates

There were 7,112 referrals received, a total of 31, 094 individuals served, and a total of 30 days of critical incident debriefings during 2024-2025. There are approximately 131 clinicians providing all services.

### 9.5 Resolution Support Services Summaries

Shelley Walsh, Program Manager for Resolution Support Services, was introduced to the council. There have been 20 filings, 4 have been dismissed or withdrawn, 4 are in active mediation, 1 has been settled in mediation, 7 are in active resolution, and 4 have been settled.

### 9.6 Professional Learning

There have been 8,298 participants in CAHELP led trainings, workshops, or committees throughout 2024-2025. Of those, 5,136 participated in on-sites and 3,162 participated in regional trainings.

### 9.7 Credentials Bridge Authorization

The 2024-2025 trainings brought 209 participants; 191 from DM SELPA; 12 from DM Charter SELPA. Each participant must meet the requirements to participate.

## 10.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

### 10.1 2025-26 Governance Council Meeting Times and Location Changes

- February 6, 2026, is at Roy C. Hill at 1:00 pm
- March 13, 2026, is at West End ESC at 1:00 pm

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- May 8, 2026, is at Desert Mountain ESC at 1:00 pm

**11.0 GOVERNANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS / REPORTS**

**12.0 CEO COMMENTS**

Pam Bender thanked the Governance Council for their trust that we are able to work through balances. SELPA is here to support you, to make sure districts are getting the support needed. Pam appreciates the comments and ideas brought forward and the support of bringing in School Services.

**13.0 MATTERS BROUGHT BY GENERAL PUBLIC**

No matters were brought by the public.

**14.0 ADJOURNMENT**

Having no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Trenae Nelson, seconded by Jerry Jennex, to adjourn the meeting at 11:14 a.m. The motion carried on the following vote: 12:0:0, Ayes: Lamb, Cognetta, Nelson, Swearingen, Smith, Livingston, Delton, Najera, Holman, Jennex, Clark, and Coles. Nays: None, Abstentions: None.

The next regular meeting of the CAHELP JPA Governance Council will be held on Friday, February 6, 2026, at 1:00 p.m., at the Roy C. Hill Education Center, 601 North E Street, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0020.

*Individuals requiring special accommodations for disabilities are requested to contact Cindy Quan at (760) 955-3555, at least seven days prior to the date of this meeting.*