

California Association of Health and Education Linked Professions,
Joint Powers Authority (CAHELP, JPA)
DESERT MOUNTAIN SELPA COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
February 19, 2026 – 9:00 a.m.
Desert Mountain Educational Service Center, 17800 Highway 18, Apple Valley CA 92307
(Virtual)

MINUTES

DESERT MOUNTAIN SELPA MEMBERS PRESENT:

Academy of Academic Excellence/Norton Sciences and Language Academy – Valerie Graham, Apple Valley Unified SD – Susan Bennis, Bear Valley Unified SD – Leigh Anne Drake, Options for Youth – Christina Leal, Southern California Flex Academy – Stephanie Van Epps, Taylion – Karen Ware and Hailey Verhague, Silver Valley Unified SD – Dr. Cheri Rigdon, Snowline Joint Unified SD – Pam DeRenard, Trona Joint Unified SD – Nicole Yeager, Victor Elementary SD – Suzanne Jennings

CAHELP, DM SELPA, AND DMCC STAFF PRESENT:

Heidi Chavez, Marysol Hurtado, Ana Perez, Yazmin Medina, Melissa De Silva, Rory Hazen, Miya Narvaiz-Ward, Judith Chavez-Cuilty

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 Community Advisory Committee Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Heidi Chavez at 4:34 p.m.

2.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

3.0 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

3.1 **BE IT RESOLVED** that a motion was made by Valerie Graham, seconded by Karen Ware, to approve the February 19, 2026, Desert Mountain SELPA Community Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda as presented. The motion carried and approved unanimously.

4.0 CONSENT ITEMS

It is recommended that the Desert Mountain SELPA Community Advisory Committee consider approving the minutes. 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.

BE IT RESOLVED that a motion was made by Valerie Graham, seconded by Karen Ware, to approve the following Consent Item as presented. The motion carried and approved unanimously.

September 18, 2025, Community Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes.

5.0 ACTION ITEMS

5.1 Committee Will Vote to Approve the Leadership Positions

5.1.1 Chairperson: Dr. Amber Best

Action to Approve Chairperson: Dr Amber Best motioned by Cheri Rigdon and seconded by Valerie Graham. Motion carried and was approved unanimously.

5.1.2 Vice Chairperson: Dr. Cheri Rigdon

California Association of Health and Education Linked Professions,
Joint Powers Authority (CAHELP, JPA)
DESERT MOUNTAIN SELPA COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
February 19, 2026 – 9:00 a.m.
Desert Mountain Educational Service Center, 17800 Highway 18, Apple Valley CA 92307
(Virtual)

MINUTES

Action to Approve Vice Chairperson: Dr. Cheri Rigdon motioned by Valerie Graham and seconded by Karen Ware. Motion carried and was approved unanimously.

5.1.3 Secretary: Annie Perez

Action to Approve Secretary: Annie Perez motioned by Valerie Graham and seconded by Cheri Rigdon. Motion carried and was approved unanimously

6.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

6.1 Ideas for the 2026-2027 CAC Presentations to be Included in the Parent Survey

Combine the Following Presentation Topics:

- Autism Awareness and Evidence-Based Practices
- Inclusion for All and We All Have “Abilities”
- Basic Needs and Services in Our Community, Resources in the Community, Mental Health Services and Supports, Parent Support Groups, and Foster Family Supports
- Qualifying for Special Education and IEP Meetings 101
- Social Emotional Learning and Peer Relationships & Social Skills
- Family Self-Care, Supporting Your Child’s Well-Being, and Social Media and Youth Mental Health

Add the Following Topic:

- Understanding the Differences Between 504 Plans and IEPs

Remove the Following Topics:

- Inland Regional Center
- Disability Awareness

7.0 PRESENTATION

7.1 Presentation Keep the Peace: Simple De-Escalation Tools for Parents by Rory Hazen, Program

Specialist and Miya Narvaiz-Ward, Program Specialist

Miya and Rory began by sharing their professional backgrounds and areas of expertise. The presenters then provided an overview of the functions of behavior, highlighting key areas of discussion including S.E.A.T. (Sensory, Escape, Attention, and Tangible).

Rory presented on Replacement Behavior, explaining that a replacement behavior is a new, positive behavior that serves the same function or need as the challenging behavior it is intended to replace.

California Association of Health and Education Linked Professions,
Joint Powers Authority (CAHELP, JPA)
DESERT MOUNTAIN SELPA COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
February 19, 2026 – 9:00 a.m.
Desert Mountain Educational Service Center, 17800 Highway 18, Apple Valley CA 92307
(Virtual)

MINUTES

Miya discussed how to teach replacement behavior, including strategies for identifying the ABC of Behavior (Antecedent, Behavior, Consequence) and determining the possible function of the behavior.

Rory also reviewed the Escalation Cycle, outlining the stages of behavioral escalation and strategies for responding effectively at each stage.

Miya concluded the session by reviewing the Home Behavior Support Plan, providing guidance on how families can implement supportive strategies in the home environment.

believe in our students. Some people cannot see it but we see it, which is why we are still here.

8.0 MATTERS BROUGHT BY THE PUBLIC

There were no matters brought by the public.

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

BE IT RESOLVED that there was a motion made by Valerie Graham, seconded by Leigh Anne Drake to adjourn the Desert Mountain SELPA Community Advisory Committee Meeting at 6:02 pm. The motion carried and **approved**.

The next regular meeting of the Desert Mountain SELPA Community Advisory Committee will be held on **Thursday, April, 16, 2026, from 4:30 – 5:00 p.m. CAC Representative Business Meeting and 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. Presentation: *Promoting Everyday Independence: Life Skills for All Abilities*** by Juan Edson Magaña, MOT, OTR/L and Samantha Aguilar, MOT, OTR/L. Virtual., CA 92307.

Individuals requiring special accommodation(s) for disabilities are requested to contact Tish Macaraeg at (760) 955-3552, at least seven days prior to the date of this meeting.