

**Desert/Mountain Charter Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA)
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday, October 25, 2017**

**Desert Mountain Educational Service Center
17800 Highway 18 • Apple Valley, CA 92307
MINUTES**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Aveson Global & Aveson School of Leaders – Kate Bean, Ballington Academy for the Arts & Sciences – Doreen Mulz, Odyssey Charter – Lauren O’Neill

STAFF PRESENT:

Corinne Foley, Marina Gallegos, Jenae Holtz, Linda Llamas, Daria Raines

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the D/M Charter SELPA Executive Council was called to order by Jenae Holtz, Chairperson, at 11:37 a.m., in the Desert Mountain Educational Service Center, Apple Valley. The meeting Minutes for August 23, 2017, and the meeting Agenda for October 25, 2017, were adopted as presented.

Jenae introduced Marina Gallegos, SELPA Business Consultant. Jenae stated Marina is the fiscal contact for Charter SELPA members.

Charter SELPA Membership Informational Meeting – Daria Raines reported representatives from two charters attended the October 18, 2017 membership informational meeting; REAL Journey Academies, (a part of a Charter Management Organization (CMO)), and Transforming Lives Charter School (a new charter). Real Journey Academies is an established charter with multiple locations in San Bernardino and Riverside counties and Transforming Lives Charter School is a new start-up school in San Bernardino. Both are seat-time programs. Daria stated based on the discussion, the SELPA anticipates receiving an application from both charters.

Membership Application Deadline – Jenae stated currently the application deadline is January 31. She further stated a meeting is scheduled next week with a California Charter Schools Association (CCSA) representative to discuss the application process, timelines, and requirements for membership.

Lauren stated Odyssey has a public hearing for a second school site tomorrow. Lauren stated she anticipates the petition will be denied. She is hopeful to receive approval through the county by January or February 2018.

Discussion followed on revising the timelines to have an application deadline for new charters of January 31st, and another deadline of March or 15th for existing members that

are expanding, and established schools that are on a petition appeal with the county and/or state. Jenae explained since currently the CAHELP Governance Council meets only four times per year; there are limitations on deadlines to be able to present to the Governance Council in April. Jenae concluded the SELPA will work on a pathway for applications and present to the council in January.

2.0 COMMITTEE MEMBERS COMMENTS/REPORTS

MOU for Continuum of LRE Services - Lauren O'Neill, Odyssey Charter, reported Aveson and Odyssey charters are discussing the possibility of creating a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the two charters to establish a continuum of services for least restrictive environment (LRE) placement options between the two neighboring local education agencies (LEAs). Lauren stated the charters would collaborate with SELPA for guidance on developing programs and to provide professional learning for the staff.

3.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND STAFF REPORTS

3.1 Pathways To College

Jenae Holtz reported Pathways to College charter governing board released the chief executive officer/administrator, and the special education director and the business administrator left Pathways. Currently Pathways' governing board contracted with Mr. Roy Kim of SavantCo Education to provide oversight to Pathways. Jenae then stated there are concerns for the lack of administration on the campus. Jenae further stated she will have a conversation with Hesperia USD, the authorizing local education agency (LEA) and will work on options for Pathways. Jenae concluded if the concerns are not addressed and resolved, a recommendation will be made to the CAHELP Governance Council to consider revocation of membership for Pathways with D/M Charter SELPA.

3.2 Compliance Update

Jenae Holtz provided an update on California Department of Education (CDE) compliance reports as follows:

Disproportionality – The SELPA gave CDE access to view the student records. However, the MOU between SELPA & CDE is pending CDE's legal department's review. The Disproportionality review due date is November 3rd.

Data Identified Noncompliance (DINCs) – the DINCS deadline is November 30. The CDE stated the goal is for all corrections to be submitted before December 2017.

Performance Indicator Review (PIR) - CDE requires LEAs to submit a plan even if mistakes in the PIR data comes from CDE. PIR plans are due to the SELPA by January 6, 2018 in order to review and make corrections as needed. The SELPA will submit to the CDE by January 30, 2018, on behalf of each LEA.

Comprehensive Review (CR) – No Charter SELPA members are in CR this year.

Jenae concluded members may contact MIS Support Analyst Colette Garland should they have any questions regarding the compliance reports.

3.3 Audiology Program

Jenae Holtz presented the new Audiology Program referral procedures implemented this year. Jenae noted a notable change was the SELPA will now order and tag the FM systems, then Pacific Hearing Services will deliver the equipment to the student. She concluded LEAs should contact the SELPA if a child enrolls with Low Incidence as a qualifying disability.

3.4 Allocation Plan

Jenae Holtz presented Charter SELPA Policy Chapter 10: Fiscal Allocation Plan. Jenae proposed revising Section C – Components of Fiscal Allocation Plan to flip the contribution to the Set-Aside Pools; and changing the percentage breakdowns for high-risk status of the Insurance Pool & the Risk Pool. The Insurance pool is for emergencies; i.e. assisting a member if a CDE submission date is missed resulting in the release of funds being delayed. The Risk Pool is for due process cases. Jenae stated based on the increase in due process filings she recommends flipping the two funding lines.

Marina noted the stipulation to maintain a minimum of \$250,000 or 5% of the Set-Aside has been met.

Discussion followed on revising the policy to change the percentages based on the year in high-risk status.

Jenae concluded based on the consensus of the members, the SELPA will make the revisions to the Charter SELPA Fiscal Allocation Plan.

3.5 Budget Balances

Jenae Holtz presented the 2016-17 Charter SELPA Ending Fund Balance Summary. She explained the Set-Aside Pool is the Insurance Pool. Jenae then discussed Aveson's high cost residential treatment center (RTC) placement and due process cases. Jenae proposed using a percentage of the Charter SELPA's mental health services reserves to assist Aveson with the cost of the RTC.

Kate Bean explained the settlement agreement cost is \$95,000 for the RTC. Kate further stated Aveson also has two nonpublic school (NPS) placements. She requested approval to use a portion of the Set-Aside funds to offset these high costs placements.

Jenae proposed distributing 10% of mental health funds for the RTC placement and 10% of the Insurance (Set-Aside) Pool for the NPS placements.

Discussion followed on creating a rubric for options accessing high-risk status and accessing funds for high-cost cases.

Marina suggested adding a caveat regarding the percentages and access to the funds are contingent upon the availability of the balances at the time.

Jenae stated based on the consensus of the members present, a recommendation to distribute the funds to Aveson will go to the Governance Council for approval. She concluded the SELPA will bring back language for a rubric to council in January.

3.6 NPS/NPA Contracts

Jenae Holtz reported D/M Charter SELPA Policy Chapter 13: Nonpublic Agency/Nonpublic School Services, Section A language was revised to add a section for charter members to enter into a master contract independent of the D/M SELPA.

Lauren recommended members use a SELPA approved template for master contracts and have the SELPA review contracts prior to fully executing.

Jenae concluded the SELPA will rewrite the policy and bring it back to the committee.

3.7 Dyslexia Updates

Jenae Holtz reported the CDE updated the *California Dyslexia Guidelines*. Jenae concluded the updated version is available on the CDE website.

Lauren inquired whether a student found eligible based on evidence-based Dyslexia assessments, would still qualify for special education services under the specific learning disability (SLD) or would it now under Dyslexia.

Corinne stated she will follow up on question of qualifying under SLD.

3.8 AB 1360

Jenae Holtz reported Assembly Bill (AB) 1360 passed and will take effect January 1, 2018. AB 1360 requires charter petitions to include a description of procedures for suspending and expelling students, or otherwise voluntarily removing them from the charter school.

4.0 INFORMATION ITEMS

4.1 Due Process Updates

Jenae Holtz reported the Due Process summary was included as a separate handout.

Kate Bean provided a brief update on one case.

4.2 Professional Learning Updates

Corinne Foley reported SELPA staff are busy providing regional and on-site trainings. Corinne encouraged members to attend the Seventh Annual Interconnected Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (I-MTSS) Symposium January 18, 2018. The cost is \$200.00 per individual. Dr. Kent McIntosh and Dr. Laurel Riffel are the keynote speakers. She concluded two members of the Original Freedom Writers will also speak at the symposium.

Lauren O'Neill inquired whether members could still apply for the statewide MTSS grants.

Corinne replied yes charters can still apply.

Lauren also inquired about trainings in self-regulation training.

Corinne replied the SELPA has trainings both online and in-person.

5.0 OTHER

Jenae stated Odyssey Charter will need to submit a notice of intent to add a second site to be under the D/M Charter SELPA. She also stated the SELPA is hopeful Governor Brown will act in favor for statewide equalization of special education funding.

6.0 ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: January 31, 2018, in the Desert Mountain Educational Service Center, Aster Room.

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