

Meet Our Team

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Pamela Bender, Chief Executive Officer CAHELP JPA

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The chief executive officer serves as the chief administrator for the three departments under the CAHELP JPA. The role of the CEO is to oversee the functions of each department. The CEO ensures the implementation of the Desert/Mountain SELPA and Charter SELPA local plans for special education are implemented with fidelity on behalf of participating LEAs. The CEO ensures the contracts for services held by the Desert/Mountain Children's Center are provided and met with quality. The CEO provides leadership and facilitates the decision-making process of the governance of the JPA. The CEO's role includes the provision of information, specific services identified by the CAHELP JPA Governance Council, technical assistance, leadership and arbitration. It is the CEO's responsibility to represent the interests of the JPA as a whole without promoting any particular LEA's interest over the interest of any other agency. In the event there are differences of opinions and/or positions on issues, it is the CEO's responsibility to mediate a reasonable resolution of the issue(s).

Jennifer Sutton, Operations Officer CAHELP JPA

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The CAHELP JPA Operations Officer manages the day-to-day operations of the CAHELP JPA. The operations officer develops departmental short-term and long-term operations goals and strategies, and develops departmental policies and procedures. The operations officer also evaluates programs, services, staffing, and facilities to maximize program effectiveness in support of the CAHELP JPA's and non-profit organization's strategic vision and mission.

Linda Llamas, Director Desert/Mountain Children's Center

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The Desert/Mountain Children's Center (DMCC) Director oversees the behavioral health services provided to San Bernardino County children birth through 21. The director manages all programs in the DMCC. The director works closely with the Desert/Mountain SELPA personnel to monitor and assess behavioral health topics that affect children and LEAs; and evaluates and formulates department priorities and recommends department operation strategies.

Services are provided at the DMCC clinic, schools, and/or in the home. The DMCC offers services on a continuum of care, from mild to severe mental health needs. It is the goal of the DMCC to assist clients in developing skills to reach their full potential. Referrals may be made through the child's school, parent, doctor, or an external source.

Adrienne Shepherd, Program Manager Career Technical Education

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Transition services is under the department of the D/M SELPA and is coordinated and managed by the program manager for Career Technical Education. The program manager provides oversight regarding the legal mandates and ethical requirements necessary to meet the IDEA transition services mandates for students with disabilities ages 16 and older. Together with a team of transition case technicians, work incentive technicians, independent living technicians, job developers, transition project assistants, and agencies, the D/M SELPA transition team provides services and programs that assist eligible students transition from school to work and/or adult living.

Career Technical Education (CTE) Technicians

To provide the most efficient and effective service to LEAs, a technician is assigned as a primary contact to multiple school sites within each LEA. Technicians are also responsible for direct oversight and supervision of the following programs: Employment Network (EN), GenerationGo!, Paid Internship Program (PIP), Transition Partnership Program (TPP), and the WorkAbility I Program (WAI). Technicians provide services to students with disabilities and out-of-school youth in the following core areas: Benefits Planning, Self-Advocacy, Supportive Services, Career Technical Education, Work-Based Learning, Career Exploration, and Workplace Readiness.

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Career Technical Education**
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**Isaac Medina, Project Manager
Career Technical Education**
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**Shannon Sweda, Transition Case Technician
TPP & Paid Internship Program (PIP)**
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**Kevin Raines, Work Incentive Technician
Transition Partnership Program (TPP)**
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**New Employee
Transition Partnership Program (TPP)**
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**Questions: Visit the [CAHELP Website](http://www.cahelp.org) at
www.cahelp.org or reach us at CTE@cahelp.org |
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