**Snowline – submitted to the Board**

**Quick Summary / Abstract**

One of the intentions under which the California Association of Health and Education Linked Programs (CAHELP) Joint Powers Authority (JPA) for Local Education Agencies (LEAs) was formed was to use a collaborative model to better serve the special education and related needs of High Desert school districts.  The Snowline JUSD has been a member of this collective from its inception and has benefited from the partnership.  One of the many examples is the consolidation of Educationally Related Mental Health Services (ERMHS) funding to better serve our students.  This has been most effectively accomplished through a funding pass-through model.  
  
Under the aforementioned design, state ERMHS funding for the Snowline JUSD and all other member school districts goes directly to CAHELP.  The result is that resources such as the hiring of mental health professionals are maximized and the delivery of services is increased for our students and others.  Continuing the ERMHS funding pass-through process allows for these impactful outcomes to remain in place.

**Apple Valley -** this was a draft background when Trenae believed it was to propose a local plan revision to the Board.

**Educationally Related Mental Health Services (ERMHS) funding**- Legislation regarding how monies will be allocated has changed.  Initially, this funding came from the California Department of Education, to County Offices of Education, and then was allocated to Special Education Local Plan Areas (SELPA).  The change removes the allocation to the SELPA and instead sends it to school districts.  This was to go into effect last year, however it was delayed due to concerns about how this would impact mental health services to school aged children.  Our SELPA is a Joint Powers Authority, operating under a Local Area Plan which delineates how our region collectively operates to support students. Currently the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools (SBCSS) office acts as the Administrative Unit.  They provide services such as human resources and payroll to the JPA.  They also have one seat on the JPA Board as does each participating School District or Charter School.  Any of the JPA member districts could act as the Administrative Unit, and provide the services that are currently being offered by the SBCSS, per the DMSELPA Local Area Plan.  Every four years the JPA updates the Local Area Plan, scheduled for the 2023-2024 school year.  I wanted you to have some historical information prior to the board meeting as there is a Discussion/Action item pertaining to the change in how funds will be allocated.  Our JPA had a Special Board Meeting this week to discuss the impact of this change in how the monies will be allocated for next year. Potential layoffs to DMSELPA staff was a topic as there is a March 15th deadline that would have to be met.  Also in light of the funds being allocated to districts, each district’s board would have to take action in order to authorize their Superintendent, acting as a JPA board member to either sign an MOU or agree to an amendment to the DMSELPA Local Area Plan, essentially pushing the ERMHS allocation to the CAHELP JPA.  Why would we do this?  The CAHELP JPA is an approved Community Based Mental Health provider to school aged children.  As such they receive funding from the Department of Behavioral Health as a partial match to the ERMHS funding, which enhances the services being provided.