



TO: Roger Breed, Ed.D.  
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Doug Willman, Administrator (Disability Determinations Section)

SUBJECT: Contracts with DDS Medical, Psychological and Speech Consultants

**Proposed Board Action:**

It is recommended that the State Board grant the Commissioner authority to enter into contracts for medical, psychological and speech consultant services for the Disability Determinations Section.

**Background Information:**

The Department of Education, through its Disability Determinations Section, makes determinations on behalf of the Social Security Administration regarding the eligibility of Nebraska residents for disability benefits under Social Security and Supplemental Security Income. Federal law requires that a physician, psychologist or speech language pathologist must review each determination so that the medical aspects are adequately considered. In order to comply with federal requirements, DDS must arrange for adequate case analysis support from consultants in medicine, psychology, and speech and language pathology. All DDS medical consultants are required to have an active license with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

The itemizations listed below are based upon our best estimates of the amount of time required for each specialty area for the period 7/1/11 through 6/30/12. Variations in the caseload mix may require adjustments in hours between categories, and in all likelihood, the total amount that will actually be paid out for all contracts will be less than the total amount requested. These contracts are funded 100% with Federal dollars.

**Estimated Cost:**

The proposed rate of compensation is \$73.50 per hour, with the exception of Terri Vontz, SLP for whom the rate is \$48.00 per hour. These rates are exactly the same as the last fiscal year and reflect zero increase in the hourly amount paid to consultants. This rate is commensurate with the rates paid to consultants in the DDS offices in surrounding states and the SSA Regional Office in Kansas City.

James Bane, M.D. \$72,500  
Lee Branham, Ph.D. \$73,000  
Rebecca Braymen, Ph.D. \$23,700  
Jennifer Bruning Brown, Ph.D. \$71,000  
Thomas Calvert, M.D. \$39,000  
Glenda Cottam, Ph.D. \$74,500  
Steven Higgins, M.D. \$89,000  
Allen Hohensee, M.D. \$46,000  
Glen Knosp, M.D. \$96,000  
Christopher Milne, Ph.D. \$81,500  
Helen Montoya, Ph.D. \$37,000  
Patricia Newman, Ph.D. \$91,500  
Jerry Reed, Ph.D. \$96,000  
Linda Schmechel, Ph.D. \$88,500

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|------------------------|----------------|
| Gerald Spethman, M.D.  | \$79,000       |
| Jerry Tanner, M.D.     | \$93,000       |
| Terri Vontz, CCC-SLP   | \$36,000       |
| Arthur Weaver, D.O.    | \$57,500       |
| Christine Wright, M.D. | \$93,500       |
| Total                  | \$1,338,200.00 |

**Supporting Documentation Included:**

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| None |
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**For Additional Information on this item:**

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| Call Doug Willman (402) 471-3641 or e-mail <a href="mailto:Doug.Willman@ssa.gov">Doug.Willman@ssa.gov</a> |
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