NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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 7/1/12 through 6/30/13. Variations in the case load 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 (as has historically been the case). These contracts are funded 100% with Federal dollars.

Estimated Cost:

The proposed rate of compensation is $75.00 per hour, with the exception of Terri Vontz, SLP for whom the rate is $49.00 per hour. These rates reflect an increase of about 2% in the hourly amount paid to consultants. The rates paid to the DDS medical consultants has not risen since 7-1-09, and this year's increase is commensurate with the raise being given to state employees. This rate is also comparable with the rates paid to consultants in the DDS offices in surrounding states.

James Bane, M.D. $73,000
Lee Branham, Ph.D. $67,000
Rebecca Braymen, Ph.D. $25,000
Jennifer Bruning Brown, Ph.D. $51,000
Thomas Calvert, M.D. $41,000
Glenda Cottam, Ph.D. $76,000
Steven Higgins, M.D. $92,000
Glen Knosp, M.D. $96,000
Christopher Milne, Ph.D. $83,500
Helen Montoya, Ph.D. $38,000
Patricia Newman, Ph.D. $89,000
Jerry Reed, Ph.D. $97,000
Robert Roth, M.D. $83,000
Linda Schmechel, Ph.D. $89,500
Jerry Tanner, M.D. $86,000

Terri Vontz, CCC-SLP $37,000
Arthur Weaver, D.O. $83,000
Joanell Wheeler, M.D. $83,000
Christine Wright, M.D $96,000

Total $1,386,000.00

Supporting Documentation Included:

None

For Additional Information on this item:

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