



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 7/1/13 through 6/30/14. 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 are the same rates that were paid last fiscal year to the DDS consultants. These rates are 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. \$41,000
- Thomas Calvert, M.D. \$41,000
- Glenda Cottam, Ph.D. \$76,000
- Steven Higgins, M.D. \$92,000
- 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	\$1,280,000.00

**Supporting Documentation Included:**

None

**For Additional Information on this item:**

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