

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
INFORMATIONAL REPORT
DECISION ON SPECIAL EDUCATION CONTRACTS FOR
RELATED SERVICES PROVIDERS

November 23, 2009

Background Information:

Federal and state law and regulation set forth a framework of rights for students with disabilities (SWDs). Included among these rights is the requirement that school systems provide various types of related services to SWDs to support their educational needs as set forth in the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP). These related services include, but are not limited to, physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech/language therapy. Failure to provide these related services would violate applicable federal and state law and regulation.

Both nationally and locally, there is a shortage of occupational, physical and speech/language therapists. Consequently, Harford County Public Schools must contract with outside agencies which provide such therapists on a contractual basis.

Discussion:

Attached are three contracts by and between the Board and various service agencies which provide therapists to the Board on a contractual basis. Each of these contracts has the potential of exceeding \$100,000.00 depending upon the nature and extent of the therapy services which the Board may be required to provide to SWDs. The contracts are with the following providers.

1. Progressus Therapy
2. Invo Healthcare
3. Care Resources/Arbor

The rates set forth in each of the above contracts are competitive in the current market. The contract with Care Resources/Arbor provides two options, A and B. Option B has been chosen inasmuch as although it calls for a higher hourly rate, Option B does not include a charge for missed sessions. Thus, Option B is more cost effective than Option A.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Superintendent recommends the Board approve the above contracts.