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Lori A. Shibiante
Commissioner

Joseph E. Ribsam, Jr.
Director

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

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June 26, 2020

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

Authorize the Department of Health and Human Services, Division for Children, Youth and Families, to **Retroactively** pay the Judge Baker Children's Center (VC#161221-B001), Boston, Massachusetts in the amount of \$22,800 for annual membership dues, effective retroactive to June 29, 2020 upon Governor and Council approval through June 30, 2021. 29% Federal Funds. 71% General Funds.

05-95-42-421010-29560000 HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES, DEPT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SVS, HHS: HUMAN SERVICES, CHILD PROTECTION, OFFICE OF DIRECTOR - DCYF

| State Fiscal Year | Class / Account | Job Number | Class Title | Total Amount |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------|---------------------|--------------|
| 2021 | 026-500251 | 42105602 | Organizational Dues | \$22,800 |

EXPLANATION

This request is **Retroactive** because the membership invoice associated with this request will not be paid until after the membership period begins, which, per MOP 150, requires retroactive Governor and Council approval. Approval of this request will enable the State to share information pertinent to policy, practice, and operational issues through its membership in New England Association of Child Welfare Commissioners and Directors. Additionally, membership will position the Department to continue identifying economic, social, and political trends affecting service delivery. Membership also provides opportunities for communication and peer networking with other member agencies in addition to regional and national groups who share similar goals and interests with the Department. This association has proven to be beneficial to the State's ability to develop superior program and operational strategies, leading to improved public management and service delivery.

Listed below are answers to standard questions required for Governor and Executive Council organization dues and membership approval submissions.

1. How long has this organization been in existence and how long has this agency been a member of this organization?

Since 1984, Judge Baker Children's Center has served as home base for New England Association of Child Welfare Commissioners and Directors, a consortium of child welfare agency leaders and staff members from Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont. Agency leaders from the New England area created

the New England Association of Child Welfare Commissioners and Directors in an effort to develop and implement policies promoting competent child-welfare practices. The Department has been a member of this organization since State Fiscal Year 1995.

2. Is there any other organization that provides the same or similar benefits which your agency belongs to?

No.

3. How many other states belong to this organization, and is your agency the sole New Hampshire state agency that is a member?

All six (6) New England states are members. The New Hampshire Division for Children, Youth and Families is the only member from New Hampshire.

4. How is the dues structure established? (Standard fee for all states, based on population, based on other criteria, etc.)

The dues structure is based on a standard fee for all states.

5. What benefit does the state receive from participating in this membership?

Benefits to membership, include access to: publication of position papers; data reports; and relevant testimony. Additionally, maintaining membership status allows for coordination of three (3) to four (4) meetings per year that rotate among the New England states. Membership also allows for coordination of special presentations to target audiences including, but not limited to, Congressional, national and regional organizations. Finally, membership allows for representation by staff at national meetings regarding Association-sponsored activities and coordination of developing intervention models to serve special populations such as drug-exposed infants.

6. Are training or educational / research materials included in the membership? If so, is the cost included? Explain in detail.

Training for administrative staff on a variety of pertinent issues is included in the cost of membership. Additionally training and informational sessions include State Child Welfare Staff Attorneys; Information Technology Staff; and training Directors. Membership assists with supporting the New England Youth Collaborative that fosters the inclusion of youth voices in policy and practice decisions.

7. Is the membership required in order to receive any federal grants or required in order to receive or participate in licensing or certification exams? Explain.

No. However, the Department has become aware of, and has received valuable information regarding, federal funding for Child Welfare initiatives, as well as other funding streams for regional convening and trainings, through its membership. Specifically, the Division for Children, Youth and Families has leveraged its membership to access federal dollars used to improve State programming by participating in group-directed strategies concerning innovative child welfare programming.

8. Is there any travel included with this membership fee? Explain in detail any travel to include the number of employees involved, the number of trips, destination, if known, and purposes of membership-supported trips.

This membership fee covers the cost of all travel-related expenses to the quarterly meetings, policy and practice discussions and Regional Convening. The Department's three (3) representatives, listed in section 9., travel to other New England states, on a rotating basis, for three (3) regional meetings and two (2) regional conferences per year.

9. Which state agency employees are directly involved with this organization? (Indicate if they are members, voting members, committee members, and/or officers of the organization.)

The Department has three (3) representatives from the Division for Children, Youth and Families who are directly involved with the New England Association of Child Welfare Commissioners and Directors:

1. Joseph E. Ribsam, Jr., Officer;
2. Sherry Ermel, Member; and
3. Marie Noonan, Member.

10. Explain in detail any negative impact to the State if the Agency did not belong to this organization.

Should the Governor and Executive Council not approve this request, the Division for Children, Youth and Families would lose a valuable source of knowledge and information relative to cost saving and service improvement practices used by other member states. More specifically, the State would lose the ability to participate in the New England Association of Child Welfare Commissioners and Directors, group-directed strategies, concerning innovative child welfare programming, which have assisted the Division for Children, Youth and Families in accessing federal funds to support improved programming. The Department would also sacrifice the opportunity to collaborate with peers to share goals, strategies and information on improved practices in public management and service delivery, all of which significantly benefit New Hampshire residents.

Respectfully submitted,



Lori A. Shibinette
Commissioner

JUDGE BAKER CHILDREN'S CENTER

53 Parker Hill Avenue
Boston MA 02120

617-232-8390

| | | Date | Number |
|---------|--|-----------|---------|
| Invoice | | 5/29/2020 | CA 2014 |

Attn: Joseph Ribsam, Director

Co Name Division for Children, Youth and Families
Street 129 Pleasant St
City, State, Zip Manchester, NH 03301

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| Remit to: JUDGE BAKER CHILDEN'S CENTER 53 Parker Hill Ave Boston MA 02120-3225 |
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Please direct billing questions to Christopher Tice at ctice@jbcc.harvard.edu or 617-278-4264

| Charge Date | Description | Amount |
|------------------|--|------------------|
| 5/29/2020 | New England Association of Child Welfare Commissioners and Directors Association fees for Fiscal 2021 Payment terms: Net 30 days | 22,800.00 |
| Total Due | | 22,800.00 |