

Date: August 20, 2020

To: Dr. Allan J. Mucerino, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

From: Paulina Nwuba, Director III, Special Education Department

Subject: Item X.x.x.: Approve Client Staffing Agreement–Pioneer Healthcare Services, LLC

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Board approval is requested for client staffing agreement between Pioneer Healthcare Services, LLC and Alvord Unified School District for the 2020-2021 school year. This agreement allows Pioneer Healthcare to recruit and provide contract healthcare professionals including speech/language pathologist or assistant, school psychologist, occupational therapist or assistant, physical therapist or assistant and/or licensed vocational nurse to provide therapy services and/or assessments for special needs students as required by their Individualized Education Program (IEP).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The Special Education Department wishes to contract with Pioneer Healthcare Services for speech/language pathologists, speech/language pathology assistants, school psychologists and special circumstance aides when a short-term staffing need arises. In addition, there continues to be a need for speech/language pathologist assistants due to high caseloads and the lack of qualified applicants to fill our speech/language pathologist openings. The District does not have substitutes readily available for long-term absences of School Psychologists or Speech/Language Pathologists. The Special Education Department will require contracted personnel to cover these services due to current speech/language pathologists and school psychologists taking child-bonding/FMLA during the 2020-2021 school year.

CURRENT CONSIDERATIONS: Board approval is requested to approve the client staffing agreement with Pioneer Healthcare Services, LLC for the 2020-2021 school year. This would allow the District to provide a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) for students based on their Individualized Education Program (IEP) while still in the process of recruitment of new staff or during long-term absences.

REVIEW BY OTHERS: Cabinet; Director III, Special Education

FISCAL IMPACT: \$60,000.00 (General Fund/Restricted-Special Education)

ATTACHMENTS: Pioneer Healthcare Services Client Staffing Agreement

CONSENT ITEM