

Summary Explanation and Background Continued

September 16, 2015

LL-2

Page 2

There is an increase in financial costs to the school system for athletic trainer services for 2015-2016 in the amount of \$48,358. The financial increase is a result of compliance with the Affordable Care Act. This act requires employers to offer affordable healthcare coverage to their employees who work on average 30 hours per week.

The School Board of Broward County, Florida, contracts with Broward Health (formerly North Broward Hospital District) to provide athletic trainer services at high schools located in Broward Health's service zone (approximately 20 high schools). The athletic trainer provides immediate and essential services to protect the safety and welfare of students engaged in interscholastic sports. The function of the athletic trainer is to provide services regarding the prevention, recognition, emergency care, treatment and rehabilitation to student athletes. The athletic trainer directs the high schools sports medicine programs.

State licensed and nationally certified athletic trainers hold the highest level of skill and training in the sports medicine industry. Athletic trainers have extensive educational background in human anatomy, human physiology biomechanics and exercise physiology. Trainers are trained in six major practice domains: prevention, clinical evaluation and diagnosis, immediate care, treatment, rehabilitation and reconditioning, organization and administration and professional responsibility. Athletic trainers are critical to the health, welfare and safety of student athletes. Trainers are the first responders to students injured at practices and games.

Under the agreement, Broward Health will provide the following contractual services:

- Staff each high school with a licensed and nationally certified trainer. The athletic trainers must be certified by the National Board of Certification (BOC) and be licensed by the State of Florida.
- The certified athletic trainer conducts clinical assessment and administers standard techniques of first aid to the acutely ill/injured athlete, protecting the athlete from further injury. The athletic trainers educate the student athlete and provide direct services to the athlete on hydration, concussion recognition and awareness, conditioning, nutrition, performance, enhancement training and injury care. All athletic trainers are certified in CPR and First Aid. Before practices and games, the athletic trainers prepare athletes with pre-game taping, padding and bracing joints and limbs.
- Broward Health certified trainers will attend all football games, practices and other high trauma athletic events to provide immediate assessment, evaluation and basic treatment.
- Broward Health will provide certified athletic trainer coverage for special district events including but not limited to, BCAA All-Star games, BCAA County Championships and Middle School Championship events.
- Broward Health will offer pre-participation physical screenings to all athletes. All high school students participating in interscholastic sports are required by the School Board and Florida High School Athletic Association to undergo an annual physical examination. The physical examinations are performed by a certified physician (M.D. or D.O.).

Summary Explanation and Background Continued

September 16, 2015

LL-2

Page 3

Broward Health is responsible for hiring, employing, insuring and paying all athletic trainers. There is no cap on the number of hours performed by athletic trainers. Trainers provide full services to student athletes participating in practices, games and competitions during the entire school year.

Consistent with Florida Statute 1012.46, Dade County Public Schools and Palm Beach School Board provide nationally certified trainers at their high schools. A comparison of the costs and benefits of the program are provided below. It should be noted that to replicate the Dade model in Broward would cost approximately \$2,013,000. The Dade model employs full time athletic trainers and pays them on the teacher's salary schedule and includes full fringe benefit package.

	Employment Status	Hours	Cost	Trainer Certification
Dade County	Full time employees at all 38 high schools in Dade County Public Schools	No cap on hours	\$73,576 per year with benefits	Yes, licensed and nationally certified
Palm Beach County	Contract with multiple agencies for part time services at 23 public high schools	1,000 hours per year \$30.00 per hour max at each high school	\$30,000 per athletic trainer	Yes, licensed and nationally certified
Broward County	Contract with Broward Health for part-time services (30 hours +) 20 high schools	No cap on hours	Broward Health \$31,611	Yes, licensed and nationally certified