
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

September 6, 2018



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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STATE APPEAL BOARD MEETING — SEPTEMBER 2018

Meeting. The State Appeal Board met on September 4, 2018, at the State Capitol in Des Moines. The Board took the following actions:

- Approved \$3,800 in general claims as filed under Iowa Code chapter [25](#).
- Approved \$177,000 and denied \$12.5 million in tort claims as filed under Iowa Code chapter [669](#).

Settlements. The Board approved five settlements, totaling \$1.3 million. The largest settlements resulted from the following cases:

- *Couch v. State of Iowa Department of Human Services*: The case represents the last settlement preceded by a larger class action lawsuit involving 35 individual plaintiff cases. This case involves allegations of racial discrimination, racial harassment, and retaliation at the Iowa Department of Human Services. The plaintiff alleged that she was terminated because of her race. The State has agreed to settle the case for \$82,000.
- *Estate of Kathleen Haptonstall and William Haptonstall Individually v. State of Iowa*: The plaintiffs alleged that the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics (UIHC) eating disorder unit was negligent by allowing Kathleen Haptonstall to attend occupational therapy while being deemed a high risk for suicide, and UIHC staff improperly supervised her, which permitted her to elope from the group and jump off of the top floor of a parking ramp. The State has agreed to settle this lawsuit for the total sum of \$2.5 million. University of Iowa Physicians will contribute \$1.25 million, and the remaining \$1.25 million will be paid from the State General Fund.

Next Meeting. The next regular meeting of the State Appeal Board is scheduled for October 1, 2018, at the State Capitol in Des Moines.

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