

RESOLUTION NO. 80

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED FUNDING IN THE CHILDREN AND FAMILY AIDS ALLOCATION

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Dunn County Board of Supervisors does hereby request that the state of Wisconsin, in its 2017-19 state biennial budget, increase funding to counties in the Children and Family Aids allocation to assist counties in serving the increasing number of children and families in the child welfare system; and

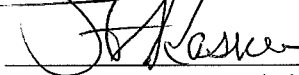
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Scott Walker, Department of Children and Families Secretary Eloise Anderson, Department of Administration Secretary Scott Neitzel, area legislators, and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

Dated this 19th day of October, 2016, at Menomonie, Wisconsin.

BUDGET IMPACT: Approval of this resolution will have no impact on the 2017 budget.

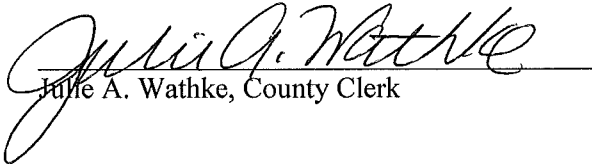
ADOPTED ON: October 19, 2016

OFFERED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:



Steven Rasmussen, Chair

ATTEST:



Julie A. Wathke, County Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND EXECUTION:



Nicholas P. Lange, Corporation Counsel

Background Information: The Department of Children and Families provides funding to counties through the Children and Family Aids allocation for the provision of child abuse and neglect services, including prevention, investigation, treatment, and out-of-home placement costs; and base funding for child welfare services has not increased since the Department of Children and Families was created in 2009. Over the past few years, the child welfare workload has increased in all counties across the state and the number of child protective services (CPS) referrals has increased by 30 percent since 2007 – from 55,895 referrals in 2007 to 72,698 in 2014. The number of children in out-of-home care has increased from 7,653 in 2011 to 8,258 in 2015 and the number of screened-in CPS reports has increased from 18,706 in 2011 to 20,384 in 2015. The number of Children in Need of Protection and Services (CHIPS) petitions filed with the court has increased 12.5 percent from 2008 to 2015. The leading cause of these increases is the use of heroin, opiates, and methamphetamines.

Counties are struggling to recruit and retain child welfare workers and the stress of increasing caseloads is taking its toll on CPS workers, causing many experienced child welfare workers to leave the profession. It is critical that counties have the resources necessary to ensure the safety of children in every corner of the state and counties are struggling to identify resources to increase child welfare staff, especially given the significant overmatch counties already put in the human services system.