

- SUPPORTING RETENTION AND EXPANSION OF WISCONSIN'S AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTERS' DEMENTIA CARE SPECIALIST PROGRAM AND PROMOTING THE WORK OF THE DEMENTIA COALITION IN EAU CLAIRE COUNTY-

WHEREAS, in Wisconsin, it is estimated that 115,000 individuals age 65 and older are living with some form of clinically diagnosable dementia, and by 2040 that population is expected to grow to 240,000; and

WHEREAS, in Eau Claire County, it is estimated that over 2,000 individuals are living with some form of clinically diagnosable dementia, and the care and treatment of persons with dementia is now being described as a public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, 90% of people with dementia live in their home and 22% live alone; a diagnosis of dementia doesn't mean a person has to lose their dignity or their ability to remain in their home and part of the community; and

WHEREAS, Eau Claire County has made a significant commitment to persons with dementia through the critical work of the Aging and Disability Research Center's (ADRC's) Dementia Care Specialist (DCS), and through the work of the Dementia Coalition, which includes the Purple Angel Program (Business Training Program), and Memory Cafés; and

WHEREAS, the DCS and Dementia Coalition strive to improve the quality of life for all those affected, including people living with memory loss and their caregivers, while helping them to remain in the community where they want to live and cost-savings to taxpayers can be realized and

WHEREAS, each day that an individual remains in the community, and outside of expensive publicly funded institutional care facilities, saves the taxpayers an estimated \$161 per day or \$58,925 annually, making the DCS program a wise and sound investment of public dollars.

WHEREAS, the ADRC of Eau Claire County has experienced a steady growth in contacts by customers, caregivers and professionals (there were 17,271 contacts in 2016); and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services' proposed budget does not include funding for the DCS positions in 2017-2019, thereby removing this valuable expertise and coalition support from the community.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors respectfully requests that these critical programs and services be consistently available in Eau Claire County and around the State of Wisconsin by having the state add Dementia Care Specialists funding to ADRC base allocations in the next proposed 2017-2019 biennial state budget.

ADOPTED: May 2, 2017
Janet K. Loomis
County Clerk