RESOLUTION NO. 17-4A-256

RESOLUTION
ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board of Health
INITIATED BY

Marie-Noel Sandoval
DRAFTED BY

Board of Health
SUBMITTED BY

April 1, 2017
DATE DRAFTED

Resolution to Support the Governor’s Budget Proposals to Lower the Lead Poisoning Definition and to Increase the Medicaid Reimbursement Available for Lead Investigations

WHEREAS, Wisconsin has minimal stable federal and state funding sources for lead prevention efforts; and,

WHEREAS, Rock County has approximately 120 children lead poisoned each year; and,

WHEREAS, Rock County has approximately 54% of housing built before 1960 and has risk of lead exposure; and,

WHEREAS, low exposure of lead in children less than 6 years old has permanent damage to the brain and nervous system, and slowed growth and development; and,

WHEREAS, elevated blood lead levels can cause lower IQ, behavior and leaning problems, and underperformance in school; and,

WHEREAS, Wisconsin local health department programs protect residents by investigating and controlling lead poisoning cases; and,

WHEREAS, local public health departments have been successful in improving outcomes of lead poisoning through case reporting and involvement of public health staff in referral of exposed persons for screening and supportive services; and,

WHEREAS, local health departments protect residents by educating the community about prevention and the importance of testing paint and dust in homes, and renovating safely; and,

WHEREAS, local health departments work with landlords and homeowners to decrease risk of lead exposure especially to children less than 6; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled this 12th day of APRIL, 2017 urges the state legislature to support the Governor’s budget proposal that has included: 1) Lowering the lead poisoning definition from 10 mcg/dL to 5 mcg/dL to align with the current CDC definition, and 2) Increasing the Medicaid reimbursement available to local health agencies for lead investigations from $105 to $800 per lead poisoning investigation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Scott Walker, Rock County legislative delegation, the Wisconsin Counties Association, the Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards, as well as the Wisconsin Public Health Association.
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Respectfully submitted,

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FISCAL NOTE:
This resolution is advisory only and has no direct fiscal impact on Rock County operations in and by itself.

Sherry Oja
Finance Director

LEGAL NOTE:
Advisory Only

Jeffrey S. Kuglitsch
Corporation Counsel

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:
Recommended

Josh Smith
County Administrator
Executive Summary

It is estimated that 535,000 U.S. children ages 1 to 5 years have blood lead levels high enough to damage their health. Twenty-four (24) million homes in the U.S. contain deteriorated lead-based paint and elevated levels of lead-contaminated house dust. Four (4) million of these are homes of young children. The exposure to lead can seriously harm a child's health through damage to the brain and nervous system, slowed growth and development, learning and behavior problems, and hearing and speech problems. These can cause lower IQ, decreased ability to pay attention, and underperformance in school. In Rock County, approximately 120 children are reported with elevated blood lead levels each year. Over half of housing in Rock County have lead risk. Lead poisoning is 100% preventable. The Governor's budget proposal will strengthen Rock County Public Health Department's ability to reduce the number of lead poisoning cases and improve the health of Rock County citizens.