

Resolution #R-49-16

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

WHEREAS, 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

WHEREAS, base funding for child welfare services has not increased since the Department of Children and Families was created in 2009; and

WHEREAS, over the past few years, the child welfare workload has increased for the State including Marathon County; and

WHEREAS, the number of child protective services (CPS) referrals for the State has increased by 30 percent since 2007 from 55,895 referrals in 2007 to 72,698 in 2014. In Marathon County, referrals have increased 6 percent from 1,174 in 2006 to 1,250 in 2015; and

WHEREAS, the number of children in out-of-home care has increased for the State from 7,653 in 2011 to 8,258 in 2015. In Marathon County, the number of children in out-of-home care has increased from 219 in 2011 to 287 in 2015; and

WHEREAS, the number of screened-in CPS reports has increased for the State from 18,706 in 2011 to 20,384 in 2015. In Marathon County, the number of screened-in reports has increased from 368 in 2011 to 585 in 2015. This is a 59 percent increase in screened in reports that require a social worker response; and

WHEREAS, the number of Children in Need of Protection and Services (CHIPS) petitions filed with the court for the State has increased 12.5 percent from 2008 to 2015. In Marathon County the number of CHIPS petitions filed with the court has increased 67 percent from 2007 to 2015; and

WHEREAS, counties in Wisconsin are struggling to recruit and retain child welfare workers due to high work load volumes; and many experienced child welfare workers are leaving the profession; and

WHEREAS, the leading cause of these increases is the use of heroin, opiates, and methamphetamines; and

WHEREAS, it is critical that counties have the resources necessary to ensure the safety of children in every corner of the state; and

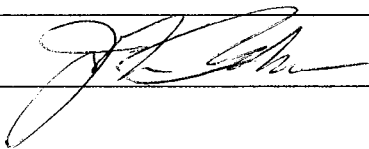
WHEREAS, counties are struggling to identify resources to increase child welfare staff, especially given the significant overmatch counties already put in the human services system.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Marathon 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 20 day of September, 2016.

Health and Human Services Committee



Fiscal Impact: None
Health Impact:

STATE OF WISCONSIN)
)SS.
COUNTY OF MARATHON)

I, Nan Kottke, County Clerk in and for Marathon County, Wisconsin, hereby certify that the attached Resolution #R-49-16 was adopted by the Marathon County Board of Supervisors at their Adjourned Organizational meeting which was held September 20, 2016.

S E A L



Nan Kottke
Marathon County Clerk