

October 19, 2016

TO THE HONORABLE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE BROWN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Ladies and Gentlemen:

**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 changed significantly since the Department of Children and Families was created in 2009 requiring local funding to be significantly increased to protect children and support families; and

WHEREAS, over the past few years, the child welfare workload has increased in all counties across the state; and

WHEREAS, the number of child protective services (CPS) referrals statewide has increased by 30 percent since 2007 – from 55,895 referrals in 2007 to 72,698 in 2014 with a local increase of 54 percent; and

WHEREAS, the number of children in out-of-home care statewide has increased from 7,653 in 2011 to 8,258 in 2015; with an increase in Brown County from 161 children in 2011 to 223 in 2015; and

WHEREAS, the number of screened-in CPS reports statewide has increased from 18,706 in 2011 to 20,384 in 2015; with an increase from 1,134 in 2011 to 1,513 in 2015 in Brown County; and

WHEREAS, the number of Children in Need of Protection and Services (CHIPS) petitions filed statewide with the court has increased 12.5 percent from 2008 to 2015; and

WHEREAS, counties are struggling to recruit and retain child welfare workers;
and

WHEREAS, the stress of increasing caseloads is taking its toll on CPS workers, causing many experienced child welfare workers to leave 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 Brown 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.

Fiscal Note: This resolution does not require an appropriation from the General Fund. Resolutions seeking support or opposition to state and federal legislation do not require additional funding to carry out. Fiscal estimates for state legislative impacts are determined by the Legislative Fiscal Bureau, and federal legislation is determined by the Congressional Budget Office. No Fiscal impact is available from the Legislative Fiscal Bureau as this is a general request for additional dollars to be placed in the state biennial budget for counties.

Respectfully submitted,

Human Services Committee

Approved By:

/s/ Troy Streckenbach
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Date Signed: 10/24/16

Final Draft Approved by Corporation Counsel

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