BARRON COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2016 - 24

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

TO THE BARRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

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 in all counties across the state; and

WHEREAS, the number of child protective services (CPS) referrals has increased by 23.5 percent since 2007 – from 547 referrals in 2007 to 676 in 2015 in Barron County and increased 30 percent since 2007 – from 55,895 referrals in 2007 to 72,698 in 2014 in the State; and

WHEREAS, the number of children in out-of-home care has increased from 80 in 2011 to 159 in 2015 in Barron County and 7,653 in 2011 to 8,258 in 2015 in the State; and

WHEREAS, the number of screened-in CPS reports has increased from 217 in 2011 to 270 in 2015 in Barron County and 18,706 in 2011 to 20,384 in 2015 in the State; and

WHEREAS, the number of Children in Need of Protection and Services (CHIPS) petitions filed with the court has increased 95.8 percent from 2008 to 2015 in Barron County, 48 petitions in 2008 to 94 in 2015 in Barron County and increased 12.5 percent from 2008 to 2015 in the State; 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 primarily methamphetamines as well as heroin, opiates, and other substance abuse; 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; and
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WHEREAS, this resolution was approved by the Health & Human Services Board on September 29, 2016 on a vote of 10 – 0 with Bartlett, Faldten, Heil, Janty, Jensen, Knutson, Mosentine, Pannier, Skoug and Miller voting in favor and no members voting against.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Barron County Board of Supervisors does hereby request that the state of Wisconsin, 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.

OFFERED THIS 17th day of October, 2016.

Number of readings required: One (X) Two ( )
Vote required for passage: Majority (X) 2/3 Entire Board (20) ( )
Source of funding: Budgeted ( ) General Fund ( ) Grant ( ) Contingency ( ) Other (X) Details: N/A
Fiscal impact:
- Current year total amount: $ - 0 -
- Future years total amount: $ - 0 -
- Effect on tax levy – current year - $ - 0 -
- Effect on tax levy – future years - $ - 0 -
Fiscal impact reviewed by County Finance Department

Approved as to form by:

Motion: (Hanson/Gores) to approve the Zoning Ordinance, Farmland Preservation Resolution and Children and Family Aids Allocation as a consent agenda. Carried.