

1 **WASHINGTON COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

2
3 Date of enactment: _____

4 Date of publication: _____

5
6 **2018 RESOLUTION 56**

7
8 **Advisory Resolution Supporting Reforms for Family Care Funding**

9
10 **WHEREAS**, the 2017-19 State Biennium Budget included a provision that required the
11 Department of Health Services, Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) and the federal
12 government to collaborate on increasing capitation rates to address the direct caregiver
13 workforce challenges in the state; and

14
15 **WHEREAS**, each year of the biennium, the program was budgeted \$12.5 million of state
16 money and about \$18 million in federal money and required federal approval; and

17
18 **WHEREAS**, executive vetoes eliminated Joint Finance Committee and other legislative
19 reviews of the program; and

20
21 **WHEREAS**, in 2018, Washington County’s Samaritan Campus was awarded
22 approximately \$8,000 in quarterly payments totaling \$32,000; however, the County is on pace to
23 return \$28,000 in potentially unusable money; and

24
25 **WHEREAS**, according to a provider agreement Samaritan Campus signed with the
26 MCO, the awarded money was to be limited to wage increases; retention bonuses; performance
27 bonuses; increased employee paid time off; staff referral bonuses or sign on bonuses with very
28 few county employees qualifying because nursing home staff did not qualify; and

29
30 **WHEREAS**, implementing a cash bonus or referral program for employees at the Fields,
31 but not Samaritan Health Center is unfair and detrimental to employee morale and utilizing one-
32 time money could create a budget deficit; and

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34 **WHEREAS**, Leading Age Wisconsin and other industry advocates have requested the
35 money in the program’s expenditure be placed into a fixed-amount investment into the direct
36 care and services component of the Family Care Program; and

37
38 **WHEREAS**, treating these funds as a block grant would allow for innovation and
39 flexibility at the local level which may include shift incentives, recruitment fairs or training
40 reimbursement; and

41
42 **WHEREAS**, Samaritan Campus is proud to be self-sustaining without relying on
43 property tax dollars;

1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Washington County Board of
2 Supervisors that this Board requests the State of Wisconsin, Managed Care Organizations, and
3 Federal Government seek to limit red tape and bureaucracy within the Family Care funding
4 program while ensuring the best care for our Samaritan Campus residents.

5
6 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** Administration, Finance, Human Resources, and
7 Samaritan Campus staff may utilize the money awarded under this program in accordance with a
8 policy to be established by Samaritan Campus, and that the departments track and report the
9 results of the program to the Human Services Committee.

10
11 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the Washington County Board directs a copy of this
12 resolution to be sent to the Office of the Governor, the Secretary of the Department of Health
13 Services, State Legislators representing Washington County, and the Wisconsin Counties
14 Association.

15
16
17 VOTE REQUIREMENT FOR PASSAGE: Majority

18
19 RESOLUTION SUMMARY: Advisory resolution supporting the reform of Family Care
20 funding.

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22 APPROVED:

Introduced by members of the HUMAN

SERVICES COMMITTEE

23
24 _____
Bradley S. Stern, County Attorney

as filed with the County Clerk.

25 Dated _____

26
27 Considered _____

_____ Kristine M. Deiss, Chairperson

28 Adopted _____

29 Ayes _____ Noes _____ Absent _____

30 Voice Vote _____

31
32 (There is no direct/immediate fiscal impact.)

COMMITTEE REPORT

To: Human Services Committee
From: *Mari Beth Borek, Samaritan Campus Administrator*
Ethan Hollenberger, Public Affairs Coordinator
Date: 18 October 2018
Re: Family Care Advisory Resolution

POLICY QUESTION:

Should the Human Services Committee recommend the County Board pass an advisory resolution to ensure Family Care dollars meant to improve the direct care workforce shortage are spent more efficiently at the local level?

DISCUSSION:

In the 2017-19 State Budget, the Joint Finance Committee added a provision to “increase the direct care and services portion of the capitation rates to address the direct caregiver workforce challenges in the state.” The capitation rates are simply the reimbursement rates from Medicaid.

The program was for residential care apartment complexes (RCACs) and community-based residential facilities (CBRFs); this definition fits the Fields but not Samaritan Health Care Center. As the Samaritan Campus staff, Human Resources, and Finance Department reviewed the memorandum of understanding (MOU) from Care Wisconsin, few employees qualified for the \$8,000 quarterly “grant.” Washington County returned over \$7,000 of the grant in the first quarter and expects to return the same for the remaining quarters. This will total more than \$28,000 in unusable “grant” funds for an otherwise good initiative.

Leading Age Wisconsin, of which Samaritan Campus is a member, has recommended moving the appropriation (\$12 million from the state and about \$17 million from the federal government) to the fixed direct care and services component of Family Care. This will allow flexibility in the program for Washington County.

The resolution allows County staff to work with legislators and Wisconsin’s Department of Health Services (DHS) to solve this problem in a way that ensures the money (federal and state tax dollars paid by Washington County residents) is returned to the County and utilized effectively.

After speaking with DHS staff, it has become clear the goal of the program is to “get the money in the hands of the care workers.” As such, until the program is afforded more flexibility, the resolution authorizes County staff to create incentives to fill empty shifts at the Fields which must follow a policy established by Samaritan Campus.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Draft Resolution

FISCAL EFFECT:

Fiscal impact of the resolution is unknown at this time; however, Washington County will return approximately \$28,000 under the program in its current state.

RECOMMENDATION:

Motion to recommend the County Board approve 2018 Resolution XX Advisory Resolution to Support Reforms for Family Care Funding.