

Title: 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 in all counties across the state; and

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

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

WHEREAS, the costs for out of home care placement in Vernon County has risen from \$322,627 in 2011 to \$408,176 in 2015; and

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

WHEREAS, the Vernon County number of screened-in CPS reports will nearly double in 2016 as compared to 2015; and

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

WHEREAS, the leading cause of these increases statewide and in Vernon County is the use of heroin, opiates, and methamphetamines; and

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

WHEREAS, the stress of increasing caseloads, along with the added expectations on county staff and supervisors to ensure family engagement in the process, implement and practice trauma-informed care, increase face-to-face visits and eliminate barriers to family unification is taking its toll on CPS workers causing many experienced child welfare workers to transfer away from CPS work; and

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

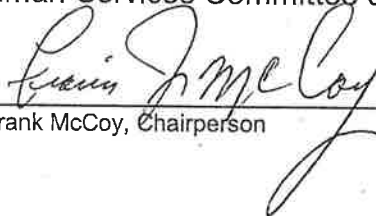
WHEREAS, counties are struggling to identify resources to increase child welfare staff, especially given the significant overmatch counties already put in the human services system.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Vernon 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.

Recommended For Consideration of the County Board By:

Human Services Committee on Sept 12, 2016
DATE

 Frank McCoy, Chairperson	<u>7</u> YES	<u>0</u> NO	<u>0</u> ABSTAIN	<u>2</u> ABSENT
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Adopted by Vernon County Board of Supervisors on 9-30, 2016.

Attest:


Ron Hoff, Vernon County Clerk