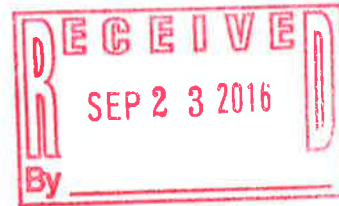


# Juneau County Board of Supervisors

Courthouse, 220 East State Street  
Mauston, Wisconsin 53948



**RESOLUTION No. 16-63**

**DATE: September 20, 2016**

**INTRODUCED BY: Executive Committee**

**SYNOPSIS: Supporting 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 child protective services (CPS) referrals has increased by 30 percent since 2007 – from 55,895 referrals in 2007 to 72,698 in 2014, and in Juneau County referrals have gone from 164 in 2010 to 408 referrals in 2015; and

**WHEREAS**, the number of children in out-of-home care has increased from 7,653 in 2011 to 8,258 in 2015, and Juneau County has seen a significant increase in children placed in Out of Home Care; and

**WHEREAS**, the number of screened-in CPS reports has increased from 18,706 in 2011 to 20,384 in 2015, and Juneau County had 93 screened-in reports in 2010 and 211 investigated referrals in 2014; 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 Juneau County had 6 petitions filed in 2010 and 143 petitions filed in 2014; and

**WHEREAS**, counties are struggling to recruit and retain child welfare workers, and Juneau County has had a great deal of difficulty recruiting good CPS workers in the past 4 years; 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 Juneau County has a very young staff with limited experience due to staff turnover in this very stressful work; and

**WHEREAS**, the leading cause of these increases is the use of heroin, opiates, and methamphetamines; and Juneau County has seen a significant increase in alcohol and drug addiction with parents. Seventy percent (70%) of children removed from parental homes is due to some form of 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 Juneau County continues to struggle in adequately serving families with challenges; 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 Juneau County Board of Supervisors shall and hereby does 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.

INTRODUCED AND RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION ON SEPTEMBER 20, 2016.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

  
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Alan K. Peterson, Chairperson

  
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Michael Kelley

  
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Edmund Wafle

Adopted by the County Board of Supervisors of  
Juneau County on September 20, 2016.

  
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Kathleen C. Kobylski, Juneau County Clerk