RESOLUTION NO.: 128—2018-19

TO THE HONORABLE, THE OUTAGAMIE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

Outagamie County Brewster Village (BV), a short-term rehabilitation and long-term care community, is facing a significant worker shortage which is forcing staff burnout (turnover), overtime expenses, and may potentially limit admissions. Wages for Certified Nursing Assistants, Life Enrichment Specialists, and Homemakers at BV are directly competing with non-health care entities and contributing to healthcare worker shortages.

Inadequate Medicaid payment rates have made it extremely difficult for long-term care providers to attract and retain qualified caregivers. In addition, over 30 Wisconsin nursing homes have closed since 2008, primarily because of inadequate Medicaid reimbursement rates. These closures will have an impact on future skilled nursing home care as the population of residents over 85 years of age grows.

Medicaid deficits sustained by Wisconsin’s nursing facilities are mounting. Wisconsin nursing facilities experienced a $352.5 million Medicaid deficit in FY16. Wisconsin nursing facilities on average lose $63.04 per day for each Medicaid resident. Brewster Village’s loss is at approximately $100 per day for each Medicaid resident.

Private pay nursing home rates are $255 per day (long-term care) and $385 per day (short-term intensive rehabilitation services). The current resident Medicaid rate for these same services is approximately $155 per day. This low rate results in an annual deficit for Brewster Village of approximately $4,000,000 which falls on local taxpayers through the tax levy. It should be noted that the County would pay this annual amount for residents even if Brewster Village was not part of the County. It is the low Medicaid reimbursement rate that causes the increased cost to the local taxpayer.

Much has been done locally and statewide to provide alternative care for residents in need of help with daily living needs. Homemaker services, assisted living and other types of care have reduced the need for long term care for many residents. However, at some point, most elderly residents will require long term, 24/7 care in a skilled nursing home facility like Brewster Village. The number of people over the age of 85 with these needs will grow significantly over the next 25 years.

This resolution requests that Medicaid funding for nursing home facilities be increased significantly in each fiscal year of the 2019-21 Wisconsin state budget in order to address shortcomings related to nursing home staff shortages, and overall funding deficits.
NOW THEREFORE, the undersigned members of the Health and Human Services Committee recommend adoption of the following resolution.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Outagamie County Board of Supervisors does hereby respectfully request that Medicaid funding for nursing home facilities be increased significantly in each fiscal year of the 2019-21 Wisconsin state budget in order to address shortcomings related to nursing home staff shortages and overall funding deficits. This investment will ensure that Outagamie County Brewster Village can continue to effectively provide short-term rehabilitation and long-term nursing services designed to meet individuals’ social and medical needs, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Outagamie County Clerk be directed to forward a copy of this resolution to Governor Scott Walker, the Wisconsin Department of Administration Secretary, the Wisconsin Counties Association, the Outagamie County Brewster Village Administrator, and the Outagamie County Lobbyist for distribution to the Legislature.

Dated this [_____] day of December, 2018.

Respectfully Submitted,

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Dan Gabrielson

Christine Lamers

Justin Krueger

Cathy Thompson
Resolution No. 128--2018-19

Signed: [Signature]
Board Chairperson

Duly and officially adopted by the County Board on: December 11, 2018

Signed: [Signature]
County Executive

Approved: 12.13.18

Vetoed: ________________

Signed: [Signature]
County Clerk