February 08, 2019

Honorable Tony Evers
Governor, State of Wisconsin
115 East Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Governor Evers,

Child Welfare professionals throughout the state of Wisconsin continue to struggle with the effects of the opioid and methamphetamine epidemic. The difficult job of keeping children safe is made even more difficult by the following factors:

1. Lack of a case load standard
2. Caseload that are significantly higher than other state’s standards
3. Lack of adequate state funding to support additional workers
4. Minimal increases in the Children and Families allocation for years
5. Lack of qualified Social Work applicants, especially in rural areas
6. Tax Levy limits that prevent County Boards from increasing funding for Children’s Services

Due to this crisis, the Oneida County Social Services Committee submitted the attached resolution to the Oneida County Board for their consideration. The resolution requests that the state of Wisconsin increase the Children and Family Aids allocation to counties in the 2019-2021 state biennial budget by $30 million annually. It also urges the State to close oversight gaps by creating legislative mechanisms to review the Child Protective Services (CPS) resource needs of all counties, and ensure an appropriate committee provide ongoing policy guidance to respond to emerging CPS trends and ongoing system needs. Resolution #15-2019 passed unanimously.

The attached chart clearly demonstrates the lack of adequate State funding to keep up with the increasing needs of Child Protection in Oneida County. Although the state allocation for Oneida County increased by 22% from 2010 to 2018, funds from County tax levy have increased by 69% for the same period.

The Oneida County Social Services Committee cannot express enough the critical nature of this request. We are only asking that we be given the tools needed to do the job that we are required ethically, morally and by statute to do.

Sincerely,

Bob Metropolis, Social Services Committee Chair

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Toll Free: 1-888-662-5695  P.O. Box 400  (Badger Care/Food Share)
Fax: 715-362-7910  Rhinelander, WI 54501  1-888-445-1621
ocdss@dss.co.oneida.wi.us
Alan VanRaalte, Social Service Committee Vice Chair

Jim Winkler, Social Services Committee

Steve Schreier, Social Services Committee Secretary

Bill Liebert, Social Services Committee

cc:

Senator Tom Tiffany
Representative Rob Swearingen
Representative Mary Felzkowski
Secretary Emilie Amundson, Wisconsin Department of Children and Families
Secretary Joel Brennan, Wisconsin Department of Administration
Dave Hintz, Oneida County Board Chair
STATE OF WISCONSIN 
County of Oneida 

I, Tracy Hartman, County Clerk in and for said County, do hereby certify that the foregoing copy has been compared by me with the original Resolution #15-2019 adopted by the Oneida County Board of Supervisors at the regular meeting held on January 15, 2019; that it is a true and correct transcript therefrom and of the whole thereof, as the same remains of record in my office.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunder set my hand and affixed the seal of the County Clerk of Oneida County at my office in Rhinelander, Wisconsin on January 15, 2019.

[Signature]
Tracy Hartman, County Clerk

State of Wisconsin
County of Oneida

This Document was signed before me on January 15, 2019 by Tracy Hartman.

[Signature]
Notary Public, Oneida County, Wisconsin
My Term Expires 12-31-21
RESOLUTION # 15 - 2019
Resolution to Increase Funding and Oversight Reforms for
Wisconsin's Child Protective Services System

Resolution offered by the Supervisors of the Social Services Committee

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin child welfare system is county-operated and state-supervised, except Milwaukee County, where the system is administered by the Wisconsin Department of Child and Families (DCF), Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services (DMCPS); and

WHEREAS, DCF provides insufficient funding to counties for the provision of child abuse and neglect services including prevention, investigation, treatment, and out-of-home placement costs, though the state has primary responsibility for compliance with federal requirements and shares liability for ensuring the system is meeting its obligations to children and families in all 72 counties; and

WHEREAS, in recent years the state of Wisconsin added numerous mandates and practice expectations which increased county child protective services (CPS) workload and costs; and

WHEREAS, the opioid and methamphetamine epidemics have brought Wisconsin's child welfare system to a point of crisis, with increasing concern about the system's ability to meet obligations to children and families; and

WHEREAS, the capacity for counties to continue to bear the lion's share of financial responsibility to address this crisis has been exhausted, as rising county contributions to the CPS system have far outpaced increases to the DCF Children and Family Aids allocation and counties have used reserve funding to cover CPS expenses and increase staffing; and

WHEREAS, maintaining sufficient resources for Wisconsin's child welfare system is critical to secure the safety and future of our most vulnerable children; and

WHEREAS, without a proportional increase in the DCF Children and Family Services allocation, the CPS system has been stressed for over a decade, causing caseloads for CPS workers to grow to unreasonable levels, contributing to high levels of staff turnover in some counties and an overrun of out-of-home care costs above what counties can sustain within available resources; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's CPS system leaves significant gaps in state-level oversight for all counties except Milwaukee County, including the absence of caseload standards, no process for regular legislative evaluation and prioritization of CPS needs and the absence of a legislative committee that provides regular policy guidance concerning CPS system issues such as adequate funding, performance, cost sharing and long-term stability; and

WHEREAS, along with DMCPS, all eleven of Wisconsin's peer states with county-administered CPS systems have either adopted caseload standards for CPS caseworkers, completed thorough workload studies as a basis of determining funding needs, or otherwise have made significant recommendations related to keeping CPS workloads manageable; and

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WHEREAS, the children within Wisconsin's CPS system are too important to allow the current level of under resourcing, oversight gaps, and disparity of attention, while shifting the burden to property taxpayers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Oneida County Board of Supervisors does hereby request that the state of Wisconsin increase the Children and Family Aids Allocation to counties in the 2019-21 state biennial budget by $30 million annually in order to cover a greater share of out-of-home care costs and increase staffing levels based on the caseload standards developed by the Wisconsin County Human Services Association (WCHSA) so Wisconsin's CPS system can meet its obligations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Oneida County Board of Supervisors urges the state of Wisconsin to close critical oversight gaps by creating legislative mechanisms to review the CPS resource needs of all counties as part of the biennial budget process and ensure an appropriate committee provide ongoing policy guidance to respond to emerging CPS trends and ongoing system needs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Governor Tony Evers, the Department of Children and Families Secretary, the Department of Administration Secretary, area legislators, and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

Vote Required: Majority = X 2/3 Majority = ________ 3/4 Majority = ________

The County Board has the legal authority to adopt: Yes ______ No ______ as reviewed by the Corporation Counsel, ________________, Date: 12/5/18

Approved by the Social Services Committee this 27th day of November, 2018.

Consent Agenda Item: ____YES _____NO

Offered and passage moved by: ____________________________

Supervisor

__________________________

Supervisor

__________________________

Supervisor

__________________________

Supervisor

20 Ayes

10 Nays

1 Absent
Abstain

Adopted

by the County Board of Supervisors this 15th day of January, 2019

Defeated,

Tracy Hartman, County Clerk

David Hintz, County Board Chair
## Resolution #15 - 2019

**Services System:**

Establishing and Oversight reforms for Wisconsin's Child Protective Services Committee Uniforming the State of Wisconsin to increase the supervision of the social

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Resolution: #15-2019