RESOLUTION #R-3-16

CHANGE STATE OF WISCONSIN POLICY OF TERMINATION OF PUBLIC BENEFITS UPON INCARCERATION

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin’s current policy is to terminate public benefits upon incarceration;

WHEREAS, this policy results in barriers to treatment upon release from jail for offenders with medical, mental health and alcohol or other drug (AODA) needs; and

WHEREAS, the Sheriff’s Independent Mental Health Panel recommended that Marathon County advocate for a legislative change to the state requirement to terminate public benefits upon incarceration; and

WHEREAS, it is the goal of Marathon County to be the safest county in the state of Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, reducing recidivism in offender populations with mental health and AODA concerns requires access to treatment not only during incarceration but upon transition to the community and;

WHEREAS, offenders access to treatment is often hindered by loss of insurance under the Affordable Care Act and/or ability to pay for treatment upon release; and

WHEREAS, the Marathon County has created a social work position in the jail to assist with effective transitioning of offenders to the community; and

WHEREAS, the Marathon County Jail social worker spends the majority of her time assisting with applications to reinstate terminated public benefits upon release and has little time to address other criminogenic needs of offenders; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the County Board of Supervisors of the County of Marathon does hereby ordain and resolve and request that the State of Wisconsin legislature review the current law and policy regarding termination of public benefits during incarceration and respectfully requires that law and policy be changed to a suspension for public benefits including insurance coverage under the Affordable Care Act.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED AND RESOLVED, that the Marathon County Board of Supervisors authorizes County Administration to make this request of Marathon County’s State of Wisconsin elected officials.

Respectfully submitted this 14th day of January, 2016.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

[Signatures]

FISCAL IMPACT: Unknown at this time.
STATE OF WISCONSIN 

COUNTY OF MARATHON

I, Nan Kottke, County Clerk in and for Marathon County, Wisconsin, hereby certify that the attached Resolution #R-3-16 was adopted by the Marathon County Board of Supervisors at their Adjourned Annual meeting which was held January 19, 2016.

[Signature]

Nan Kottke
Marathon County Clerk