

RESOLUTION # 61 - 2016

TO: The Honorable Chairperson and Members of the Oconto County Board of Supervisors

RE: **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED FUNDING IN THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES ALLOCATION (CFA)**

WHEREAS, the Department of Children and Families provides funding to counties through the Children and Families 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

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 number of screened-in CPS reports has increased from 18,706 in 2011 to 20,384 in 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, Oconto County's experience has been consistent with the foregoing state trends; and

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

WHEREAS, the leading cause of these caseload increases is the use of heroin, opiates, and methamphetamines by caregivers; 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 Oconto 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 Families allocation (CFA) to assist counties in serving the increasing number of children and families in the child welfare system; and

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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.

Submitted this 22nd day of September, 2016,

By:	HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES BOARD	FINANCE/INSURANCE COMMITTEE
	Alan Sleeter, Chair	Leland T. Rymer, Chair
	Diane Nichols	Paul Bednarik
	Loretta Shellman	Greg Sekela
	Jim Lacourciere	Doug McMahon
	Judith Buhrandt	Gary Frank
	Kathy Gohr	
	Ron Korzeniewski	
	Carolyn Barke	
	Mary Lemmen	

Reviewed by Corporation Counsel:

Adopted by Vote:

Cam 09.22.2016
 Initials of Date
 Corp. Counsel Reviewed

Ayes: 31 Nays: 0 Absent: 0

STATE OF WISCONSIN } I, Kim Pytleski
 County Oconto do hereby certify
 that the above is a true and correct copy of the
 original now on file in the office of the County Clerk and
 that it was adopted by the Oconto County Board of
 Supervisors on this date.
 Date: 9/22/16 Kim Pytleski
 (Seal) County Clerk

ATTACHMENT

Additional information regarding Resolution in Support of Increased Funding in the Children and Families Allocation (CFA)

Oconto County's Screened-In Reports of Child Abuse and/or Neglect have increased 84% since 2011, from 99 to 182.

The number of Out of Home Placements of Children in Need of Protection and/or Services (CHIPS) has increased 40% since 2011, from 30 to 42.

The number of CHIPS Petitions filed in Oconto County has increased 89% since 2008, from 17 to 32.

Sept. 22, 2016