

1 Polk County Board of Supervisors

2 Resolution No: 22-17

3 Resolution In Support of Increased State Funding In the Children and Family Aids Allocation

4
5 TO THE HONORABLE SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY BOARD OF THE COUNTY OF
6 POLK:

7 Gentlemen:

8 WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families provides funding to counties
9 through the Children and Family Aids allocation for the provision of child abuse and neglect
10 services; including prevention, investigation, treatment, and out-of-home placement costs; and

11 WHEREAS, base funding for child welfare services has not increased since the Wisconsin
12 Department of Children and Families was created in 2009; and

13 WHEREAS, over the past few years, the child welfare workload has increased across the state and in
14 counties; and

15 WHEREAS, the number of statewide child protective services (CPS) referrals has increased by 30%
16 since 2007, from 55,895 to 72,698 in 2014, and, in 2016, Polk County received 636 CPS referrals, a
17 15% increase from 2015; and

18 WHEREAS, the statewide number of children in out-of-home care has increased from 7,653 in 2011
19 to 8,258 in 2015, and in 2015 Polk County Child Welfare Services have had 99 children place in out-
20 of-home care; and

21 WHEREAS, the statewide number of screened-in CPS reports has increased from 18,706 in 2011 to
22 20,384 in 2015, and, in 2016, Polk County had 381 screened-in CPS reports, a 43% increase in the
23 number of reports that required CPS response from 2015; and

24 WHEREAS, the number of Children in Need of Protection and Services (CHIPS) petitions filed
25 statewide with the court has increased 12.5 percent from 2008 to 2015; and

26
27 WHEREAS, the leading cause of these increases is the use of heroin, opiates, and methamphetamines
28 as, since August, 2016, 39 report of child abuse/neglect included alleged drug use by the parent and
29 74% required agency response; and

30 WHEREAS, counties are struggling to recruit and retain child welfare workers the stress of
31 increasing caseloads is taking its toll on CPS workers, causing many experienced child welfare
32 workers to leave the profession; and

33 WHEREAS, it is critical that counties have the resources necessary to ensure the safety of children in
34 every corner of the state; and

35 WHEREAS, counties are struggling to identify resources to increase child welfare staff, especially
36 given the significant overmatch counties already put in the human services system.

37 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Polk County Board of Supervisors does hereby
 38 request that the State of Wisconsin, in its 2017-19 state biennial budget, increase funding to the
 39 Children and Family Aids allocation by \$5 million per year to assist counties in serving the
 40 increasing number of children and families in the child welfare system.

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Scott Walker,
 42 Department of Children and Families Secretary Eloise Anderson, Department of Administration
 43 Secretary Scott Neitzel, area legislators, and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

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| Funding Source/ Funding Amount: | Not applicable |
| Date Reviewed as to Appropriations: | Not Applicable |
| Committee Recommendation as To Appropriation: | Not Applicable |
| Effective Date: | Upon passage |
| Dated Submitted To County Board | March 21, 2017 |
| Submitted and Sponsored By Health and Human Services Board: <i>[Signature]</i> | <i>Per J for THE MHS Board</i> |
| Review By County Administrator: <input type="checkbox"/> Recommended <input type="checkbox"/> Not Recommended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reviewed Only <i>[Signature]</i> Dana Frey, County Administrator | Review By Corporation Counsel: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved as to Form <input type="checkbox"/> Recommended <input type="checkbox"/> Not Recommended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reviewed Only <i>[Signature]</i> Jeffrey B. Fuge, Corporation Counsel |

Acknowledgement of County Board Action

At its regular business meeting on the 21st of March 2017, the Polk County Board of Supervisors considered and acted on the above resolution, Resolution No 22-17: Resolution to Support Increased State Funding In the Children and Family Aids Allocation, as follows:

- Adopted by simple majority of the board of supervisors by a vote of _____ in favor and _____ against.
- Adopted by unanimous vote. *voice vote*
- Defeated by a vote of _____ in favor and _____ against.
- Defeated by voice vote.
- Action Deferred by Procedural Action, as follows: _____

SIGNED BY:

[Signature]
 Dean Johansen, County Board Chairperson

Attest: *[Signature]*
 Sharon Jorgenson, County Clerk

