Resolution No 88-18
Requesting in Support of Increased Funding and Oversight Reforms for Wisconsin’s Child
Protective Services System

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
Children and Families (DCF) through the Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services
(DMCP); 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
its 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 to counties, the CPS system has been stressed for over a decade, causing caseloads
for county 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
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 Polk 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 Polk County Board of Supervisors requests and supports the Wisconsin Counties Association to urge 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 Governor Scott Walker, Department of Children and Families Secretary Eloise Anderson, Department of Administration Secretary Ellen Nowak, Wisconsin State Senators and Assembly representatives of Polk County, and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

Sponsored and Submitted on this 15th day of NOV, 2018.

BY: Brad Olson, Supervisor, District #1

James Edgell, Supervisor, District #8

Doug Route, Supervisor, District #2

Kim O’Connell, Supervisor, District #9

Dean Johansen, Chair, Supervisor, District #3,

Larry Jepsen, Supervisor, District #10

Chris Nelson, Supervisor, District #4

Jay Luke, 1st Vice Chair, Supervisor, District #11

Tracy LaBlanc, Supervisor, District #5

Michael Larsen, Supervisor, District #12

Brian Masters, Supervisor, District #6

Russell Arcand, Supervisor, District #13

Michael Frichard, Supervisor, District #7

John Bonneprise, 2nd Vice Chair, Supervisor, District #14

Joe DeMulling, Supervisor, District #15
Fiscal Impact Note: This resolution presents no financial impact on the operations or budget of Polk County.

Approved as to Form and Execution:

M. Malone
Malia T. Malone, Interim Corporation Counsel

Legal Impact Note: The resolution presents no legal impact to the County or its operations.

Excerpt of Minutes

At its regular business meeting on the 13th day of November, 2018, the Polk County Board of Supervisors acted upon Resolution No. 88-18: Requesting in Support of Increased Funding and Oversight Reforms for Wisconsin's Child Protective Services System, as follows:

☐ Adopted by a majority of the members present by a vote of _____ in favor and _____ against.
☒ Adopted by unanimous voice vote.
☐ Adopted as amended. See Below.
☐ Defeated
☐ Other: ____________________________

Insert amendment to resolution according to minutes:

Signed by:
 Dean Johansen, County Board Chairperson

Attest:
 Sharon Jorgenson, County Clerk
CERTIFIED COPY OF POLK COUNTY RESOLUTION

STATE OF WISCONSIN

COUNTY OF POLK

I Sharon E. Jorgenson, Polk County Clerk do hereby certify that the attached hereto and incorporated herein is a full, true and correct copy of Resolution No. 88-18: Resolution in Support of Increased Funding and Oversight Reforms for Wisconsin’s Child Protective Services System adopted by the Polk County Board of Supervisors at its regular business meeting held on November 13, 2018

Sharon E. Jorgenson, Polk County Clerk

Date