



DUNN COUNTY, WISCONSIN  
RESOLUTION NO. 100

Requesting Increased Funding and Oversight Reforms for Wisconsin's Child  
Protective Services System

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dunn 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 Wisconsin Counties Association 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 Governor Scott Walker, Department of Children and Families Secretary Eloise Anderson, Department of Administration Secretary Ellen Nowak, area legislators, and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

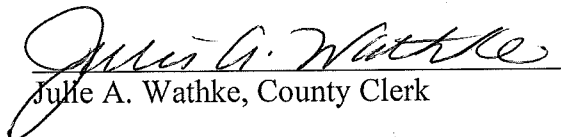
Offered this 13<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2018, at Menomonie, Wisconsin.

OFFERED BY THE HEALTH & HUMAN  
SERVICES COMMITTEE:

Adopted on: November 13, 2018

  
Mary Solberg, Chairperson

ATTEST:

  
Julie A. Wathke, County Clerk

Approved as to Form and Execution:

  
Nicholas P. Lange, Corporation Counsel

Budget Impact: Adoption of this resolution by the County Board of Supervisors has no impact on the current year tax levy.

Background Information: 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), Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services (DMCPS). 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. In recent years the state of Wisconsin added numerous mandates and practice expectations which increased county child protective services (CPS) workload and costs and 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.

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

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. 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. 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.

In Dunn County, out of home placement costs for children are projected to increase 165% between 2017 and 2018.

Year	Foster Care	Group Home	Residential Child Care Center	Kinship	Total
2013	\$ 296,128.00	\$ 57,838.00	\$ 301,097.00	\$ 93,981.00	\$ 749,044.00
2014	\$ 392,623.00	\$ 92,519.00	\$ 131,322.00	\$ 82,879.00	\$ 699,343.00
2015	\$ 469,236.00	\$ 186,533.00	\$ 37,277.00	\$ 89,488.00	\$ 782,534.00
2016	\$ 345,987.00	\$ 170,592.00	\$ 166,193.00	\$ 112,749.00	\$ 795,521.00
2017	\$ 339,430.00	\$ 134,106.00	\$ 140,268.00	\$ 141,412.00	\$ 755,216.00
2018*	\$ 383,746.00	\$ 278,081.00	\$ 458,556.00	\$ 131,389.00	\$ 1,251,772.00
*projected based on costs through July					

Child abuse and neglect reports received in Dunn County increased by 161% between 2014 and 2018 (Projected based on figures through August 2018).

Reports	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Reports Rc'd 2014	28	39	46	29	47	43	43	40	57	50	30	40	492
Reports Rc'd 2015	35	50	28	43	61	37	49	43	36	63	54	64	543
Reports Rc'd 2016	53	70	60	83	88	54	54	61	59	69	70	69	790
Reports Rc'd 2017	71	68	76	72	73	63	47	59	54	82	64	64	793
Reports Rc'd 2018	50	76	69	62	59	46	54	65	67	67	67	67	809
								*projected '18	*projected	*projected	*projected	*projected	*projected