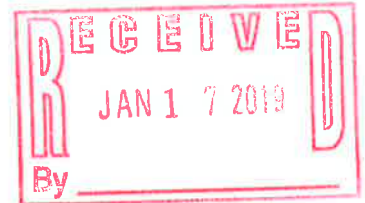


# Juneau County Board of Supervisors

Courthouse, 220 East State Street  
Mauston, Wisconsin 53948



**RESOLUTION No. 19 - 03**

**DATE: January 14, 2019**

**INTRODUCED BY: Executive Committee**

**SYNOPSIS: A Resolution Requesting Adequate and Appropriate State Funding for Essential Services Performed by the County Department of Human Services**

**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), Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services (DMCPS); 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 Juneau County consistently has at least 65% of its cases impacted by this epidemic; 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 Juneau County has limited funding from the State of approximately \$350,000 per year, requiring the County to spend from the county tax levy an additional sum of more than twice what is received from the state to cover the true costs incurred by the County; 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, 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, and Juneau County has had a 75% staff turnover since 2016; 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 Juneau County consistently has caseloads that exceed actual worker capacity 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 Juneau County Board of Supervisors shall and hereby does 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

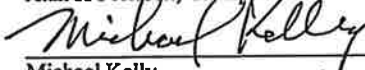
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Wisconsin Counties Association urges the state of Wisconsin to close critical oversight gaps by creating legislative mechanisms to review the CPS resource needs of all counties as part of the biennial budget process and ensure an appropriate committee provide ongoing 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 Tony Evers, the Secretary of the Department of Children and Families, the Secretary of the Department of Administration, area legislators, and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

**INTRODUCED AND RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION ON JANUARY 14, 2019.**

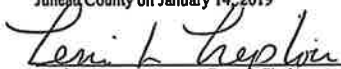
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Alan K Peterson, Chairperson

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Kelly

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lynn Willard

Adopted by the County Board of Supervisors of  
Juneau County on January 14, 2019

  
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Terri L. Treptow, Juneau County Clerk