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WASHINGTON COUNTY, WISCONSIN

Date of enactment: _____
Date of publication: _____

2018 RESOLUTION 57

**Advisory Resolution Supporting the Improvement of
Instructional Programs for Nursing Aides**

WHEREAS, 2017 Assembly Bill 432 passed the Wisconsin State Assembly with bipartisan support, but failed to pass the State Senate; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin’s classroom hours prerequisite is in excess of the federally mandated 75 hours required under 42 CFR 483.152 (a) for nursing aide training; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, recruitment challenges for nursing aides, in particular Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs), has resulted in staffing shortages at Samaritan Campus, which has about twenty nursing aide vacancies; and

WHEREAS, the State has implemented Fast Forward and other grants in an attempt to spur the number of people entering nursing aide training programs; and

WHEREAS, future registered nurses are required to obtain a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) certificate, yet are not required to work in the role more than 8 hours per year to keep their certification; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Congressman Sean Duffy recently introduced the “Nursing Home Workforce Quality Act,” which, among other reforms, would limit lockouts of nursing home directed CNA training courses;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington County Board of Supervisors requests the State of Wisconsin adopt the federal requirement that a nurse aide training and competency evaluation program consist of no less than seventy-five (75) clock hours of training.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Washington County Board of Supervisors supports the intent of the Nursing Home Workforce Quality act and requests the State of Wisconsin do the same.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Washington County Board directs a copy of this resolution to be sent to the Office of the Governor, the Secretary of the Department of Health Services, Wisconsin’s Congressional Delegation, State Legislators representing Washington County, and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

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RESOLUTION SUMMARY: Advisory resolution supporting the improvement of instructional programs for nursing aides.

APPROVED:

Bradley S. Stern, County Attorney

Dated _____

Considered _____

Adopted _____

Ayes ____ Noes ____ Absent ____

Voice Vote _____

Introduced by members of the HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

as filed with the County Clerk.

Kristine M. Deiss, Chairperson

(There is no direct/immediate fiscal impact.)

COMMITTEE REPORT

To: Human Services Committee
From: *Mari Beth Borek, Samaritan Campus Administrator*
Ethan Hollenberger, Public Affairs Coordinator
Date: 18 October 2018
Re: Nursing Aide Advisory Resolution

POLICY QUESTION:

Should the Human Services Committee recommend the County Board pass an advisory resolution to federalize nursing aid training programs and limit federal lockouts of training programs?

DISCUSSION:

Last legislative session, Assembly Bill 432 failed to pass the State Senate. The bill would have eliminated Wisconsin's 120 classroom hours for certified nursing assistants (CNAs). Federal regulations and neighboring states require 45 fewer hours. The goal of the legislation is to ensure quality CNA candidates quickly enter the pipeline and are on the nursing floor weeks sooner.

Because many regulations for skilled nursing facilities are written and enforced by the Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, using the federal standard makes sense.

Wisconsin faces a shortfall of qualified CNA and other nursing aides. The Samaritan Campus has approximately twenty openings for nursing aides. Passing this resolution will allow Washington County and Samaritan Campus to tell our story to the legislators who will be attempting to adequately address the concerns in the next state budget.

The resolution also supports Northern Wisconsin Congressman Sean Duffy's legislation to limit CNA training lockouts for nursing homes with training programs. While Samaritan Campus does not currently train CNA's, area nursing homes do. Samaritan could partner with these nursing homes or eventually train themselves. Lockouts prevent training programs, particularly in rural areas, from being taught at a locked-out nursing home. Expanding opportunities increases the number of CNA's in the Wisconsin pipeline.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Draft Resolution

FISCAL EFFECT:

There is no fiscal impact at this time.

RECOMMENDATION:

Motion to recommend the County Board approve 2018 Resolution XX Advisory Resolution in Support of Improving Instructional Programs for Nursing Aides.