

ONEIDA COUNTY

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Professional Services ~ Positive Outcomes

February 08, 2019

Honorable Tony Evers
Governor, State of Wisconsin
115 East Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Governor Evers,

Child Welfare professionals throughout the state of Wisconsin continue to struggle with the effects of the opioid and methamphetamine epidemic. The difficult job of keeping children safe is made even more difficult by the following factors:

1. Lack of a case load standard
2. Caseload that are significantly higher than other state's standards
3. Lack of adequate state funding to support additional workers
4. Minimal increases in the Children and Families allocation for years
5. Lack of qualified Social Work applicants, especially in rural areas
6. Tax Levy limits that prevent County Boards from increasing funding for Children's Services

Due to this crisis, the Oneida County Social Services Committee submitted the attached resolution to the Oneida County Board for their consideration. The resolution requests that the state of Wisconsin increase the Children and Family Aids allocation to counties in the 2019-2021 state biennial budget by \$30 million annually. It also urges the State to close oversight gaps by creating legislative mechanisms to review the Child Protective Services (CPS) resource needs of all counties, and ensure an appropriate committee provide ongoing policy guidance to respond to emerging CPS trends and ongoing system needs. Resolution #15-2019 passed unanimously.

The attached chart clearly demonstrates the lack of adequate State funding to keep up with the increasing needs of Child Protection in Oneida County. Although the state allocation for Oneida County increased by 22% from 2010 to 2018, funds from County tax levy have increased by 69% for the same period.

The Oneida County Social Services Committee cannot express enough the critical nature of this request. We are only asking that we be given the tools needed to do the job that we are required ethically, morally and by statute to do.

Sincerely,


Bob Metropoulos, Social Services Committee Chair

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Toll Free: 1-888-662-5695
Fax: 715-362-7910

1. S. Oneida Avenue
P.O. Box 400
Rhinelander, WI 54501

IM Central Consortium
(Badger Care/Food Share)
1-888-445-1621

ocdss@dss.co.oneida.wi.us



Alan VanRaalte, Social Service Committee Vice Chair



Jim Winkler, Social Services Committee



Steve Schreier, Social Services Committee Secretary



Bill Liebert. Social Services Committee

cc:

Senator Tom Tiffany

Representative Rob Swearingen

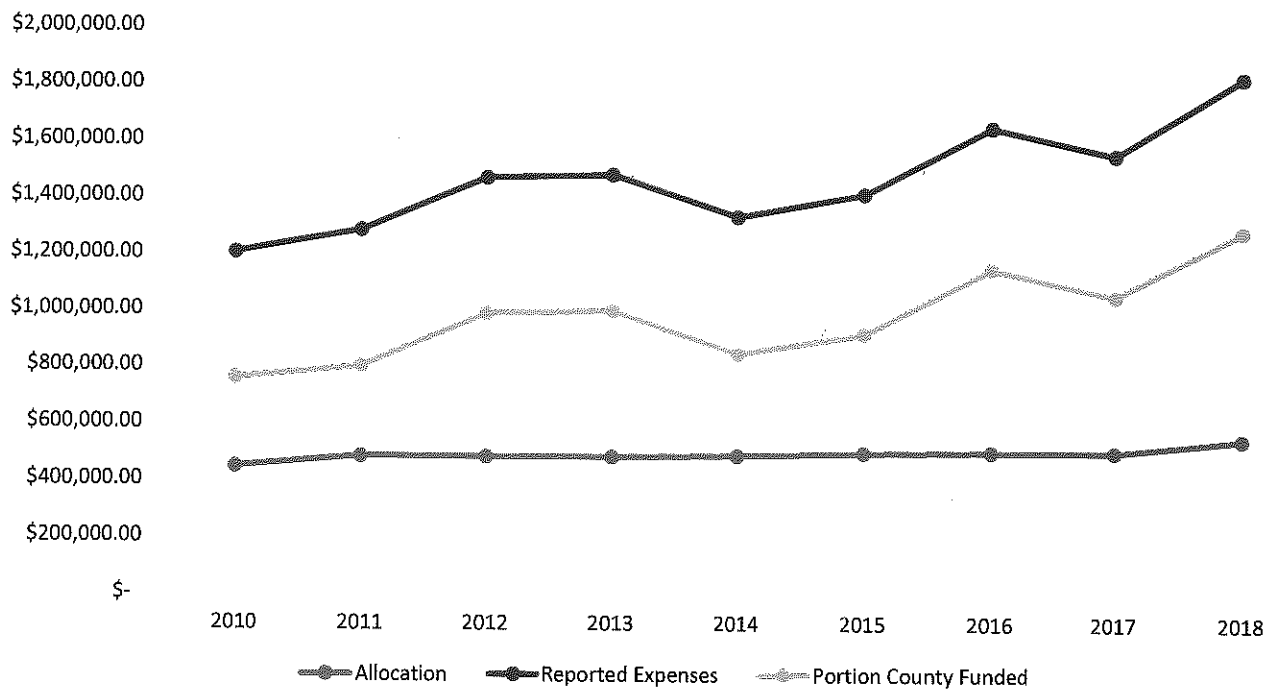
Representative Mary Felzkowski

Secretary Emilie Amundson, Wisconsin Department of Children and Families

Secretary Joel Brennan, Wisconsin Department of Administration

Dave Hintz, Oneida County Board Chair

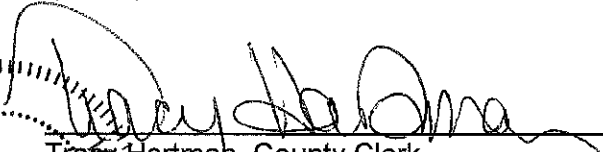
Children and Families Base Allocation Funding

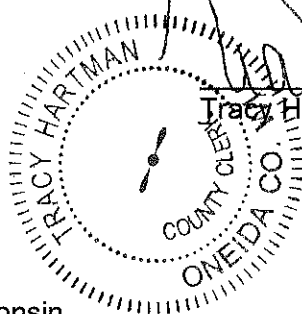


STATE OF WISCONSIN)
County of Oneida)

I, Tracy Hartman, County Clerk in and for said County, do hereby certify that the foregoing copy has been compared by me with the original Resolution #15-2019 adopted by the Oneida County Board of Supervisors at the regular meeting held on January 15, 2019; that it is a true and correct transcript therefrom and of the whole thereof, as the same remains of record in my office.

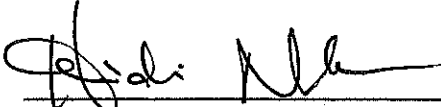
In Witness Whereof, I have hereunder set my hand and affixed the seal of the County Clerk of Oneida County at my office in Rhinelander, Wisconsin on January 15, 2019.

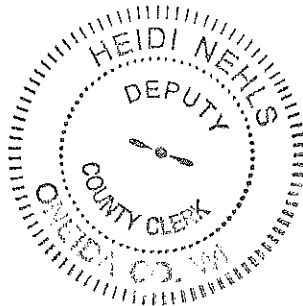

Tracy Hartman, County Clerk



State of Wisconsin
County of Oneida

This Document was signed before me on January 15, 2019 by Tracy Hartman.


Notary Public, Oneida County, Wisconsin
My Term Expires 12-31-21



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RESOLUTION # 15-2019

Resolution to Increase Funding and Oversight Reforms for
Wisconsin's Child Protective Services System

Resolution offered by the Supervisors of the Social Services Committee

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 Child 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 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, 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

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

51 WHEREAS, the children within Wisconsin's CPS system are too important to allow the
52 current level of under resourcing, oversight gaps, and disparity of attention, while shifting the
53 burden to property taxpayers.
54

55 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Oneida County Board of Supervisors
56 does hereby request that the state of Wisconsin increase the Children and Family Aids
57 Allocation to counties in the 2019-21 state biennial budget by \$30 million annually in order to
58 cover a greater share of out-of-home care costs and increase staffing levels based on the
59 caseload standards developed by the Wisconsin County Human Services Association (WCHSA)
60 so Wisconsin's CPS system can meet its obligations; and
61

62 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Oneida County Board of Supervisors urges the
63 state of Wisconsin to close critical oversight gaps by creating legislative mechanisms to review
64 the CPS resource needs of all counties as part of the biennial budget process and ensure an
65 appropriate committee provide ongoing policy guidance to respond to emerging CPS trends and
66 ongoing system needs; and
67

68 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Governor
69 Tony Evers, the Department of Children and Families Secretary, the Department of
70 Administration Secretary, area legislators, and the Wisconsin Counties Association.
71

72
73 Vote Required: Majority = X 2/3 Majority = _____ 3/4 Majority = _____
74

75 The County Board has the legal authority to adopt: Yes X No _____ as reviewed
76 by the Corporation Counsel, [Signature], Date:
77 12/5/18
78

79 Approved by the Social Services Committee this 27th day of November, 2018.
80

81 Consent Agenda Item: ___ YES ___ NO
82

83
84 Offered and passage moved by:

85 [Signature]
86 Supervisor
87 [Signature]
88 Supervisor
89 [Signature]
90 Supervisor
91 [Signature]
92 Supervisor
93 [Signature]
94 Supervisor
95

96
97 20 Ayes

98 0 Nays

99 1 Absent
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101

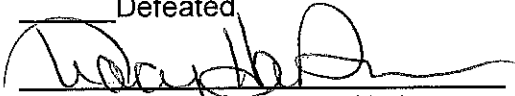
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Abstain

Adopted

by the County Board of Supervisors this 15 day of January, 2018⁹

Defeated



Tracy Hartman, County Clerk



David Hintz, County Board Chair

Resolution: # 15-2019

Supervisors	AYE	NAV	ABS	ABSTAIN
Liebert	X			
Ives	X			
Holewinski	X			
Fried	X			
Pence	X			
Oettinger	X			
Winkler	X			
Fisher	—	—	X	
Mott	X			
Paszak	X			
VanRaalte	X			
Almekinder	X			
Sorensen	X			
Timmons	X			
Cushing	X			
Metropulos	X			
Jensen	X			
Krolczyk	X			
Schreier	X			
Kelly	X			
Hintz	X			
TOTALS	20		1	
TAGS				
Meredith Weitz				
Ben Kebusiak	X			

Resolution #15 - 2019: Offered by the Supervisors of the Social Services Committee urging the State of Wisconsin to increase funding and oversight reforms for Wisconsin's child protective services system.