

**SAWYER COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-32**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 51.42 and Wis. Stat. § 51.437, Sawyer County (the “County”) is legally responsible for the cost of mental health placements/commitments in mental health institutes as designed by the Wisconsin Department of Health (“DHS”);

**WHEREAS**, the severity of care in patients subject to mental health placements pursuant to Wis. Stat. Ch. 51 has continued to increase on a yearly basis, which has resulted in longer and more costly placements;

**WHEREAS**, since 2013, mental health institute placement options have significantly decreased, due in part to the impacts of Medicaid reimbursement requirements, reimbursements being too low to sustain the State of Wisconsin’s business to provide inpatient services, and the resulting impact of overall mental health service provision sustainability, thereby resulting in facilities eliminating inpatient mental health services that meet the statutory and DHS requirements for County-paid treatment;

**WHEREAS**, the Winnebago Mental Health Institute (“WMHI”) became the default placement location due to other mental health facility and hospital closings;

**WHEREAS**, WMHI does not accept Medicaid assignment for adult patients receiving care in mental health placements/commitments in mental health institutions pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 51.42 and Wis. Stat. § 51.437;

**WHEREAS**, since 2013, due to increasing costs and reduced Medicaid reimbursement, the County annually exceeds its mental health inpatient budget and is forced to draw from the County fund balance to cover WMHI mental health inpatient expenditures required by Wis. Stat. § 51.42, Wis. Stat. § 51.437, and other statutory and DHS requirements;

**WHEREAS**, the County continues to experience significant budget shortfalls due to statutory restrictions on the County’s ability to increase revenues, including the prohibition of increasing its levy limit;

**WHEREAS**, the County’s fund balance is alarmingly low and it is unsustainable to continue drawing on the County fund balance for increasing amounts paid to WMHI and the State of Wisconsin by the County as required by Wis. Stat. § 51.42, Wis. Stat. § 51.437, and other statutory and DHS requirements, particularly in light of the upward trend for WMHI mental health inpatient expenditures;

**WHEREAS**, the County has been and continues to seek options for a sustainable solution for costs to be paid by the County pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 51.42, Wis. Stat. § 51.437, and other DHS requirements; however, due to statutory and other state restrictions on the County’s ability to increase revenues that may be used for the mental health inpatient budget, the County must look to outside sources for assistance;

**WHEREAS**, the County has determined that in order to meet its financial obligations under the Wisconsin Statutes and continue to comply with Wis. Stat. § 51.42, Wis. Stat. § 51.437, and other statutory and DHS requirements, the actions set forth below must be taken;

**WHEREAS**, the County Health and Human Services Board ("HHS Board"), at its meeting on July 7, 2020, reviewed the subject matter set forth in this Resolution and voted to recommend that the County Board of Supervisors adopt this Resolution at the County Board of Supervisors meeting on July 16, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the County Board of Supervisors, at its meeting on July 16, 2020, discussed the subject matter of this Resolution.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors does ordain as follows:

1. The Recitals set forth above are true and accurate, and are incorporated herein.
2. In order for the County to meet its financial obligations under the Wisconsin Statutes, to provide the required services set forth in the Wisconsin Statutes, including the payment of state mental health institution costs pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 51.42, Wis. Stat. § 51.437, and others statutory and DHS requirements, the State of Wisconsin must provide one of the options set forth below:
  - a. The State of Wisconsin shall pay for long-term placements and ongoing treatment in State mental health institutions required by applicable law that result in placement for 30 days or more in a given calendar year (January 1 to December 31).
  - b. WMHI must be mandated to accept Medicaid assignment to offset the costs of the County's total payment obligations pursuant Wis. Stat. § 51.42, Wis. Stat. § 51.437, and other statutory and DHS requirements.
3. The Wisconsin State Legislature is urged to develop and support legislation to fund additional mental health institute facilities, both for emergency, standard and long-term placements.
4. The County shall continue to seek and analyze other options to pay for required mental health institution costs pursuant Wis. Stat. § 51.42, Wis. Stat. § 51.437, and other statutory and DHS requirements, and the County shall remain committed to working with DHS and other counties to assist in securing a sustainable mental health institute funding solution for the County, its residents and visitors, and the individuals for whom the County has a legal and moral obligation to care.
5. The County Health and Human Service Department Director is hereby directed to take all steps the Director may deem, in the Director's professional judgment,

reasonable and necessary to address the issues set forth in this Resolution and to secure solutions for said issues.

6. The County Clerk is hereby directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Office of the Wisconsin Governor, all members of the Wisconsin State Legislature, the Wisconsin Counties Association, and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services Secretary.

(Signatures on separate page)

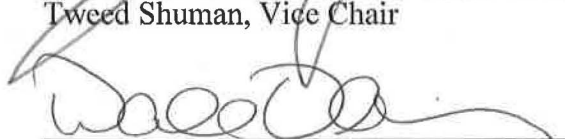
This Resolution is recommended for adoption by the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors at its meeting on July 16, 2020 by this Sawyer County Health and Human Services Board on this July 7, 2020.



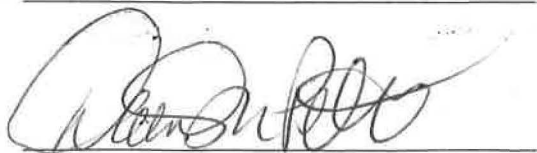
Dale Schleeter, Chairman



Tweed Shuman, Vice Chair



Dale Olson, County Board Member



Dawn Petit, County Board Member



Chuck Van Etten, County Board Member

Lorraine Gouge, LCO Tribal Member

Dr. Sabrina Dunlap,  
Public Health Care Professional



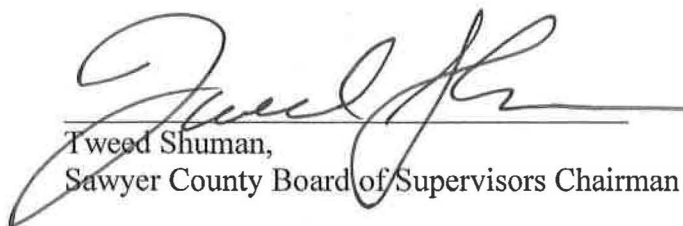
Carol Pearson, Community Member



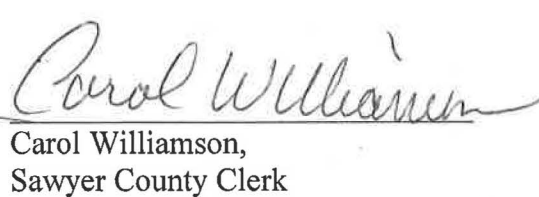
Jennifer Vobornik, Community Member

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This Resolution is hereby adopted by the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors this 16<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2020.



Tweed Shuman,  
Sawyer County Board of Supervisors Chairman



Carol Williamson,  
Sawyer County Clerk