



**DOOR COUNTY**

**Resolution No. 2019-01**

**REQUESTING INCREASED FUNDING  
AND OVERSIGHT REFORMS FOR WISCONSIN'S  
CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES SYSTEM**

1 **TO THE DOOR COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**  
2

3 **WHEREAS**, The Wisconsin child welfare system is county-operated and state-supervised,  
4 except Milwaukee County, where the system is administered by the Wisconsin Department of  
5 Children and Families (DCF), Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services (DMCPS); and  
6

7 **WHEREAS**, DCF provides insufficient funding to counties for the provision of child abuse  
8 and neglect services including prevention, investigation, treatment, and out-of-home placement  
9 costs, though the state has primary responsibility for compliance with federal requirements and  
10 shares liability for ensuring the system is meeting its obligations to children and families in all  
11 72 counties; and  
12

13 **WHEREAS**, In recent years the state of Wisconsin added numerous mandates and practice  
14 expectations which increased county child protective services (CPS) workload and costs; and  
15

16 **WHEREAS**, The opioid and methamphetamine epidemics have brought Wisconsin's child  
17 welfare system to a point of crisis, with increasing concern about the system's ability to meet  
18 its obligations to children and families; and  
19

20 **WHEREAS**, The capacity for counties to continue to bear the lion's share of financial  
21 responsibility to address this crisis has been exhausted, as rising county contributions to the  
22 CPS system have far outpaced increases to the DCF Children and Family Aids allocation and  
23 counties have used reserve funding to cover CPS expenses and increase staffing; and  
24

25 **WHEREAS**, Maintaining sufficient resources for Wisconsin's child welfare system is critical  
26 to secure the safety and future of our most vulnerable children; and  
27

28 **WHEREAS**, Without a proportional increase in the DCF Children and Family Services  
29 allocation, the CPS system has been stressed for over a decade, causing caseloads for CPS  
30 workers to grow to unreasonable levels, contributing to high levels of staff turnover in some  
31 counties and an overrun of out-of-home care costs above what counties can sustain within  
32 available resources; and  
33

34 **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin's CPS system leaves significant gaps in state-level oversight for all  
35 counties except Milwaukee County, including the absence of caseload standards, no process  
36 for regular legislative evaluation and prioritization of CPS needs and the absence of a legislative  
37 committee that provides regular policy guidance concerning CPS system issues such as  
38 adequate funding, performance, cost sharing and long-term stability; and  
39

40 **WHEREAS**, Along with DMCPS, all eleven of Wisconsin's peer states with county-  
41 administered CPS systems have either adopted caseload standards for CPS caseworkers,  
42 completed thorough workload studies as a basis of determining funding needs, or otherwise  
43 have made significant recommendations related to keeping CPS workloads manageable; and  
44



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CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES SYSTEM**

ROLL CALL Board Members	Aye	Nay	Exc.
AUSTAD			
BACON			
BULTMAN			
CHOMEAU			
D. ENGLEBERT			
R. ENGLEBERT			
ENIGL			
FISHER			
GUNNLAUGSSON			
HALSTEAD			
KOCH			
KOHOUT			
LIENAU			
LUNDAHL			
NEINAS			
NORTON			
ROBILLARD			
SCHULTZ			
VIRLEE			
VLIES WOTACHEK			
WAIT			

**BOARD ACTION**

Vote Required: Majority Vote of a Quorum

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Motion to Approve      Adopted

1st \_\_\_\_\_ Defeated

2nd \_\_\_\_\_

Yes: \_\_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_\_ Exc: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_, Corp. Counsel

Reviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_, Administrator

**FISCAL IMPACT:** There is no additional fiscal implication with the adoption of this resolution.  
STW

**Certification:**  
I, Jill M. Lau, Clerk of Door County, hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution that was adopted on the 22nd day of January, 2019 by the Door County Board of Supervisors.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jill M. Lau  
County Clerk, Door County

1        **WHEREAS**, The children within Wisconsin's CPS system are too  
2 important to allow the current level of under resourcing, oversight  
3 gaps and, disparity of attention, while shifting the burden to property  
4 taxpayers.

5  
6        **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Door County  
7 Board of Supervisors does hereby request that the state of  
8 Wisconsin increase the Children and Family Aids Allocation to  
9 counties in the 2019-21 state biennial budget by \$30 million annually  
10 in order to cover a greater share of out-of-home care costs and  
11 increase staffing levels needed to meet the growing workload so  
12 Wisconsin's CPS system can meet its obligations.

13  
14        **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Wisconsin Counties  
15 Association urges the state of Wisconsin to close critical oversight  
16 gaps by creating legislative mechanisms to review the CPS resource  
17 needs of all counties as part of the biennial budget process and  
18 ensure an appropriate committee provide ongoing policy guidance to  
19 respond to emerging CPS trends and ongoing system needs.

20  
21        **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this resolution be  
22 sent to Governor Tony Evers, Department of Children and Families  
23 Secretary Eloise Anderson, Department of Administration Secretary  
24 Ellen Nowak, area legislators, and the Wisconsin Counties  
25 Association.

27

**SUBMITTED BY:  
HUMAN SERVICES BOARD**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Helen Bacon, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Laura Vlies Wotachek

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bob Bultman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Megan Lundahl

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nissa Norton

Wayne Kudick  
Thomas Leist  
Joe Miller  
Robert Rau