



DOUGLAS COUNTY

COUNTY BOARD CHAIR

Mark Liebaert

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DOUGLAS COUNTY MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Douglas County is to provide cost-effective services, with equal access to all citizens; to continue and enhance partnerships; to responsibly manage our resources and plan for the future.

October 23, 2018

TO: Governor Scott Walker Eloise Anderson, WI Dept. of Children & Families Secretary
Wisconsin Counties Assn. Ellen Nowak, WI Department of Administration Secretary
State Representative Milroy State Representative Beth Meyers
State Senator Janet Bewley

SUBJECT: Douglas County, Wisconsin
Resolution #61-18: Child Protective Services - Increased Funding and Oversight Reforms Requested

Attached is the above referenced Resolution #61-18, certified and adopted by the Douglas County Board of Supervisors at their October 18, 2018, meeting.

Your support for the intent of this Resolution is appreciated.

Best regards,

//Mark Liebaert, Chair
Douglas County Board of Supervisors
mark.liebaert@douglascountywi.org

ML/pt

Enclosures

Roll Call		
District Number	Yes	No
1. Pomush		
2. Vacant		
3. Finn		
4. Clark		
5. Baker		
6. Leino		
7. Glazman		
8. Raunio		
9. Jaques		
10. Quam		
11. Finendale		
12. Lear		
13. Allen		
14. Ryan		
15. Hendrickson		
16. Luostari		
17. Liebaert		
18. Moen		
19. Long		
20. Borgeson		
21. Bergman		
Roll: Ayes _____ Noes _____ Absent _____ Abstain _____ Passed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _____ Lost _____ Refer _____ Amend <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _____ Other _____		
Rev. 04-17-18		

RESOLUTION #61-18
RESOLUTION BY THE DOUGLAS COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Subject: Child Protective Services System – Increased Funding and Oversight Reforms Requested

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

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

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Rev. 04-17-18		

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

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 Douglas County Board of Supervisors does hereby 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.

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.

BE IT STILL FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Scott Walker, Department of Children and Families Secretary Eloise Anderson, Department of Administration Secretary Ellen Nowak, area legislators, and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

Dated this 18th day of October, 2018.

(Committee Action: Unanimous)
(Fiscal Note: None)

Certified by Douglas County
Clerk Susan T. Sandvick
//Susan T. Sandvick
October 18, 2018

ACTION: Motion by Quam, second Raunio, to adopt. Motion by Allen, second Lear, to amend resolution and sponsor by County Board. Motion carried. Motion to adopt as amended, carried.