

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED FUNDING IN THE
CHILDREN AND FAMILY AIDS ALLOCATION**

TO THE HONORABLE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF DODGE COUNTY, WISCONSIN,

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families provides funding to counties through the Children and Family Aids (CFA) allocation for the provision of child abuse and neglect services, including prevention, investigation, treatment, and out-of-home placement costs; and,

WHEREAS, base funding for statewide child welfare services has only increased once since the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families was created in 2009, by \$5 million in 2018; and,

WHEREAS, from 2013 to 2017, out-of-home care costs have increased 18% statewide, from \$81.4 million to \$95.7 million; and,

WHEREAS, county tax levy currently represents 63% of funding for child welfare services; however, counties are only required to match the CFA allocation at 9.89%, therefore, the county overmatch rate is currently exceeds 1600%; and,

WHEREAS, over the past few years, the child welfare workload has increased to unacceptable and unmanageable ratios in all counties across the state, resulting in a greater risk of negative outcomes for children and families; and,

WHEREAS, counties are struggling to recruit and retain child welfare workers due to these high caseload ratios, with increasing stress taking its toll and causing many experienced child welfare workers to leave the profession; and,

WHEREAS, the total number of child protective services (CPS) referrals statewide has increased by 43% since 2007 – from 55,895 CPS referrals in 2007 to 79,693 CPS referrals in 2017; and the total number of CPS referrals in Dodge County has increased by 37% since 2014 – from 526 CPS referrals in 2014 to 723 CPS referrals through September 2018; and,

WHEREAS, the total number of children in out-of-home care statewide has increased by 24% from 2012 through Q1 of 2018 – from 6,263 children in 2012 to 7,802 children by March 2018; and the total number of children in out-of-home care in Dodge County has increased by 60% since January 2014 – from 50 children in out-of-home care in January 2014 to 80 children in out-of-home care in August 2018; and,

WHEREAS, the total number of screened-in CPS reports statewide has increased by 9% since 2011 – from 18,706 screened-in CPS reports in 2011 to 27,226 screened-in CPS reports in 2017; and the total number of screened-in CPS reports in Dodge County has increased by 9% since 2012 – from 278 screened-in CPS reports in 2012 to 304 screened-in CPS reports in 2017; and,

WHEREAS, the total percentage of children removed from their home statewide because of caretaker drug abuse has increased 119% since 2011; and the total percentage of children removed from their home in Dodge County because of caretaker drug abuse has increased 35% since 2014; and,

1
2 **WHEREAS**, the total number of Children in Need of Protection and Services (CHIPS) petitions
3 filed with the court statewide has increased 15% from 2008 to 2017; and the total number of CHIPS
4 petitions filed with the court in Dodge County has increased by 62% since 2012 – from 47 CHIPS
5 petitions filed with the court in 2012 to 76 CHIPS petitions filed with the court in 2017; and,
6

7 **WHEREAS**, a leading cause of these increases is the use of heroin, opiates, and
8 methamphetamines by caretakers; and,
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10 **WHEREAS**, it is critical that counties have the resources necessary to ensure the safety of
11 children in all areas of the state; and,
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13 **WHEREAS**, with the county tax levy caps, counties are struggling to identify resources to
14 increase child welfare staff, especially given the significant overmatch counties already put into the
15 human services system;
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17 **SO, NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Dodge County Board of Supervisors
18 does hereby request that the state of Wisconsin, in its 2019-2021 state biennial budget, increase funding
19 to counties in the Children and Family Aids allocation by the amount of \$30 million annually, to assist
20 counties in serving the increasing number of children and families in the child welfare system; and,
21

22 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the Dodge County Clerk is hereby authorized and directed
23 to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, all Wisconsin State
24 Legislators with a constituency within Dodge County, and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

All of which is respectfully submitted this 18th day of December, 2018.

Dodge County Human Services and Health Board:

Mary J. Bobholz

Kira Sheahan Malloy
Kira Sheahan-Malloy

Stephanie Justmann
Stephanie Justmann

Jennifer Keyes
Jennifer Keyes

Becky Glewen
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David Godshall
David Godshall

Mark Roesch
Mark Roesch

Lois Augustson
Lois Augustson

Timothy Kemmel
Timothy Kemmel

ADOPTED
BY DODGE COUNTY BOARD

DEC 18 2018

AYES 33 NOES 0
ABSENT 0
ABSTAIN 0

Vote Required: Majority of Members present.

Resolution Summary: A resolution in support of increased funding in the children and family aids allocation.

Raren J. Gibson
County Clerk