

RESOLUTION NO. 48-11-18
REQUESTING INCREASED FUNDING FOR WISCONSIN'S
CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES SYSTEM

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. Out-of-home placement expenses alone have increased for counties by approximately \$15 million between 2013 and 2017, counties' overmatch for Calendar Year 2016 Children and Family Aids allocation exceeded 1,600 percent, and it is estimated that it will cost an additional \$36.8 million to hire additional Child Protective Services (CPS) workers and supervisors across the State of Wisconsin to meet the obligations of the CPS system as determined by nationally accepted, and Wisconsin County Human Services Association (WCHSA) approved, caseload standards; and

WHEREAS, 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 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, the CPS system has been stressed for over a decade, contributing to high levels of staff turnover and a lack of out-of-home care resources; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Waushara 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 approved by WCHSArob so Wisconsin's CPS system can meet its obligations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Waushara County Board of Supervisors urges the State of Wisconsin to create legislative mechanisms to review the CPS resource needs of all counties as part of the biennial budget process and ensure an appropriate response to emerging CPS trends and ongoing system needs; and

BE IT 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.

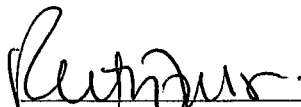
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Ayes ___ Nays ___ Abstain ___ Absent ___ Voice Vote

Approved and adopted this 6th day of November 2018.

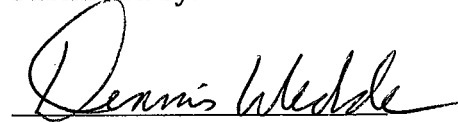
Denied this 6th day of November 2018.

Approved as to Form:



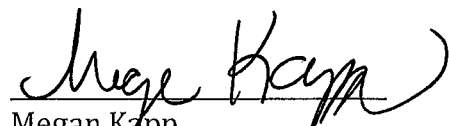
Ruth Zouski
Corporation Counsel

Submitted by:




Dennis Wedde, Chair
Waushara County Human Services Board

Attest:



Megan Kapp
Waushara County Clerk

Signed by:



Donna R. Kalata, Chair
Waushara County Board of Supervisors