

**RESOLUTION NO. 19-21**

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES FUNDING**

**WHEREAS**, Pepin County like other counties across Wisconsin, continue to experience the effects of increasingly aging population such as the need for additional health care, dementia care, and long-term care for disabled and aging seniors who can no longer care for themselves or who have long term cognition needs; and

**WHEREAS**, Adult Protective Service agencies are statutorily required to be the responsibility of each county in Wisconsin; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2006 funding from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services for Adults at Risk and Elder Abuse Funds were allocated to assist seniors in need of protection; and

**WHEREAS**, this funding has remained flat since its inception, while the numbers of elders at risk and in need of protection have risen; and

**WHEREAS**, the Wisconsin Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources indicates statewide reporting of elder abuse has nearly tripled in 17 years -- from 3,200 cases in 2001, to nearly 9,000 in 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the Wisconsin Department of Administration, the percentage of Pepin County residents over 60 years of age is projected to grow from between 31%-40% in 2020 to between 41% and 51% by 2035; and

**WHEREAS**, this increased service activity over time has created an increased financial and staffing burden for counties across Wisconsin; and

**WHEREAS**, Pepin County has noted an increase in spending on Adult Protective Services. Pepin County average annual costs from 2010-2015 were \$22,567. Average annual costs from 2016-2020 were \$48,043; and

**WHEREAS**, referred adults in need of protection are more likely to have complex needs such as the presence of long-term cognition issues and difficult behaviors such as aggression. A decrease in residential programs able to treat these needs as well as lack of community-based providers and resources for caregivers has resulted in service gaps for these clients; and

**WHEREAS**, difficulty in finding appropriate residential placements has created ethical and dangerous situations for some adults in need of protection as well as police officers, care providers, local hospitals, and other health care facilities who are unable to safely care for these adults. In some instances, up to 40 facilities have been contacted who have stated they will not accept an adult in need of protection. There have been situations where an individual has languished over a year in facilities designed for short stays and not designed to treat long-term care needs.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Pepin County Board of Supervisors urges Wisconsin Counties Human Services Association (WCHSA), Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA), and the State legislature to review and address the need for increased funding for adult protection.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Wisconsin Department of Health Services work with Wisconsin Counties to develop a plan for increasing capacity of adults in need of protection with long-term cognition issues and difficult behaviors such as aggression needing residential services. A copy of this resolution is to be forwarded by the County Clerk to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, State Senators and State Representatives representing Pepin County, Wisconsin DHS, WCHSA and WCA for consideration.

**RECOMMENDED BY THE PEPIN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES BOARD:**

/s/ Tessa King, Chair

COMMITTEE MEMBERS VOTE

In favor - 7 Oppose - 0 Absent - 0 Abstain - 0

**FISCAL IMPACT REVIEWED** – As costs continue to increase as noted above, due to levy limits and limited additional funding sources these increased expenses cannot be absorbed by the County without expense reductions in other programs or services offered or additional funding being obtained.

/s/ Pamela Hansen  
Finance Director

    X      
Recommend

\_\_\_\_\_  
Not Recommend

**RECOMMENDED BY THE PEPIN COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE:**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS VOTE

/s/ Tom Milliren, Committee Chair

In Favor - 5    Oppose - 0    Absent - 0    Abstain - 0

**COUNTY BOARD ACTION:**

  X   ADOPTED

\_\_\_\_ DEFEATED

\_\_\_\_ TABLED

by the Pepin County Board of Supervisors on this 21<sup>st</sup> day of April 2021  
In Favor – 12    Opposed - 0    Absent – 0    Abstain - 0

/s/ Audrey Bauer  
County Clerk

/s/ Tom Milliren  
County Board Chair

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