



BKV

Motion: Adopted: Lost:
 1st Clendenning Tabled:
 2nd Leichtnam Absent:
 No: 0 Yes: 19
 Number of votes required:
 Majority Two-thirds
 Reviewed by: PAK, Corp Counsel
 Reviewed by: EN, Finance Dir.

INTENT & SYNOPSIS: To advocate for increased mental health funding to be included in the 2025-2027 state biennial budget.

FISCAL NOTE: No cost to Wood County, additional state funding would reduce the burden on Wood County taxpayers.

WHEREAS, Wood County is concerned that the public mental health system in Wisconsin is in need of additional resources to respond appropriately to the needs of individuals with persistent mental illness and those experiencing a mental health crisis; and

WHEREAS, state law designates counties with the responsibility for the well-being, treatment, and care of individuals with mental illness, and serving those without private insurance coverage; and

WHEREAS, the Medical Assistance program (MA) covers an array of mental health services, ranging from office-based therapy to inpatient hospitalization, and many of these services are delivered by counties; and

WHEREAS, Community Support Programs (CSP) offer intensive community-based care for adults whose mental illness and functional limitations might otherwise require them to need institutionalized care. Counties use CSP services to keep people out of extended hospitalizations and support people in the community following emergency detentions; and

WHEREAS, counties are required to provide Crisis intervention services including an emergency mental health services program to serve persons in crisis situations; at a minimum, 24-hour crisis telephone service and 24-hour in-person response on an on-call basis; and

WHEREAS, while the state pays the full cost of most MA services, when it comes to county-based CSP and Crisis mental health services, the county finances the cost of the services up front, and receives MA reimbursement for only the federal share for that service, and

WHEREAS, Community Aids funding has not kept pace over the years with increased county costs for services, resulting in counties bearing a disproportionate share of CSP and Crisis service costs from county tax levy; and

WHEREAS, counties are limited in their capacity to use tax levy revenue due to state levy limits, so the lack of Community Aids increases combined with strict property tax controls makes it difficult for counties to maintain Crisis and CSP services; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the costs to county human service departments, counties and municipalities also incur law enforcement costs to transport and provide security for persons in a crisis; and

WHEREAS, the awareness of the 988 National Suicide & Crisis Lifeline has made mental health assessment and referral more readily available, resulting in more demand on the mental health crisis systems; and

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Donna Rozar, Chair Donna Rozar Rebecca Spiros Rebecca Spiros
 Lee Thao, Vice Chair Lee Thao Mary Jo Wheeler
 Tom Buttke Tom Buttke Dr. Kristin Iniguez Dr. Kristin Iniguez
 John Hokamp John Hokamp Leslie Kronstedt Leslie Kronstedt
 Laura Valenstein Laura Valenstein
 Adopted by the County Board of Wood County, this 20th day of August 20 24
Yvonne M. ... County Clerk James M. ... County Board Chairman



RESOLUTION# _____

Introduced by _____
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WHEREAS, stagnant state funding results in variations in the extent of services available across counties, wait lists for services, and eligible people receiving limited services; and

WHEREAS, the limited state funding for Crisis services makes it difficult for counties to implement new evidence-based services, such as mobile crisis workers that could meet law enforcement officers in the field for crisis calls, that would reduce the need for law enforcement involvement and provide a more trauma-informed response to crisis situations, and;

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's counties continue to cover the costs of mental health services for individuals who are not Medicaid eligible, and;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that the Wood County Board of Supervisors does hereby request that the state of Wisconsin, in its 2025-27 state biennial budget, provide state GPR funding to cover the full non-federal share of MA, CSP and Crisis services, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Wood County Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to send a copy of this Resolution to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, Wisconsin State Legislators with a constituency within Wood County, and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

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Adopted by the County Board of Wood County, this _____ day of _____ 19 _____ .

County Clerk

County Board Chairman