

**RESOLUTION ADVOCATING FOR AN INPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH FACILITY FOR NORTHERN WISCONSIN**

**WHEREAS**, Northern Wisconsin has limited resources when it comes to in-patient crisis care for individuals with mental illness; and

**WHEREAS**, recent closures of facilities places a higher burden on the facilities that remain; and

**WHEREAS**, local law enforcement are tasked with providing transportation of individuals experiencing a mental health crisis and they often spend hours waiting for facilities to respond to requests for in-patient beds; and

**WHEREAS**, a significant number of individuals experiencing a mental health crisis end up being transported by law enforcement to the State facility in Winnebago; and

**WHEREAS**, the great distance traveled puts a financial strain on counties and local municipal law enforcement agencies, not to mention the emotional strain experienced by the individuals being transported for several hours, often in handcuffs; and

**WHEREAS**, Pepin County would like to work with other counties in the Northern part of the State to lobby for State funding to establish an in-patient crisis facility to serve this underserved area; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED**, THAT the Pepin County Board of Supervisors urges the State Legislature and the Governor to provide funding (either another State facility or subsidies for private, not-for-profit organizations) to establish an in-patient acute behavioral health unit to serve the Northern counties.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** THAT the Pepin County Board of Supervisors encourages other counties in the Northern region of the State to join in the lobbying efforts and pass a similar resolution.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** THAT the County Clerk is directed to send this Resolution to the Governor, State Legislators, and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

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

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS VOTE**

  
Andrew (Andy) Winkler, Committee Chair

5 In favor    0 Oppose    1 Absent    0 Abstain

**FISCAL IMPACT REVIEWED** - Entire impact as noted above.

  
Pamela Hansen  
Finance Director

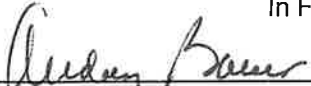
X Recommend    \_\_\_\_\_ Not Recommend

**COUNTY BOARD ACTION:**

X ADOPTED  
\_\_\_\_ DEFEATED  
\_\_\_\_ TABLED

by the Pepin County Board of Supervisors on this 21<sup>st</sup> day of Aug, 2024

In Favor 12    Opposed 0    Absent 0    Abstain 0

  
Audrey Bauer  
County Clerk

  
Tom Miller  
County Board Chair