

Resolution No. 46 – 11/24

Urging the State Legislature and Governor to Support Investment in Mental Health Funding

1 Moved/Sponsored by: Health and Human Services Board
2

3 **WHEREAS**, Walworth County (“County”) is concerned that the public mental health system in
4 Wisconsin requires additional resources to respond appropriately to the needs of individuals with
5 persistent mental illness and those experiencing a mental health crisis; and,
6

7 **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin counties are responsible for delivering behavioral health services and
8 providing for the well-being, treatment, and care of individuals living with mental health
9 concerns; and,
10

11 **WHEREAS**, Medicaid programs (MA) fund a range of mental health services, including
12 outpatient treatment, community-based programming, and inpatient hospitalization, and many of
13 these services are directly delivered by counties; and,
14

15 **WHEREAS**, Community Support Programs (CSP) offer intensive community-based care for
16 adults whose mental illness and functional limitations might otherwise require them to need
17 institutionalized care. Counties, including Walworth County, use CSP services to support people
18 in the community and prevent extended psychiatric hospitalizations; and,
19

20 **WHEREAS**, all Wisconsin counties are required to provide 24-hour Crisis Intervention services;
21 and,
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23 **WHEREAS**, for CSP and Crisis Intervention services, the County finances the cost of the
24 services up front and receives MA reimbursement for only the federal share for that service; and,
25

26 **WHEREAS**, Community aids funding has not increased commensurate with rising county costs
27 for services, resulting in counties bearing a disproportionate share of CSP and Crisis Intervention
28 service costs; and,
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30 **WHEREAS**, the rates for inpatient care at state hospitals has risen by 26.5% in the past four
31 years; and,
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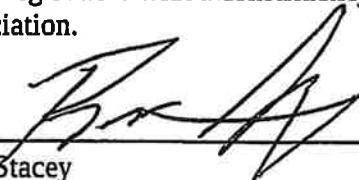
33 **WHEREAS**, in addition to the costs to county human service departments, counties and
34 municipalities also incur law enforcement costs to transport and provide security for persons in a
35 crisis; and,
36

37 **WHEREAS**, the limited state funding for crisis services makes it difficult for counties to
38 implement evidence-based services, such as Crisis Law Enforcement Liaisons, that would reduce
39 the need for law enforcement involvement in mental health crisis situations; and,
40


1 **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin counties continue to cover the costs of mental health services for
2 individuals who are uninsured.

3
4 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Walworth County Board of Supervisors
5 does hereby request that the Wisconsin State Legislature and Governor, in the 2025-27 state
6 biennial budget, provide state General Purpose Revenue (GPR) funding to cover the full non-
7 federal share of MA for CSP and Crisis Intervention services.

8
9 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Walworth County Clerk is hereby authorized and
10 directed to send a copy of this Resolution to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, Wisconsin
11 State Legislators with a constituency within Walworth County, and the Wisconsin Counties
12 Association.

13
14 
15 _____

16 Rick Stacey
17 County Board Chair

18 
19 _____

20 Susi Pike
21 County Clerk

22 County Board Meeting Date: November 12, 2024

Action Required: Majority Vote X Two-thirds Vote _____ Other _____

Policy and Fiscal Note is attached.

Reviewed and approved pursuant to Section 2-91 of the Walworth County Code of Ordinances:

Michael P. Cotter
F9D29D25CA9095DB226BD6D80C08DFA6 ready sign 10/30/2024
Michael P. Cotter Date
Corporation Counsel

Jessica Conley
EC4DC439F0A71BAED0CF037400E276CE ready sign 10/30/2024
Jessica Conley Date
Finance Director

Mark W. Luberda
D8B2A74B88C87888E9A8B556FDB8EA315 ready sign 10/31/2024
Mark W. Luberda Date
County Administrator

If unsigned, exceptions shall be so noted by the County Administrator.

This Resolution Ordinance was:

Adopted; Roll Call/U.C. Voice

Rejected/Referred/Laid Over

Ayes: Noes: Absent:

Date November 12, 2024

