

RESOLUTION 59-07

Retention of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) within the Wisconsin Department of Health Services

Whereas, the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) WIC Program has been efficiently and effectively administered in Wisconsin by the DHFS since 1974;

Whereas, federal legislation (42 USC 1786(b)(13) and regulatory (7 CFR 246.2) requirements specify that the WIC Program be administered in all States by "State health departments or comparable agency of each State" making WIC an integral part of a State's health services;

Whereas, by legislation, WIC is to serve at-risk women and young children as "an adjunct to health care during critical times of growth and development;"

Whereas, WIC Program eligibility is based upon health and nutrition risk criteria for women, infants, and children at, or below, 185% of the federal poverty limit and is NOT an entitlement program;

Whereas, by law, WIC must be administered by professional authorities such as physicians, dietitians, and medically trained health authorities who have the expertise to identify and determine medical and dietary risks and to make referrals to health care providers, as appropriate;

Whereas, the WIC Program is often the entry point or "gateway" program into the health care system for this at-risk population;

Whereas, under the administration of health services, WIC has been shown to reduce fetal deaths, infant mortality, low birth weight rates and iron deficiency anemia in children and to increase immunization rates;

Whereas, for each dollar spent on pregnant women in WIC, between \$2 and \$5 is saved in Medicaid costs due in large part to WIC working in close concert with maternal and child health including public health nursing, immunization, migrant and community health, Indian Health Services;

Whereas, the WIC Program is the infrastructure for public health nutrition in local communities across the state and the only existing infrastructure for the nutrition care of infants and young children with special health care needs; and

Whereas, the WIC Program is working to achieve public health outcomes as defined in *Healthiest Wisconsin 2010: A Partnership Plan to Improve the Health of the Public* and the *Wisconsin Nutrition and Physical Activity State Plan* by addressing health disparities, improving birth outcomes, promoting and supporting breastfeeding, working to address overweight and obesity by promoting and providing for consumption of fruits and vegetables

as well as participating in state and local food and nutrition coalitions;

Therefore be it resolved, the Polk County Board of Health and the Polk County Board of Supervisors does hereby urge Kevin R. Hayden, Secretary to the Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS); Michael Morgan, Secretary to the Department of Administration; the Honorable Governor James Doyle, Governor of Wisconsin; and the Wisconsin Legislature to retain the administration of the Wisconsin WIC Program within the Department of Health Services.

Effective Date: Upon passage.

Funding Amount: N/A

Date Finance Committee Advised: N/A

Finance Committee Recommendation: N/A

Approval as to Form: Jeffrey B. Fuge
Jeffrey B. Fuge, Corporation Counsel

Date submitted to County Board 7/17/07

County Board Action Adopted.

Submitted by the Polk County Board of Health:

Wanda Johnson
Diane Stoneking
Arne Jurgis
[Signature]
Tom Nilsson