

Resolution No 88-18

Requesting in Support of Increased Funding and Oversight Reforms for Wisconsin's Child Protective Services System

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin child welfare system is county-operated and state-supervised, except Milwaukee County, where the system is administered by the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF) through the Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services (DMCPS); and

WHEREAS, DCF provides insufficient funding to counties for the provision of child abuse and neglect services including prevention, investigation, treatment, and out-of-home placement costs, though the state has primary responsibility for compliance with federal requirements and shares liability for ensuring the system is meeting its obligations to children and families in all 72 counties; and

WHEREAS, in recent years the State of Wisconsin added numerous mandates and practice expectations which increased county child protective services (CPS) workload and costs; and

WHEREAS, the opioid and methamphetamine epidemics have brought Wisconsin's child welfare system to a point of crisis, with increasing concern about the system's ability to meet its obligations to children and families; and

WHEREAS, the capacity for counties to continue to bear the lion's share of financial responsibility to address this crisis has been exhausted, as rising county contributions to the CPS system have far outpaced increases to the DCF Children and Family Aids allocation and counties have used reserve funding to cover CPS expenses and increase staffing; and

WHEREAS, maintaining sufficient resources for Wisconsin's child welfare system is critical to secure the safety and future of our most vulnerable children; and

WHEREAS, without a proportional increase in the DCF Children and Family Services allocation to counties, the CPS system has been stressed for over a decade, causing caseloads for county CPS workers to grow to unreasonable levels, contributing to high levels of staff turnover in some counties and an overrun of out-of-home care costs above what counties can sustain within available resources; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's CPS system leaves significant gaps in state-level oversight for all counties except Milwaukee County, including the absence of caseload standards, no process for regular legislative evaluation and prioritization of CPS needs and the absence of a legislative committee that provides regular policy guidance concerning CPS system issues such as adequate funding, performance, cost sharing and long-term stability; and

WHEREAS, along with DMCPS, all eleven of Wisconsin's peer states with county-administered CPS systems have either adopted caseload standards for CPS caseworkers, completed thorough workload studies as a basis of determining funding needs, or otherwise have made significant recommendations related to keeping CPS workloads manageable; and

49 WHEREAS, the children within Wisconsin's CPS system are too important to allow the current
50 level of under resourcing, oversight gaps and, disparity of attention, while shifting the burden
51 to property taxpayers.

52
53 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Polk County Board of Supervisors does
54 hereby request that the State of Wisconsin increase the Children and Family Aids Allocation to
55 counties in the 2019-21 state biennial budget by \$30 million annually in order to cover a
56 greater share of out-of-home care costs and increase staffing levels based on the caseload
57 standards developed by the Wisconsin County Human Services Association (WCHSA) so
58 Wisconsin's CPS system can meet its obligations; and

59
60 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Polk County Board of Supervisors requests and
61 supports the Wisconsin Counties Association to urge the state of Wisconsin to close critical
62 oversight gaps by creating legislative mechanisms to review the CPS resource needs of all
63 counties as part of the biennial budget process and ensure an appropriate committee provide
64 ongoing policy guidance to respond to emerging CPS trends and ongoing system needs; and

65
66 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Scott
67 Walker, Department of Children and Families Secretary Eloise Anderson, Department of
68 Administration Secretary Ellen Nowak, Wisconsin State Senators and Assembly representatives
69 of Polk County, and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

Sponsored and Submitted on this 1st day of Nov, 2018.

BY:

Brad Olson, Supervisor, District #1

Doug Route, Supervisor, District #2

Dean Johansen, Chair,
Supervisor, District #3,

Chris Nelson, Supervisor, District #4

Tracy LaBlanc, Supervisor, District #5

Brian Masters, Supervisor, District #6

Michael Prichard, Supervisor, District #7

James Edgell, Supervisor, District #8

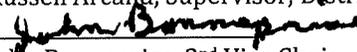
Kim O'Connell, Supervisor, District #9

Larry Jepsen, Supervisor, District #10

Jay Luke, 1st Vice Chair,
Supervisor, District #11

Michael Larsen, Supervisor, District #12

Russell Arcand, Supervisor, District #13



John Bonneprise, 2nd Vice Chair,
Supervisor, District #14

Joe DeMulling, Supervisor, District #15

Reviewed By County Administrator:


Jeffrey B. Fuge
Interim County Administrator

Fiscal Impact Note: This resolution presents no financial impact on the operations or budget of Polk County

Approved as to Form and Execution:


Malia T. Malone, Interim Corporation Counsel

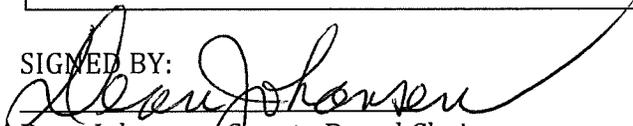
Legal Impact Note: The resolution presents no legal impact to the County or its operations.

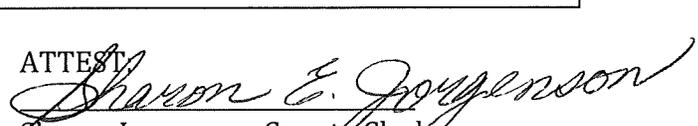
Excerpt of Minutes

At its regular business meeting on the 13th day of November, 2018, the Polk County Board of Supervisors acted upon Resolution No. 88-18: Requesting in Support of Increased Funding and Oversight Reforms for Wisconsin’s Child Protective Services System, as follows:

- Adopted by a majority of the members present by a vote of _____ in favor and _____ against.
- Adopted by unanimous voice vote.
- Adopted as amended. See Below.
- Defeated
- Other: _____

Insert amendment to resolution according to minutes:

SIGNED BY:

Dean Johansen, County Board Chairperson

ATTEST

Sharon Jorgenson, County Clerk

CERTIFIED COPY OF POLK COUNTY RESOLUTION

STATE OF WISCONSIN

COUNTY OF POLK

I Sharon E. Jorgenson, Polk County Clerk do hereby certify that the attached hereto and incorporated herein is a full, true and correct copy of Resolution No. 88-18: Resolution in Support of Increased Funding and Oversight Reforms for Wisconsin's Child Protective Services System adopted by the Polk County Board of Supervisors at its regular business meeting held on November 13, 2018

 11/15/18

Sharon E. Jorgenson, Polk County Clerk

Date