

# ***RESOLUTION NO.: 59—2024-25***

TO THE HONORABLE, THE OUTAGAMIE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

***MAJORITY***

1           Outagamie County (“County”) is concerned that the public human service system in  
2           Wisconsin is in need of additional resources to respond appropriately to the needs of  
3           individuals with persistent mental illness, those experiencing a mental health crisis, and other  
4           human service needs.

5           State law designates counties with the responsibility for the well-being, treatment, and care  
6           of individuals with mental illness and other human service needs, and serving those without  
7           private insurance coverage.

8           The Medical Assistance program (MA) covers an array of mental health services, ranging  
9           from office-based therapy to inpatient hospitalization, and many of these services are  
10          delivered by counties.

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

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

18  
19          While the state pays the full cost of most MA services, when it comes to county- based CSP  
20          and Crisis mental health services, the county finances the cost of the services up front, and  
21          receives MA reimbursement for only the federal share for that service.

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

25          Counties are limited in their capacity to use tax levy revenue due to state levy limits, so the  
26          lack of state human service aid increases combined with strict property tax controls make it  
27          difficult for counties to maintain Crisis, CSP and other human service programs.

28          If human services were operated directly by the state, annual increases would be provided to  
29          cover increased compensation costs for human services staff similar to the annual  
30          compensation increases provided to state employees.

31  
32          In addition to the costs to county human service departments, counties and municipalities  
33          also incur law enforcement costs to transport and provide security for persons in a crisis.  
34  
35

1 The awareness of the 988 National Suicide & Crisis Lifeline has made mental health  
2 assessment and referral more readily available, resulting in more demand on the mental  
3 health crisis systems.  
4

5 Stagnant state funding results in variations in the extent of services available across counties,  
6 wait lists for services, and eligible people receiving limited services.

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

11 Wisconsin’s counties continue to cover the costs of mental health services for individuals  
12 who are not Medicaid eligible.  
13

14 NOW THEREFORE, the undersigned members of the Health and Human Services Committee  
15 recommend adoption of the following resolution.

16 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Outagamie County Board of Supervisors does hereby respectfully  
17 request that the State of Wisconsin, in its 2025-2027 state biennial budget, provide state General Purpose  
18 Revenue (GPR) funding to cover:

- 19 • Full non-federal share of Medical Assistance (MA) Community Support Programs (CSP) and  
20 Crisis services.
- 21 • Annual increases to State Human Service Aids to cover increased compensation costs for human  
22 services staff  
23

24 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Outagamie County Clerk be directed to forward a copy  
25 of this resolution to the Wisconsin Counties Association, the State Senators and State Representatives  
26 representing Outagamie County, the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, and the Outagamie County  
27 Health and Human Services Director.

28 Dated this \_\_\_\_ day of October 2024  
29  
30  
31  
32

Respectfully Submitted,

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
COMMITTEE

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeff McCabe

\_\_\_\_\_  
Justin Krueger

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dustin Koury

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cathy Thompson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kelly Schroeder

Duly and officially adopted by the County Board on: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Board Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Clerk

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Vetoed: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
County Executive