

# ***Buffalo County Resolution***



**Drafted By:**  
David Rynders

**County Department:**  
Health and Human Services

**Presented Month/Year:**  
February, 2021

**Fiscal Impact:** YES/NO

**Involved Committees:**  
DHHS and Veterans  
Finance Committee

**CA Approved:** YES/NO

**RESOLUTION #** 21-03-05

## **A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES FUNDING**

**WHEREAS:** Buffalo County like other counties across Wisconsin, continue to experience the effects of an increasingly aging population such as the need for additional health care, dementia care, and long-term care for disabled and aging seniors who can no longer care for themselves or who have long term cognition needs and,

**WHEREAS:** Adult Protective Service agencies are statutorily required to be the responsibility of each county in Wisconsin and,

**WHEREAS:** In 2006 funding from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services for Adults at Risk and Elder Abuse Funds were allocated to assist seniors in need of protection and,

**WHEREAS:** This funding has remained flat since its inception, while the numbers of elders at risk and in need of protection have risen and,

**WHEREAS:** The Wisconsin Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources indicates statewide reporting of elder abuse has nearly tripled in 17 years -- from 3,200 cases in 2001, to nearly 9,000 in 2018; and

**WHEREAS:** Adult at Risk Incident Reports for persons with disabilities aged 18-59 increased from 1,861 to 2,974 in Wisconsin, demonstrating a 59.8% increase; and

**WHEREAS:** According to the Wisconsin Department of Administration, the percentage of Buffalo County residents over 60 years of age is projected to grow from 25% in 2018 to between 31% and 40% by 2025; and

**WHEREAS:** This increased service activity over time has created an increased financial and staffing burden for counties across Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS: Buffalo County has noted an increase in spending on Adult Protective Services. Buffalo County average annual costs from 2010-2015 were \$17,361. Average annual costs from 2016-2020 were \$114,896; and

WHEREAS: Referred adults in need of protection are more likely to have complex needs such as the presence of long-term cognition issues and difficult behaviors such as aggression. A decrease in residential programs able to treat these needs as well as lack of community-based providers and resources for caregivers has resulted in service gaps for these clients; and

WHEREAS: Difficulty in finding appropriate residential placements has created ethical and dangerous situations for some adults in need of protection as well as police officers, care providers, local hospitals, and other health care facilities who are unable to safely care for these adults. In some instances, up to 40 facilities have been contacted who have stated they will not accept an adult in need of protection. There have been situations where an individual has languished over a year in facilities designed for short stays and not designed to treat long-term care needs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:


That the Buffalo County Board of Supervisors urges Wisconsin Counties Human Services Association (WCHSA), Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA), and the State legislature to review and address the need for increased funding for adult protection; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Wisconsin Department of Health Services work with Wisconsin Counties to develop a plan for increasing capacity of adults in need of protection with long-term cognition issues and difficult behaviors such as aggression needing residential services. A copy of this resolution is to be forwarded by the County Clerk to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, State Senators and State Representatives representing Buffalo County, Wisconsin DHS, WCHSA and WCA for consideration.

Adopted at a duly called and noticed meeting of the Buffalo County Board of Supervisors on the

22 day of March, 2021.

  
County Clerk

ATTEST:

  
County Board Chairperson

Respectfully submitted:

Buffalo County Department of Health and Human Services and Veterans Committee

DHHS/Veterans Committee

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Mary Anne McMillan Urell, Chair

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Steve Nelson

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Brad Schmidtknecht

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Wendy Kleinschmidt

\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard Mueller

\_\_\_\_\_  
Carol McDonough

\_\_\_\_\_  
Larry Grisen

\_\_\_\_\_  
Vacant

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Vacant


Approved by Committee  
Original with signatures  
was misplaced.

Finance Committee

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dennis Bork, Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Max Weiss

*yes - via Teams*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
David Danzinger

  
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Brad Schmidtknecht

  
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Donald A. Hillert