



RESOLUTION # 39-24

RESOLUTION ADVOCATING FOR AN INPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH FACILITY FOR NORTHERN WISCONSIN

RUSK COUNTY

TO THE RUSK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ROLL CALL Board Members	AYE (Yes)	NAY (No)	Abstain / Excused
1. ALEC HAMPTON	✓		
2. JERRY BILLER	✓		
3. STACY ZIMMER	✓		
4. JOHN MOORE	✓		
5. TERRY WEDWICK	✓		
6. SHERRY WALLACE	✓		
7. SUZANNE VOHS	✓		
8. TOM CUDO	✓		
9. PHIL UNTERSCHUETZ	✓		
10. BRIAN COGGINS	✓		
11. PHIL SCHNEIDER	✓		
12. JIM MEYER	✓		
13. KURT GORSEGNER	✓		
14. JOHN KALEPP	✓		
15. TOM HANSON	✓		
16. LOIS GOODE	✓		
17. DAVE WILLINGHAM	✓		
18. MIKE RUSSELL	✓		
19. DAN GUDIS	✓		
TOTAL	19	0	0

1 WHEREAS, northern Wisconsin has limited resources when it comes to in-patient crisis care for individuals with mental health concerns; and,

2 WHEREAS, recent closures of facilities place a higher burden on facilities that remain open; and,

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4 WHEREAS, local law enforcement are tasked with providing transportation of individuals experiencing a mental health crisis and they often spend hours waiting for facilities to respond to requests for in-patient beds; and,

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7 WHEREAS, a significant number of individuals experiencing a mental health crisis end up being transported by law enforcement to the State facility in Winnebago; and,

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13 WHEREAS, the distance deputies travel from northern counties puts a large financial strain on county budgets related to transportation costs, overtime costs, and additional staffing costs, not to mention the emotional strain experienced by the individuals being transported for several hours, often in hand cuffs; and,

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19 WHEREAS, Rusk County would like to work with other counties in the northern part of the State to lobby for State funding to establish an in-patient crisis facility to serve this underserved area; and,

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23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rusk County Board of Supervisors does hereby urge the State Legislature and the Governor to provide funding (either another State facility or subsidies for private, not-for-profit organizations) to establish an in-patient acute behavioral health unit to serve the northern counties; and,

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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Rusk County Board of Supervisors encourages other counties in the northern region of the State to join in the lobbying efforts and pass a similar resolution; and,

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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Clerk is directed to send this Resolution to the Governor, State Legislators, the Wisconsin Counties Association, and other northern County Clerks upon passage.

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BOARD ACTION

Vote Required: Majority Vote of a Quorum

Motion to Approve Adopted

1st Schneider Defeated

2nd Russell

No: 0 Yes: 19 Exc: 0

Reviewed by: _____, Corp. Counsel

Reviewed by: Sherry Wallace, Finance Director

FISCAL IMPACT: (Note if there is any fiscal impact or not)

\$0

Certification:

I, Connie Meyer, Clerk of Rusk County, hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution that was adopted on the 23 day of July, 2024 by the Rusk County Board of Supervisors.

Connie Meyer
Connie Meyer
County Clerk, Rusk County

SUBMITTED BY:

Rusk County Health and Human Services Committee

Phil Schneider, Chairman

Lois Goode, Vice Chairman

Sherry Wallace
Sherry Wallace

John Moore

Tom Hanson
Tom Hanson