

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AND FUNDING ALLOCATION

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 Kathy	✓		
4. JOHN MOORE	✓		
5. TERRY WEDWICK	✓		
6. SHERRY WALLACE	VACANT		
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	18	0	0

BOARD ACTION

Vote Required: Majority Vote of a Quorum

Motion to Approve Adopted Defeated

1st Russell Defeated

2nd Gudis

No: 0 Yes: 18 Exc: 0

Reviewed by: _____, Corp. Counsel

Reviewed by: Terrie Wilk, Finance Director

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

N/A

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 22 day of October, 2024 by the Rusk County Board of Supervisors.

Connie Meyer
Connie Meyer
County Clerk, Rusk County

1 WHEREAS, Rusk County ("County") is concerned that the public mental health
2 system in Wisconsin is in need of additional resources to respond appropriately to the
3 needs of individuals with persistent mental illness and those experiencing a mental health
4 crisis; and

5 WHEREAS, state law designates counties with the responsibility for the well-
6 being, treatment, and care of individuals with mental illness, and serving those without
7 private insurance coverage; and

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

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

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

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

24 WHEREAS, Community Aids funding has not kept pace over the years with
25 increased county costs for services, resulting in counties bearing a disproportionate share
26 of CSP and Crisis service costs from county tax levy; and

27 WHEREAS, counties are limited in their capacity to use tax levy revenue due to
28 state levy limits, so the lack of Community Aids increases combined with strict property
29 tax controls makes it difficult for counties to maintain Crisis and CSP services; and

30 WHEREAS, in addition to the costs to county human service departments,
31 counties and municipalities also incur law enforcement costs to transport and provide
32 security for persons in a crisis; and

33 WHEREAS, the awareness of the 988 National Suicide & Crisis Lifeline has
34 made mental health assessment and referral more readily available, resulting in more
35 demand on the mental health crisis systems; and

36 WHEREAS, stagnant state funding results in variations in the extent of services
37 available across counties, wait lists for services, and eligible people receiving limited
38 services; and

39 WHEREAS, the limited state funding for Crisis services makes it difficult for
40 counties to implement new evidence-based services, such as mobile crisis workers that
41 could meet law enforcement officers in the field for crisis calls, that would reduce the
42 need for law enforcement involvement and provide a more trauma-informed response to
43 crisis situations, and;

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1 **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin's counties continue to cover the costs of mental health
2 services for individuals who are not Medicaid eligible, and;
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4 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Rusk County Board of
5 Supervisors does hereby request that the state of Wisconsin, in its 2025-27 state biennial
6 budget, provide state GPR funding to cover the full non-federal share of MA CSP and
7 Crisis services, and;
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9 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Rusk County Clerk is hereby authorized and
10 directed to send a copy of this Resolution to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
11 Wisconsin State Legislators with a constituency within Rusk County, and the Wisconsin
12 Counties Association.
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SUBMITTED BY:

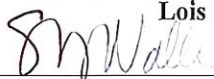
Rusk County Health and Human Services
Committee




Phil Schneider, Chairman




Lois Goode, Vice Chairman



Sherry Wallace



John Moore



Tom Hanson

