

RESOLUTION ADVOCATING FOR AN INPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH FACILITY FOR NORTHERN WISCONSIN

WHEREAS, Northern Wisconsin has limited resources when it comes to in-patient crisis care for individuals with mental illness; and

WHEREAS, recent closures of facilities places a higher burden on the facilities that remain; and

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

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

WHEREAS, the great distance traveled puts a financial strain on counties and local municipal law enforcement agencies, not to mention the emotional strain experienced by the individuals being transported for several hours, often in handcuffs; and

WHEREAS, Pepin 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

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, THAT the Pepin County Board of Supervisors urges 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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Pepin 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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the County Clerk is directed to send this Resolution to the Governor, State Legislators, and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

RECOMMENDED BY THE PEPIN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES BOARD:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS VOTE

Andrew Winkler
Andrew (Andy) Winkler, Committee Chair

5 In favor 0 Oppose 1 Absent 0 Abstain

FISCAL IMPACT REVIEWED - Entire impact as noted above.

Patricia Hansen
Finance Director

X Recommend Not Recommend

COUNTY BOARD ACTION:

X ADOPTED
 DEFEATED
 TABLED

by the Pepin County Board of Supervisors on this 21st day of Aug, 2024
In Favor 12 Opposed 0 Absent 0 Abstain 0

Audrey Bauer
County Clerk

Tom Miller
County Board Chair