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**COUNTY OF DUNN
MENOMONIE, WISCONSIN
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING**

In accordance with the provisions of Section 19.84, Wisconsin Statutes, notice is hereby given that a public meeting of the **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE** of the Dunn County Board of Supervisors will be held on **Wednesday, October 9, 2024 at 2:30 pm**, in Room 54 of the Dunn County Government Center, 3001 US Highway 12 East in Menomonie, Wisconsin.

A video recording of the meeting will be available for subsequent viewing on the Dunn County YouTube channel at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/@dunncounty1854>

Persons wishing to provide public comment may do so at the meeting or may submit written comments by sending an email beforehand to publiccomment@co.dunn.wi.us.

Items of business to be discussed or acted upon at this meeting are listed below:

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Call of the Roll
3. Approval of Minutes from May 8, 2024 meeting.
4. Public Comments
5. Consideration of Reports, Resolutions and Ordinances to the County Board from the Legislative Committee:
 - A. Resolution adopting the 2024-2025 Legislative Agenda
 - B. Resolution Supporting the Expansion of Medicaid
 - C. Resolution Supporting increased State Funding for Medical Assistance and Community Support Programs
6. Next Meeting: Scheduled as needed
7. Adjournment

Gary Stene, Chairperson

Signed: _____
Kristin Korpela
County Manager

Members of the public who require assistance in accessing the meeting, please call (715) 231-6505. Upon reasonable notice, the County will make efforts to accommodate the needs of disabled individuals through sign language, interpreters or other auxiliary aids. For additional information or to request the service, contact the County Human Resources Manager at 715-232-2429 (Office), 715-232-1324 (FAX) or 715-231-6406 (TDD) or by writing to the Human Resources Manager, Human Resources Department, 3001 US Hwy 12 E, Suite 225, Menomonie, Wisconsin 54751.

Minutes
Dunn County Board of Supervisors
Legislative Committee
Wednesday, May, 8, 2024

The Legislative Committee of the Dunn County Board met at 2:30 pm on Wednesday, May 8, 2024 in the Dunn County Government Center and via Zoom video conference.

1. Call to Order: Chairperson Stene called the meeting to order.
2. Call of the Roll: Supervisors present included McCullough, Morehouse, Kneer, Quinn, Vogl, Zons, Calabrese, Procknow and Hedlund.
3. Approval of Minutes from January 10, 2024 Meeting. Motion by Morehouse and second by Hedlund to approve the minutes from the January 10, 2024 meeting. Motion carried by voice vote.
4. Consideration of Action to be Taken by the Committee:
 - A. Discussion about cost of translation services: Katie Schalley, Clerk of Courts, informed the Committee about increased translation services costs. Matter was referred to Judiciary and Law Committee.
 - B. Discussion about interplay of gas tax and county tax: County pays state gas tax but not federal. Matter was referred to the Highway Committee.
 - C. Discussion about Medicaid Expansion: County did a resolution and advisory referendum regarding health care for all was on the 11/8/2022 ballot. The referendum passed 51% to 49%. Matter was referred to Health and Human Services Board.
 - D. Plan for Fall Legislative Agenda – Chair requests standing committee input.
5. Next Meeting: Scheduled as needed.
6. Adjournment: There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting adjourned.

Gary Stene, Chairperson

Signed:

Kristin Korpela
County Manager

COUNTY OF DUNN
RESOLUTION NO. _____

ADOPTING THE 2024 DUNN COUNTY LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Dunn County Board of Supervisors that the 2024-2025 Dunn County Legislative Agenda, recommended by the Legislative Committee and attached hereto, is hereby adopted, and that the Chair of the Dunn County Board of Supervisors is hereby directed to distribute said Agenda to all State elected officials representing the citizens of the County and to seek the support and participation of such officials in implementing the details of the Agenda.

Offered this 16th day of October, 2024, at Menomonie, Wisconsin.

OFFERED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE:

Adopted on: _____

ATTEST:

Gary Stene, Chair

Approved as to Form and Execution:

Andrew Mercil, County Clerk

Nicholas P. Lange, Corporation Counsel

Budget Impact: Approval of this resolution will have no impact on the 2024 budget.

Background Information: The adoption of new State and Federal legislation and changes to existing laws and policies affect the ability of counties to effectively and efficiently deliver services to their citizens. In recognition of this fact, the Dunn County Directional Plan, adopted March 16, 2016, includes an initiative to develop a Legislative Policy that identifies concerns important to the County and its residents, and encourages that efforts be made toward the enactment of legislation that is beneficial to its citizens. The Executive Committee of the Dunn County Board of Supervisors determined in 2017 that the development and adoption of an annual Legislative Agenda, consisting of items for which the County seeks the support and active participation of State elected representatives, would be a key element in enacting a Legislative Policy.

Accordingly, the Legislative Committee solicited input from the County Supervisors, County Board standing committees, and department and division managers on legislative items that might be included in the Dunn County Legislative Agenda for 2024. The Committee considered the items and issues to be included in the legislative agenda and recommended at its meeting of October 9, 2024, the adoption by the Dunn County Board of Supervisors of the 2024-2025 Dunn County Legislative Agenda, which is attached hereto.

**DUNN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
2024 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

Dunn County seeks the support of the State elected representatives representing the citizens of the County on the following issues:

1. Land Use

- A. Support establishment of a Wisconsin Legacy Fund to support core conservation and environmental programs and practices;
- B. Request full funding for all local Land Conservation staff according to formula contained in Chapter 92.14(6)(b) of Wisconsin Statutes;
- C. Update state livestock siting regulations and procedures (ACTP 51) to provide local governments with meaningful permitting, siting and regulatory authority over very large CAFO operations that have significant impact on local environmental and land use concerns;
- D. Support increased farmer assistance by providing increased funding to farmers for conservation including funding for managed grazing initiatives and producer-led watershed efforts;
- E. Support for allowing efficient access to data and local input of land-spreading of human septage, municipal waste and industrial waste;
- F. Support for counties to retain a larger portion of the real estate transfer fee. Recommend 50 percent of fee retained for the local county;
- G. Recommend revising Chapter 33 Wis. Stats. to allow for absentee voting as a part of the annual meeting or a special meeting of a lake district;

2. Health and Human Services

- A. The complexity of mental health and drug-related child welfare cases and the intensity of services have created increased challenges for the child welfare system. These burdens on the families and systems create a need to increase the Children and Families Allocation (CFA) by 20%.
- B. Increase funding to Aging and Disability Resource Centers in the amount of \$32 million to reduce historical inequities in funding, to keep pace with expanding needs, and to allow full funding of mandated services.
- C. Provide a \$4 million dollar increase in the Birth to 3 state GPR allocation and provide annual GPR increases to cover the growth in caseload and service costs.
- D. Continued support for Medicaid expansion in Wisconsin by accepting \$1.6 million in federal support to increase health care options and services.
- E. Increase funding for Mental Health Services
 - ✓ The public mental health system in Wisconsin is in need of additional resources to respond appropriately to the needs of individuals experiencing a mental health crisis. Provide \$21 M annually for Medicaid-reimbursable Crisis Intervention Services statewide.
 - ✓ Increase Medicaid reimbursement rates for mental health providers.
 - ✓ Community Support Programs (CSP) prevent individuals with severe and persistent mental health needs from extended hospitalizations. Provide \$20 M annually for Community Support Programs (CSP).
- F. County agencies have felt the strain of Adult Protection Services due to an increase in the number of older persons, co-occurring issues, lack of safe locations for persons with dementia, lack of caregivers, and lack of adequate funding for people with disabilities. Provide a \$10 M increase in GPR funding to counties for APS.
- G. Preserve the statutory authority of public health agencies for control of communicable

diseases and other public health threats.

- H. Provide at least \$36 million in funding to support public health infrastructure in the state, with half of the funding allocated to local public health agencies to support communicable disease investigation and mitigation.
- I. Support increased County Veteran Services Officer Grant funds to mitigate the impacts of static funding for well over 10 years.
- J. Advocate and support the federal funding for County Veteran Service offices. Historically, there has never been federal funding to support Veteran Services Offices.

3. Committee on Administration & Planning Resources and Development:

- A. Support an increase in funding to the Wisconsin Land Information Program, to maintain existing services, statewide mandated initiatives, and expanded services. These services increase the availability and accuracy of vital land records data to improve the efficiency of government and provide improved government services to both private sector and internal and external governmental stakeholders. Reference legislative proposal LRB 5300/LRB 5447.

4. Nursing Homes:

- A. To increase funding for Nursing and Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) and nursing programs at Wisconsin colleges and facilities. There is currently a workforce crisis across most industries. One of the industries hit hardest by this crisis is healthcare, and more specifically long-term care. There are simply not enough nursing assistants or nurses to care for our rapidly increasing aging population. Increasing funding and resources for nursing and CNA educational programs would assist increase the number of CNAs and nurses.
- B. Increase availability of nursing programs to all UW system schools, as currently certain universities are not able to have nursing programs. Every year the nursing programs have waiting lists. For some students that discourages them from nursing, and they eventually change majors. Increasing the funding to have additional seats in current classrooms and adding nursing majors to all universities would help keep more student on the path to becoming health care workers.

5. Financial

- A. Support modifying the annual levy limit to include exemptions for the costs of services or programs mandated by state law that cannot be fully funded with state appropriations and required county appropriations;
- B. Encourage the State to amend the annual levy limit law to allow counties to increase the levy over the amount levied in the prior year by the percentage increase in equalized value from net new construction plus CPI for the region in which the county is located. If no new construction occurred in a county, then the allowable levy increase may equal CPI for the region;
- C. In lieu of making changes to levy limits, modify the ability of counties to impose up to a 1% sales tax;
- D. Support legislative reform of the funding structure of the Wisconsin Technical College System, including increased state funding, reduction of the threshold for issuance of debt without approval by referendum, and review of duplication of educational services between the UW System and the Wisconsin Technical College System.

6. Roads and Highways

- A. Support an increase in the gas tax which is sustainable and comparable to all states throughout the upper Midwest and Great Lakes Regions;

- B. Support an increase in Transportation Aids, and changes to the distribution formula that would take into account increases in costs and decreased purchasing power of counties resulting from inflation, the flattening of revenues from the gas tax due to increased fuel economy, increased use of electric vehicles and alternative fuels, and, potentially, fewer commuter miles as more workers telecommute;
- C. Support long term alternatives to and solutions for loss of gas tax revenue for highway funding that take into account the flattening and decrease of “real “ gas tax revenues caused by increased use of electric vehicles and alternative fuels and decreases in commuter miles;
- D. Support increased funding for local road and bridge assistance programs, such as the Surface Transportation Program Rural (STP-R), the Surface Transportation Program Urban (STP-U), Local Bridge Improvement Assistance (Local Bridge Program), the Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP, and the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP).

7. Community Resources & Tourism

- A. Support allocation of State funds to encourage and develop rural and agricultural Tourism;
- ~~B. Continued support for increased funding for rural broadband expansion. Support to refund the Affordable Connectivity Program or similar program. Authorized under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) brought affordable high-speed internet to almost 23 million households across the country including 2,600 in Dunn County. The program's funding expired in May 2024. This program or a similar program is integral to increasing the adoption of broadband and controlling the costs of broadband for everyone.~~
- C. Request that Legislature revisit 2023 changes made the regulation of alcohol and wedding barns with an eye towards considering the impact and needs on the wedding barn industry.

8. Health and Human Services & Planning Resources and Development:

- A. Advocate for a statewide groundwater assessment and monitoring initiative. Additionally fund mitigation of problems that are identified in groundwater quality and secure funding for long-term, private drinking water protection, monitoring and remediation program.
- B. Recommend changes to the state’s Well Compensation Grant Program eligibility requirements to allow more access to the programs funds by private well owners, transient non-community wells and non-transient non-community wells;

COUNTY OF DUNN
RESOLUTION NO. _____

SUPPORTING THE EXPANSION OF MEDICAID

WHEREAS, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) established a program of Medicaid expansion, whereby in exchange for increased federal matching funds, states could elect to expand the number of individuals covered under state administered Medicaid programs, but historically the state of Wisconsin has declined Medicaid expansion funds; and,

WHEREAS, expansion of Medicaid in Wisconsin would increase the eligibility income level from 100% of federal poverty level (\$12,880 for a household of one and \$26,500 for a household of four) to 138% of federal poverty level (\$17,774 for household of one and \$36,570 for a household of four); and,

WHEREAS, the poverty rate in Dunn County is 11%, and 19.22% of Dunn County's population was served by one of the public health care or public benefits programs in 2020; and,

WHEREAS, the recent closure of healthcare systems in Western Wisconsin has limited residents' access to essential healthcare services, including urgent care services, OB-GYN services, inpatient psychiatry services, mental health and substance use services; and,

WHEREAS, data indicate that the payer mix for areas hospitals is in the neighborhood of 60-70% government programs; hence the Medicaid expansion could help to ensure the economic viability of regional health care; and,

WHEREAS, the ratio of access to healthcare services in the region is extremely limited to 1480 patients to one primary care physician and 950 to 1 mental health provider; and patients' already limited access to care will be further curtailed given farther distances to travel; and,

WHEREAS, Wisconsin DHS data indicate that in May of 2024 more than 23% of Dunn County residents were enrolled in Medicaid programs; and,

WHEREAS, current state estimates indicate another 90,000 individuals including some seniors on fixed incomes in Wisconsin will qualify for Medicaid if expanded; and,

WHEREAS, current state estimates indicate another 705 Dunn County residents will qualify for Medicaid if expanded; and,

WHEREAS, a recent study found that the ACA Medicaid expansions reduced disease-related mortality among older adults; and,

WHEREAS, studies have determined that access to Medicaid results in increases in regular preventive care provided, including more likely flu shots, mammograms, and compliance with medication to treat high blood pressure; and,

WHEREAS, Medicaid expansion is included in the Governor's 2023-2025 biennial budget, and by adopting Medicaid expansion, the state can realize \$1.6 billion in savings in the 2023-2025 biennium, resulting in over a billion dollars in state revenue over the next two years;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Dunn County Board of Supervisors request that Wisconsin Counties Association support the expansion of Medicaid and consider adoption of this resolution as part of their policy platform.

Offered this 16th day of October, 2024, at Menomonie, Wisconsin.

OFFERED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE:

Adopted on: _____

ATTEST:

Gary Stene, Chair

Approved as to Form and Execution:

Andrew Mercil, County Clerk

Nicholas P. Lange, Corporation Counsel

Budget Impact: Approval of this resolution will have no impact on the budget.

Background Information:

- About 1000 individuals in Dunn County would qualify
- It will improve the health of these individuals
- It will improve our local economy
 - Allows for more workforce participation and decreased absenteeism
 - Improves financial security and decreases evictions
- It will save the state money
 - Earlier and better access to care results in improved health, reduced need for emergency and crisis services, and reduced health care costs overall
 - Some people currently on traditional Medicaid could be shifted to the expanded one, which saves the state money (as federal contribution to expanded program is 90% vs. 61% for traditional)
- It will help our hospitals
 - Rural hospitals in states that expand Medicaid are 60% less likely to close, as it reduces the burden of uncompensated care

COUNTY OF DUNN
RESOLUTION NO. _____

**SUPPORTING INCREASED STATE FUNDING FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AND
COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAMS**

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

WHEREAS, Dunn County (“County”) is concerned that the public mental health system in Wisconsin is in need of additional resources to respond appropriately to the needs of individuals with persistent mental illness and those experiencing a mental health crisis; and

WHEREAS, Dunn County and the region have been disproportionately affected by the closure of HHS/Prevea, thereby limiting or eliminating citizens’ access to crisis services; and

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Dunn County is on record requesting \$21 million annually for Medicaid-reimbursable statewide crisis intervention services to respond appropriately to the needs of individuals experiencing a mental health crisis: and

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's counties continue to cover the costs of mental health services for individuals who are not Medicaid eligible.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Dunn County Board of Supervisors does hereby request that the state of Wisconsin, in its 2025-27 state biennial budget, provide state GPR funding to cover the full non-federal share of MA CSP and Crisis services, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Dunn County Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to send a copy of this Resolution to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin, Wisconsin State Legislators with a constituency within Dunn County, and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

Offered this 16th day of October, 2024, at Menomonie, Wisconsin.

OFFERED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE:

Adopted on: _____

ATTEST:

Gary Stene, Chair

Approved as to Form and Execution:

Andrew Mercil, County Clerk

Nicholas P. Lange, Corporation Counsel

Budget Impact: Approval of this resolution will have no impact on the 2024 budget or the proposed 2025 budget.

Background Information: The Mental Health Resolution addresses reducing access to crisis mental health services in Wisconsin impacted by the closure of HHS/Prevea. The closure has increased the need for County Crisis and Community Support Program (CSP) Services to keep people out of institutional and hospital placements. Medical Assistance does not pay the full cost of Crisis or CSP Services, nor has the Community Aids (State Funds) kept up with the cost of services. This means counties bear a disproportionate share of the costs from county tax levies. The expenses impact the Department of Human Services Department and the Sheriff Department/Law Enforcement expenses of transporting persons across the state to available hospitals and institutions. This Resolution requests state General Purpose Revenue (GPR) to cover the full non-federal share of the Medical Assistance (MA) Community Support Program and Crisis Services.