

# Health and Human Services Committee Agenda

Tuesday, October 19, 2021, 8:30 am

Courthouse, Safety Conference Room 105

400 Market Street, Wisconsin Rapids

- 1) Call to order
  - 2) Declaration of Quorum
  - 3) Public Comments
  - 4) Resolution to support fixing the BadgerCare Plus Benefits Cliff
  - 5) Norwood Pay Practice Policy
  - 6) Health Department Resolution to Add 1 FTE Public Health Nurse Position
  - 7) Next meeting(s):
    - October 28, 2021, 5:00 pm
  - 8) Adjourn
- 

## **Join by phone**

+1-408-418-9388 United States Toll

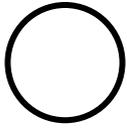
Meeting number (access code): 2485 482 8468

## **Join by WebEx App or Web**

<https://woodcountywi.webex.com/woodcountywi/j.php?MTID=m7b2e44d896b9395334b30062860eb4c1>

Meeting number (access code): 2485 482 8468

Meeting password: HHS1019



RESOLUTION#

Introduced by Judicial & Legislative and Health & Human Services Committees
Page 1 of 1

Motion: Adopted: Lost: Tabled: Absent:
Number of votes required: [X] Majority [ ] Two-thirds
Reviewed by: , Corp Counsel
Reviewed by: , Finance Dir.

LAD

INTENT & SYNOPSIS: To encourage the state legislature to fix the BadgerCare Plus benefits cliff.

FISCAL NOTE: There is no direct fiscal impact on the county by means of adoption of this resolution. The intent of the resolution is to save all state taxpayers money by better designing the benefits eligibility component of the BadgerCare Plus program.

Table with 5 columns: NO, YES, A, and 19 rows of names (LaFontaine, D to Leichtnam, B)

WHEREAS, in addition to Medicaid, Wisconsin also administers the BadgerCare Plus (a/k/a BadgerCare) program that provides health care coverage for people who either don't qualify for Medicaid or need different kinds of services but don't have such benefits available through their employers and have insufficient income to purchase them on their own, and

WHEREAS, those individuals who do qualify for BadgerCare Plus face a "benefits cliff," that being a small increase in earnings results in a significant loss in benefits eligibility, and

WHEREAS, the BadgerCare Plus benefits cliff, in some instances, causes individuals to not seek employment or to not seek better employment as they can't afford to lose their BadgerCare Plus eligibility, and

WHEREAS, the BadgerCare Plus benefits cliff is not only a problem for the individuals in the program, but is also contrary to the American value of having government programs help citizens when needed but having these programs encourage people to better themselves financially and, in doing so, get off the programs. The program eligibility, as designed, does not reward financial improvement but rather may promote program dependence.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE WOOD COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HEREBY RESOLVES to bring the BadgerCare Plus benefits cliff to the attention of the Wisconsin legislators and to Governor Evers such that they can work cooperatively to eliminate it.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Wood County Clerk share a copy of this resolution with all of the state legislators who represent citizens of Wood County and to Governor Evers.

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BILL CLENDENNING (Chair)

DONNA ROZAR (Chair)

BILL LEICHTNAM

ADAM FISCHER

KENNETH CURRY

JOHN HOKAMP

ED WAGNER

LEE THAO

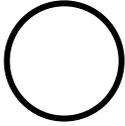
JOSEPH ZURFLUH

LAURA VALENSTEIN

Adopted by the County Board of Wood County, this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_ 20\_\_.

County Clerk

County Board Chairman



RESOLUTION#

Introduced by
Page 1 of 1

Health & Human Services Committee

ITEM#

DATE October 19, 2021

Effective Date Upon Passage

SK

Motion: Adopted: 1st Lost: 2nd Tabled: No: Yes: Absent:
Number of votes required: [X] Majority [ ] Two-thirds
Reviewed by: PAK, Corp Counsel
Reviewed by: EN, Finance Dir.

INTENT & SYNOPSIS: To increase budgeted FTEs for the Health Department by creating a (.97 FTE) Public Health Nurse position.

FISCAL NOTE: No cost to Wood County.

Source of Funding: CARES Act Funding Profile 155812
ARPA COVID Relief Fund Profile 155811

WHEREAS, sexually transmitted infections have increased substantially over the past two years, and

WHEREAS, new and emerging communicable diseases are of increasing concern, and

WHEREAS, more than 2,800 hours have been earned in excess of budgeted FTEs as a result of COVID response work, and

WHEREAS, current Public Health Nurses have difficulty taking vacation days and often max out comp time off banks due to having inadequate staffing, and

WHEREAS, recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic is expected to last for many years, and

WHEREAS, after the COVID pandemic response this position will take a lead role in Public Health Emergency Preparedness, and

WHEREAS, childhood immunization rates in Wood County fall short of Wisconsin goals, and

WHEREAS, Wood County's teen birth rate is higher than that of surrounding counties and the state of Wisconsin as a whole, and

WHEREAS, infant mortality in Wisconsin is higher than national infant mortality rates, and

WHEREAS, the percent of low birth weight infants born to Wood County residents is higher than surrounding counties, and

WHEREAS, surrounding county health departments implement evidence-based home visiting models to address these issues, and

WHEREAS, Evidence-based programs decrease unplanned pregnancies, increase the likelihood of children attaining higher education, and reduce criminal behavior (Center on the Developing Child Harvard University, n.d.b), and

WHEREAS, all local health departments in Wisconsin have been awarded funding (CARES Act Funding Profile 155812) to conduct activities necessary to expand, train, and sustain a response-ready public health workforce and develop solutions that allow for a more sustained workforce, and

WHEREAS, all local health departments in Wisconsin have received funding (ARPA COVID Relief Fund Profile 155811) for COVID-19 Mitigation and Prevention, Public Health and Safety Staff, Improving the Design and Execution of Public Health Programs, Addressing Disparities in Public Health Outcomes, and Investments in Infrastructure, and

WHEREAS, it is evident that adding a Public Health Nurse is critical to our operations, and

WHEREAS, this position is fully funded through June 2023 by the CARES Act Funding Profile 155812 and further funded through December 2024 by the ARPA COVID Relief Fund Profile 155811, and

WHEREAS, when grant funding is gone FTEs will be reduced to remain within budget parameters,

NOW, THEREFORE, THE WOOD COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HEREBY RESOLVES to approve the FTE increase by creating one (.97 FTE) Public Health Nurse position, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED when grant funds are no longer able to support the position in full, the Health Department will review all department FTEs during the budget process with the oversight committee to make sure continuance is justified and budget parameters are met.

( )

Donna Rozar-Chair

Tom Buttke

Adam Fischer

Heather Wellach, RN

John Hokamp

Dr. Kristen Iniguez M.D.

Laura Valenstein

Lori Nordmann

Lee Thao

Adopted by the County Board of Wood County, this day of 20

County Clerk

County Board Chairman