

Support for Regional Crisis Centers – LFB Paper #362

Date: May 31, 2019

Re: Support for Investment in Regional Crisis Centers – LFB Paper #362

To: Members of the Joint Committee on Finance
Members of the Wisconsin Legislature

From: Stakeholders in Wisconsin's mental health crisis system (*see list of signatories*)

The undersigned organizations respectfully ask legislators to support and fully fund proposed changes in the biennial budget to improve Wisconsin's system to support people experiencing a mental health crisis, by developing regional crisis centers.

We are united in support of the budget proposal to allocate \$2,500,000 in 2020-21 for a new grant program to fund regional crisis stabilization centers for adults, option #C 1 in LFB Paper #362. The proposal would require the Department of Health Services (DHS) to establish criteria for stabilization facilities for adults and to award grants under the program, and create an annual, sum certain appropriation for the program.

We ask legislators to fully fund the budget proposal to establish this network of regional crisis centers, to provide better outcomes for people experiencing mental health crises, and make better use of law enforcement resources.

Justification for Regional Crisis Centers

Current Crisis System. Wisconsin's current mental health crisis system is lacking local resources. When an adult has a mental health crisis, many communities do not have local resource available to evaluate and support the person in crisis. Because of the lack of local resources, law enforcement often must transport individual experiencing a mental health crisis across the state to Winnebago Mental Health Institute, far from their family and support system. This process is traumatizing for the person in crisis, costly, and is a major drain on law enforcement resources. In 2018, over 3000 people experiencing a mental health crisis were transported from their community to Winnebago Mental Health Institute, far away from their support network and mental health providers. The attached list provides a breakout by community for transports in 2018.

Proposal to Develop Regional Resources. Establishing a network of regional crisis centers will provide an alternative to the current costly and traumatizing process, and allow the person in crisis to be assessed and supported closer to their home and to their natural supports. Developing this regional capacity will result in better outcomes for those in crisis and reduce the time commitment for law enforcement to respond to psychiatric crises. Regional centers will ultimately reduce the need for people in crisis to be transported across the state to Winnebago Mental Health Institute, and will allow them to receive assistance closer to their community.

Crisis stabilization centers serve as a diversionary alternative to inpatient treatment units. In general, evidence reviewed by SAMHSA suggests a high proportion of people in crisis who are evaluated for hospitalization can safely be cared for in a crisis facility. The same evidence suggests the outcomes for these individuals are at least as good as hospital care, and the cost of crisis care is substantially less than the cost of inpatient care. (SAMHSA, 2014.)”

Strong stakeholder involvement will be important to ensure that this model is successful. Our organizations endorse the proposal and the need for a stakeholder advisory group, and are ready and willing to assist with the planning and implementation process.

The following organizations are in support of this request and ask legislators to fully fund the budget proposal (LFB paper 362 option # C1) to establish this network of regional crisis centers. Regional centers will provide better outcomes for people experiencing a mental health crises and make better use of law enforcement resources:

Access to Independence
Ashwaubenon Public Safety
Autism Society of Greater Wisconsin
Autism Society of South Central Wisconsin
Autism Society of South Eastern Wisconsin
Badger State Sheriffs’ Association
City of Green Bay Police Department
Community Care, Inc.
Disability Rights Wisconsin
iCare
Inclusa, Inc.
Independence*First*
Kids Forward
Lakeland Care
Madison Police Department
Mental Health America of Wisconsin
Midstate Independent Living Choices, Inc.
Milwaukee Mental Health Task Force
Molina Healthcare of Wisconsin
My Choice Family Care
NAMI Brown County
NAMI Dane County

NAMI Dodge County
NAMI Douglas County
NAMI Fox Valley
NAMI Kenosha
NAMI Northern Lakes
NAMI Racine
NAMI Sauk County
NAMI Southwestern Wisconsin
NAMI Trempealeau County
NAMI Washington County, Inc.
NAMI Waukesha, Inc.
NAMI Wisconsin
National Association of Social Workers, Wisconsin Chapter
North Country Independent Living
Office of the State Public Defender
Options for Independent Living, Inc.
Save IRIS
Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers
Society's Assets
Survival Coalition of Wisconsin Disability Organizations
The Arc Wisconsin
The Peer Association INC
TMG by Magellan Health
University of Wisconsin- Madison Police Department
Warmline, Inc.
Wisconsin Association of the Deaf
Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities
Wisconsin Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians
Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association
Wisconsin Coalition of Independent Living Centers, Inc.
Wisconsin Counties Association
Wisconsin Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals
Wisconsin Personal Services Association
Wisconsin Sheriffs and Deputy Sheriffs Association

MENTAL HEALTH TRANSPORTS TO WINNEBAGO FOR 2018

ADAMS	35
ASHLAND	17
BARRON	26
BAYFIELD	5
BROWN	77
BUFFALO	7
BURNETT	5
CALUMET	10
CHIPPEWA	20
CLARK	11
COLUMBIA	58
CRAWFORD	15
DANE (Madison)	281 (200)
DODGE	52
DOOR	30
DOUGLAS	32
DUNN	15
EAU CLAIRE	47
FLORENCE	1
FOND DU LAC	88
FOREST	8
GRANT	40
GREEN	38
GREEN LAKE	16
IOWA	11
IRON	2
JACKSON	12
JEFFERSON	35

JUNEAU	29
KENOSHA	311
KEWAUNEE	5
LAC COURTE OREILLE RESERVATION	2
LAC DU FLAMBEAU RESERVATION	2
LACROSSE	43
LAFAYETTE	10
LANGLADE	36
LINCOLN	21
MANITOWOC	53
MARATHON	191
MARINETTE	20
MARQUETTE	7
MENOMINEE	12
MENOMINEE RESERVATION	3
MILWAUKEE	89
MONROE	25
OCONTO	31
ONEIDA	38
ONEIDA RESERVATION	1
OUT OF STATE	76
OUTAGAMIE	93
OZAUKEE	31
PEPIN	1
PIERCE	16
POLK	25
PORTAGE	29
PRICE	14
RACINE	115

RICHLAND	36
ROCK	141
RUSK	3
SAUK	92
SAWYER	15
SHAWANO	34
SHEBOYGAN	41
ST CROIX	40
TAYLOR	6
TREMPEALEAU	11
UNKNOWN	16
VERNON	17
VILAS	24
WALWORTH	23
WASHBURN	2
WASHINGTON	48
WAUKESHA	132
WAUPACA	29
WAUSHARA	14
WINNEBAGO	68
WOOD	40
	3155