

Racine County Human Services Department

1717 Taylor Avenue, Racine, WI 53403

November 9, 2017

TO: Robert Miller
Chairman, Health and Human Development Committee

FROM: Hope Otto
Human Services Director

RE: Ability to Contract with a Privately Operated Youth Receiving Home
Facility for Temporary Out-of-Home Placements

There are currently 360 children in out-of-home care, a 40% increase over 2016. Placements are often made under emergency circumstances with little time to select the most appropriate home; there are a limited number of available foster homes in Racine County and sibling groups are often separated because of the lack of homes able to accommodate them. Infants and children with special needs often require specialized care available only through a limited number of homes.

In recognition of the hardship faced by so many children who must be removed from their homes to provide a safe, nurturing setting until relatives or longer term foster home placement can be established, Human Services is proposing to contract with a third party for operation of a youth Shelter Facility or Receiving Home within Racine County which can offer around-the-clock care and supervision for infants and children, at any given time.

A shelter care facility may be used for the temporary care of children taken into protective custody, in need of transitional placements in emergency situations or placed in the shelter care facility by order of the court. Wisconsin stats. 938.22(1)(a) indicate that "The county board of supervisors of a county may establish a shelter care facility" and Wisconsin Stats. 938.22(5) indicates that a county board of supervisors may contract with privately operated shelter care facilities for purchase of services and may delegate this authority to its county department.

Hope Otto
Human Services Director

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-

RESOLUTION BY THE HEALTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AUTHORIZING THE RACINE COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO CONTRACT WITH A PRIVATELY-OPERATED YOUTH RECEIVING HOME FACILITY FOR TEMPORARY OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENTS

To the Honorable Members of the Racine County Board of Supervisors:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Racine County Board of Supervisors that the Human Services Department is hereby authorized and approved to contract with a third party for operation of a youth Shelter Facility or Receiving Home within Racine County which can offer around-the-clock care and supervision for infants and children.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Racine County Board of Supervisors that the execution of these contracts and any contract addenda shall be subject to the review and approval of the Corporation Counsel and the Human Services Director.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Racine County Board of Supervisors that the County Clerk, the County Board Chairman and/or the County Executive are authorized to execute any contracts or contract addenda to carry out the intent of this resolution.

Respectfully submitted,

1st Reading _____

HEALTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

2nd Reading _____

Robert N. Miller, Chairman

BOARD ACTION

Adopted _____

For _____

Against _____

Absent _____

Donnie Snow, Vice-Chairman

Mike Dawson, Secretary

VOTE REQUIRED: Majority

Prepared by: Corporation Counsel

Brett A. Nielsen

Pamela Zenner-Richards

Katherine Buske

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4 **The foregoing legislation adopted by the County Board of Supervisors of**
5 **Racine County, Wisconsin, is hereby:**

6 **Approved:** _____

7 **Vetoed:** _____

8
9 **Date:** _____,

10
11
12 _____
13 **Jonathan Delagrave, County Executive**

14 **INFORMATION ONLY**

15
16 **WHEREAS**, there are currently 360 children in out-of-home care, a 40% increase
17 over 2016; and

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19 **WHEREAS**, placements are often made under emergency circumstances with
20 little time to select the most appropriate home; there are a limited number of available
21 foster homes in Racine County and sibling groups are often separated because of the
22 lack of homes able to accommodate them; and

23
24 **WHEREAS**, infants and children with special needs often require specialized care
25 available only through a limited number of homes; and

26
27 **WHEREAS**, in recognition of the hardship faced by so many children who must be
28 removed from their homes to provide a safe, nurturing setting until relatives or longer
29 term foster home placement can be established, Human Services is proposing to contract
30 with a third party for operation of a youth Shelter Facility or Receiving Home within
31 Racine County which can offer around-the-clock care and supervision for infants and
32 children, at any given time; and

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34 **WHEREAS**, a shelter care facility may be used for the temporary care of children
35 taken into protective custody, in need of transitional placements in emergency situations,
36 or placed in the shelter care facility by order of the court; and

37
38 **WHEREAS**, the authority for a county board of supervisors to establish a shelter
39 care facility and to delegate its authority to contract with privately operated shelter care
40 facilities for purchase of services to its county department is set forth at Wis. Stat. §
41 938.22.