

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-121

RESOLUTION BY HEALTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE IN SUPPORT OF STATE LEGISLATION AUTHORIZING ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL SECURED RESIDENTIAL CARE CENTERS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

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

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin is exploring the closure of the Lincoln Hills School and Copper Lake School; and

WHEREAS, 2017 Assembly Bill 953 (“AB 953”) requires the state to close the Lincoln Hills School and Copper Lake School, requires the Department of Corrections to establish new Type 1 juvenile correctional facilities, and authorizes counties to establish secured residential care centers for children and youth; and

WHEREAS, upon establishment of the secured residential care centers for children and youth, AB 953 transfers the supervision of a juvenile under a correctional placement to the county department of human services or social services (county department) of the county in which the juvenile was adjudicated delinquent; and

WHEREAS, AB 953 authorizes a county to establish a secured residential care center for children and youth, on its own or jointly with one or more counties, or to contract with another county to place juveniles in that county’s secured residential care center for children and youth; and

WHEREAS, the state legislature continues to explore plans to overhaul juvenile corrections; and

WHEREAS, Racine County recognizes that the juvenile justice system in Wisconsin is at a critical moment and there exists enormous opportunity to transform and improve upon conventional models for the treatment, punishment, and rehabilitation of youthful offenders; and

WHEREAS, Racine County has aggressively explored therapeutic alternatives that divert youth from entry into the juvenile justice system and has enjoyed significant success with its Alternatives to Corrections through Education (ACE) program at its juvenile detention facility; and

WHEREAS, the ACE program embodies much of the Missouri Model approach to juvenile justice premised upon moving beyond symptoms to the root causes of juvenile delinquency and upends the traditional correctional model by focusing on prevention and early intervention through increased emphasis on rehabilitation and education; and

WHEREAS, Racine County is prepared to broaden the reach of its diversionary program to improve long-term youth trajectories through partnership with the state and establishment of a regional secured residential care center for children and youth that incorporates best practice, evidence-based programming; and

WHEREAS, through AB 953 and other legislative action under consideration, the state legislature is considering a juvenile correction grant program that allows counties to apply for funding for design and establishment or construction of a secured residential care center or addition or incorporation of such a facility into an existing eligible juvenile detention facility; and

WHEREAS, Racine County recognizes the need for such legislative action to expand authorized uses of youth aids for program costs in juvenile detention facilities and secured residential care centers and to increase youth aids allocations by no less than 15 percent to counties operating secured residential care centers; and

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4 **WHEREAS**, Racine County further recognizes the need for such legislative action to: (i)
5 enable and encourage maximum flexibility for intergovernmental cooperation to construct,
6 maintain, and operate regional secured residential care centers; (ii) extend to counties the ability
7 to admit juveniles no longer suitable for a correctional setting due to mental or behavioral status
8 to specialized facilities; and (iii) reduce administrative and financial burdens associated with
9 increased responsibility and liability borne by counties that establish a regional secured
10 residential care center for children and youth; and

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12 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Racine County Board of Supervisors
13 hereby expresses its support for state legislation authorizing establishment of regional secured
14 residential care centers for children and youth.

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16 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the County Clerk is hereby directed to transmit a copy
17 of this Resolution to Governor Scott Walker, all Wisconsin State Legislators, and the Wisconsin
18 Counties Association.

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20 Respectfully submitted,

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22 1st Reading _____

HEALTH & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

23
24 2nd Reading _____

Robert N. Miller, Chairman

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26
27 **BOARD ACTION**

28 Adopted _____

Donnie Snow, Vice-Chairman

29 For _____

30 Against _____

31 Absent _____

Michael Dawson, Secretary

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33 **VOTE REQUIRED:** Majority

Brett Nielson

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35 Prepared by:
36 Corporation Counsel

Pamela Zenner-Richards

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40 _____
Katherine Buske

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

46
47 **Approved:** _____

48 **Vetoed:** _____

49
50 **Date:** _____,

51
52
53 _____
Jonathan Delagrave, County Executive