

RESOLUTION
ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Katherine Luster
INITIATED BY

Jennifer Thompson
DRAFTED BY

Human Service Board
SUBMITTED BY



March 31, 2017
DATE DRAFTED

**Requesting the Legislature Restore Funding in the 2017-2019 State Budget for
Dementia Care Specialist Positions**

1 **WHEREAS**, approximately 115,000 people in Wisconsin were living with dementia
2 including 2,803 in Rock County; and,

3
4 **WHEREAS**, in 2013 the State of Wisconsin recognized the emergent needs of individuals
5 living with dementia and their caregivers and provided funding to support Dementia Care
6 Specialist (DCS) positions in five Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC's); and,

7
8 **WHEREAS**, by 2016 the State of Wisconsin witnessed the success of the DCS program and
9 expanded it by funding 19 DCS positions servicing 26 counties, one of which is Rock County,
10 and;

11
12 **WHEREAS**, Rock County has made a significant impact on the quality of life for persons
13 with dementia and their families through the Dementia Care Specialist (DCS); and,

14
15 **WHEREAS**, the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) of Rock County recognizes
16 the vast need for support and services for those diagnosed with dementia and their caregivers
17 and is sensitive to their needs; and,

18
19 **WHEREAS**, the Governor's proposed budget does not include funding for the DCS position
20 in 2017-2019, thereby removing this valuable expertise and resource from Rock County, and;

21
22 **WHEREAS**, the Board of Supervisors, representing the citizens of Rock County, wishes to
23 recognize the substantial impact the DCS has made in our county and requests the Legislature
24 restore DCS funding in the 2017-2019 State of Wisconsin budget.

25
26 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rock County Board of Supervisors,
27 duly assembled this 13th day of APRIL 2017, does hereby request the Legislature
28 restore funding for the Dementia Care Specialist Positions in the 2017-2019 State Budget.

29
30 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the County Clerk be authorized and directed to furnish
31 a copy of this resolution to the Rock County Legislative Delegation and the Wisconsin
32 Counties Association.

17-4A-259

Requesting the Legislature Restore funding in the 2017-2019 State Budget for Dementia Care Specialist Positions
Page 2

Respectfully Submitted,

HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

Brian Knudson
Brian Knudson, Chair

Sally Jean Weaver Landers
Sally Jean Weaver-Landers

Karl Dommershausen
Karl Dommershausen

Terry Fell
Terry Fell

Linda Garrett
Linda Garrett

Absent
Ashley Kleven

Kathy Schutz
Kathy Schutz

Terry Thomas
Terry Thomas

Shirley Williams
Shirley Williams

COUNTY BOARD STAFF COMMITTEE

J. Russell Podzilni
J. Russell Podzilni, Chair

Sandra Kraft
Sandra Kraft, Vice Chair

Absent
Betty Jo Bussie

Absent
Eva Arnold

Mary Mawhinney
Mary Mawhinney

Alan Sweeney
Alan Sweeney

Henry Brill
Henry Brill

Louis Peer
Louis Peer

Terry Thomas
Terry Thomas

Requesting the Legislature Restore funding in the 2017-2019 State Budget for Dementia Care
Specialist Positions
Page 3

FISCAL NOTE:

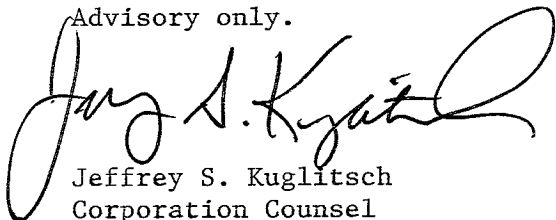
This resolution is advisory only and has no direct fiscal impact on Rock County operations in and by itself.



Sherry Oja
Finance Director

LEGAL NOTE:

Advisory only.



Jeffrey S. Kuglitsch
Corporation Counsel

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

Recommended



Randy Terronez
Acting County Administrator

Executive Summary

Approximately 115,000 people in Wisconsin were living with dementia in 2015. By 2035 that number is expected to grow to 216,000. In 2016, Medicaid costs totaled \$706 million for people over age 65, and the costs will continue to rise as the number of people with dementia increases. A diagnosis of dementia doesn't mean a person has to lose their dignity nor their ability to remain in their home or apart of their community. Ninety percent of people with dementia live in their own home and 22% live alone. It's estimated that \$2.7 billion in unpaid care or 219 million hours of care were provided by caregivers in 2015 to individuals with dementia to help them remain at home.

In 2013 the State of Wisconsin recognized the emergent needs of individuals living with dementia and their caregivers and provided funding to support Dementia Care Specialist (DCS) positions in five Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC's). By 2016 the State of Wisconsin witnessed the success of the DCS program and expanded it by funding 19 DCS positions servicing 26 counties—one of which is Rock County. Rock County has made a significant commitment to persons with dementia and their families through their support of the Dementia Care Specialist (DCS). More than 500 families and individuals with dementia in Rock County have been supported by the DCS through caregiver groups and memory café's, programs and trainings, memory screens, DCS consultation, and dementia education.

Forty-five Rock County businesses have been trained to be "Dementia Friendly" by teaching employees how to recognize customers with dementia and how to provide for a safe and less stressful experience. "Dementia Friendly Communities" work together to improve the quality of life for all those affected by dementia. The ADRC of Rock County recognizes the vast need for support and services for those diagnosed with dementia and their caregivers and is sensitive to their needs.

ADRC staff have been trained by the DCS on all aspects related to dementia; including the disease process, memory screening, and caregiver resources. The DCS has made a *significant* impact on the lives of hundreds of people affected by dementia in Rock County and continues to work in our community to *eliminate the stigma* of dementia, *educate and provide opportunities* for those living with dementia, *lessen the stress* for families coping with dementia, and *improves the quality of life* of all those she works with.

The Human Services Department requests that the County Board support this resolution that asks the Legislature to restore funding in the state budget for the DCS positions.