

## LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Monday, April 11, 2011

County Administrative Center, Room 3220

11:30 a.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bill Brockmiller, Bridget Flood, Sharon Hampson, Roger Plesha

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Monica Kruse, John Medinger, Don Meyer

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**STAFF & GUESTS:** Steve O'Malley, Margaret Norden, Jason Witt, Ron Chamberlain, Nick Nichols, Noreen Holmes, Ginny Dankmeyer

### CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chair Brockmiller called the meeting to order at 11:33 a.m.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

None requested.

### APPROVE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 6, 2010

**MOTION** by Flood/Hampson to approve the Minutes of December 6, 2010. **Motion carried unanimously.** Kruse, Medinger, Meyer excused.

### RESOLUTION RE: OPPOSING THE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED STATE TAKEOVER AND PRIVATIZATION OF INCOME MAINTENANCE NEGATIVELY IMPACTING THE ELDERLY, POOR, DISABLED AND HUNGRY FAMILIES

The Resolution states that the proposed privatization of Income Maintenance services will negatively impact 19,000 La Crosse County citizens (one in every six residents) who rely on timely and accurate eligibility determination and assistance with applications. The proposed use of the Enrollment Services Center would eliminate face-to-face contact and would process cases more slowly. Fiscal impact to the county includes access to Foodshare benefits of more than \$1 million per month, Badger Care benefits of \$10 million per month, loss of 26 positions, and \$143,000 per year in federal revenue. **MOTION** by Plesha/Flood to approve the Resolution Re: Opposing the Governor's Proposed State Takeover and Privatization of Income Maintenance Negatively Impacting the Elderly, Poor, Disabled and Hungry Families. **Motion carried unanimously.** Kruse, Medinger, Meyer excused.

### RESOLUTION RE: OPPOSING THE PROPOSED 10% CUT TO YOUTH AIDS AND INCREASED JUVENILE CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION (JCI) RATE

The Resolution states that Youth Aids are state mandates to provide juvenile justice services. A 10% decrease in funding will take away community-based programs, and result in more youth in rehabilitation, correctional facilities, and institutional placement. The impact to the County is estimated at \$156,000 per year. **MOTION** by Hampson/Plesha to approve the Resolution Re: Opposing the Proposed 10% Cut to Youth Aids and Increased Juvenile Correctional Institution (JCI) Rate. **Motion carried unanimously.** Kruse, Medinger, Meyer excused.

### RESOLUTION RE: OPPOSING THE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED FAMILY CARE ENROLLMENT CAPS NEGATIVELY IMPACTING THE ELDERLY, DISABLED AND DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED

The Resolution states that enrollment caps would cap Family Care enrollment with no new persons enrolled except via attrition of current clients. This would result in waiting lists of elderly, disabled, and developmentally disabled individuals. Lack of stabilizing services could result in emergency situations that will ultimately cost the taxpayer more than if vulnerable populations were served upfront. **MOTION** by Hampson/Plesha to approve the Resolution Re: Opposing the Governor's Proposed Family Care Enrollment Caps Negatively Impacting the Elderly, Disabled and Developmentally Disabled. **Motion carried unanimously.** Kruse, Medinger, Meyer excused.

### RESOLUTION RE: PRESERVATION OF LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT FOR MEDICAID CHANGES (MEDICAID, BADGERCARE PLUS, SENIORCARE, FAMILY CARE)

The Resolution recognizes that changes to Medicaid are necessary to more effectively use taxpayer dollars, but opposes the State's plan which places too much power in the Executive branch without Legislative oversight. The Resolution supports continuation of the current procedure, and rejects concentrating power to make unilateral changes to Medicaid. The Chair read aloud an amendment to the Resolution, which was approved by the Aging and Long-Term Care Committee, as follows: Amend the fiscal note to read: "Major changes in Medicaid eligibility without Legislative oversight will have a negative financial impact on clients and counties. However, full effect of those costs is impossible to determine at this time." **MOTION** by Plesha/Hampson to approve the Resolution Re: Preservation of Legislative Oversight for Medicaid Changes (Medicaid, BadgerCare Plus, SeniorCare, Family Care), as amended by the Aging and Long-Term Care Committee. **Motion carried unanimously.** Kruse, Medinger, Meyer excused.

#### **RESOLUTION RE: PROTECT SENIORCARE PROGRAM**

The Resolution states that SeniorCare saves Wisconsin senior money with cost effective enrollment fees and co-payments and no gaps in coverage. The program is also able to negotiate lower drug prices, which Medicare Part D does not do. The cost savings projection for County taxpayers would be \$1,807,280, and \$101,384,000 statewide. The Chair read aloud an amendment to the Resolution, which was approved by the Aging and Long-Term Care Committee as follows: Amend the Resolution to split the first Whereas clause into two clauses, with the second clause stating, "WHEREAS, Senior Care provides more comprehensive and less expensive coverage than Medicare Part D;". **MOTION** by Plesha/Hampson to approve the Resolution Re: Protect SeniorCare Program, as amended by the Aging and Long-Term Care Committee. **Motion carried unanimously.** Kruse, Medinger, Meyer excused.

#### **RESOLUTION RE: SUPPORT TRANSIT**

The Resolution recognizes transportation as a vital service for seniors, the disabled, and individuals with limited incomes. Transportation services support retail, health care, education and recreations with an economic return of \$3.61 for every \$1.00 invested in public transit. The Resolution supports keeping a segregated Transportation Fund to adequately fund public transit and human services transportation. **MOTION** by Flood/Plesha to approve the Resolution Re: Support Transit. **Motion carried unanimously.** Kruse, Medinger, Meyer excused.

#### **RESOLUTION RE: OPPOSING PROPOSED DECREASE IN GENERAL TRANSPORTATION AIDS (GTA) TO COUNTIES FOR 2011-2013 STATE OF WISCONSIN BUDGET**

The Resolution addresses the priority placed on highway projects in the State budget, which proposes spending \$420 million for projects in southeast Wisconsin, and reducing General Transportation Aid (GTA) to counties and municipalities for county trunk highways and local streets and roadways by 10%. The proposed budget would reduce the 2012 La Crosse County road maintenance budget by more than \$160,000. **MOTION** by Flood/Plesha to approve the Resolution Re: Opposing Proposed Decrease in General Transportation Aids (GTA) to Counties for 2011-2013 State of Wisconsin Budget. **Motion carried unanimously.** Kruse, Medinger, Meyer excused.

#### **RESOLUTION RE: RESOLUTION OPPOSING ELIMINATION OF MUNICIPAL RECYCLING MANDATE**

The Resolution states that the 2011-2013 State budget seeks to eliminate requirements that municipalities operate recycling programs, converts the Recycling and Renewable Energy Segregated Fund to the Economic Development Fund, and diverts revenue from landfill tipping fees surcharge into that fund. The surcharge fee originated as a source of funding for municipal recycling programs, and its elimination would result in a loss of at least \$320,000 to local municipalities. **MOTION** by Hampson/Flood to approve the Resolution Re: Resolution Opposing Elimination of Municipal Recycling Mandate. **Motion carried unanimously.** Kruse, Medinger, Meyer excused.

#### **RESOLUTION RE: OPPOSITION TO FUNDING CUTS FOR CHILD SUPPORT IN 2011-13 EXECUTIVE BUDGET**

The Resolution states that the Governor's 2011-13 budget includes a \$71,056 per year cut to the General Purpose Revenue (GPR) funding for Child Support. There are further cuts in federal funds, for a total of \$208,988 per year. If that deficit is to be made up it would be through tax levy, staff cuts, or other revenue source. The La Crosse County Child Support Agency has the highest case load per support specialist in the state. **MOTION** by Hampson/Plesha to approve the Resolution Re: Opposition to Funding Cuts for Child Support in 2011-13 Executive Budget. **Motion carried unanimously.** Kruse, Medinger, Meyer excused.

**RESOLUTION RE: HONORING PUBLIC EMPLOYEES, AFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AND CALLING FOR REPEAL OF PORTIONS OF ACT 10**

The Resolution recognizes the vital work of public employees, and affirms support for them to organize and collectively bargain. It calls for a repeal of Wisconsin Act 10, which eliminated public sector collective bargaining. **MOTION** by Flood/Hampson to approve the Resolution Re: Honoring Public Employees, Affirming Support for Collective Bargaining and Calling for Repeal of Portions of Act 10. **Motion carried unanimously.** Kruse, Medinger, Meyer excused.

**RESOLUTION RE: OPPOSING CHANGES TO SAME DAY VOTER REGISTRATION AND OPPOSING VOTER ID REQUIREMENTS IN WISCONSIN AND SPECIFICALLY EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL 6**

The Resolution states that proposed legislation would negatively impact the high rate of voter participation by not accepting college or university ID, requiring copies of photo ID's with absentee ballots, increasing residency requirements from 10 to 28 days, elimination corroboration as alternative proof of residency, and placing additional burdens on poll workers. **MOTION** by Hampson/Flood to approve the Resolution Re: Opposing Changes to Same Day Voter Registration and Opposing Voter ID Requirements in Wisconsin and Specifically Expressing Opposition to Senate Bill 6. **Motion carried unanimously.** Kruse, Medinger, Meyer excused.

**RESOLUTION RE: OPPOSITION TO CUTS IN COUNTY SHARED REVENUE WITHOUT ANY SIGNIFICANT MANDATE RELIEF OR REFORM**

The Resolution addresses the reduction in Shared Revenue payments as proposed in the Governor's 2011-13 budget, which is an estimated \$1,006,010 cut to La Crosse County, which is roughly equivalent to the amount received in 1992. Shared Revenue is a fundamental element of providing mandate relief, and 100% of the Shared Revenue to La Crosse County is used to reduce property taxes. The Resolution calls for repeal of 2009 Act 28, Public Safety maintenance of Effort Requirements and Prevailing Wage Laws, receipt of an equitable share of County surcharges for Counties to pay for State court operations, reduction and streamlining of Health and Human Service State reporting requirements, and revival of the County Mandate Waiver program. **MOTION** by Plesha/Hampson to approve the Resolution Re: Opposition to Cuts in County Shared Revenue without Any Significant Mandate Relief or Reform. **Motion carried unanimously.** Kruse, Medinger, Meyer excused.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Alternative meeting times – the committee members will be polled about alternatives, including Tuesday or Wednesday of committee week at 9:15 or 9:30 a.m., other times as suggested, or leaving the time unchanged.

**NEXT MEETING**

To be determined.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Flood/Hampson to adjourn. **Motion carried unanimously.** Kruse, Medinger, Meyer excused. The meeting adjourned at 11:53 a.m.

**Approved,** September 12, 2011, Margaret Norden, Recorder