



RESOLUTION # 9-6/12

TO: HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE LA CROSSE
COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ITEM # 6-15
BOARD ACTION

Adopted:
For: 25
Against: -
Abstain: -
Abs/Excd: 4
Vote Req: _____
Other Action: _____

HHS
COMMITTEE
ACTION

Adopted:
For: 6
Against: -
Abstain: -
Abs/Excd: 43

LEGISLATIVE
COMMITTEE
ACTION

Adopted:
For: 7
Against: -
Abstain: -
Abs/Excd: -

RE: REQUESTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES INCENTIVIZE MORE EFFECTIVE REGIONAL COLLOBORATION, COST SAVINGS AND EFFICIENCY IN INCOME MAINTAINANCE (IM) ADMINISTRATION BY BRINGING MORE EQUITY TO CALENDAR YEAR 2013 CONSORTIA FUNDING ALLOCATIONS

WHEREAS, Act 32 (the State of Wisconsin's 2012-13 Biennial Budget) eliminated the system whereby individual counties administer Income Maintenance (IM) programs and instead directed that, beginning in calendar year (CY) 2012, counties organize into no more than ten multi-county consortia for the purpose of administering IM programs; and,

WHEREAS, the purpose of the consortia model is to create regional IM systems that preserve essential local presence and oversight while maximizing certain efficiencies so that IM services remain consistently strong statewide, despite the 17 percent reduction in State funding for IM administration that was part of the strategy to bring balance to 2012-13 Budget; and,

WHEREAS, by legislative design, it was intended that IM consortia achieve cost savings by leveraging three types of efficiencies: (1) the sharing of a single call center by counties within each consortia; (2) utilization by all consortia of a newly created State-operated Central Document Processing Unit (CDPU) to perform scanning and coding functions that were traditionally performed by county staff; and (3) other efficiencies achieved by counties sharing the workload of application processing, eligibility determinations and ongoing case management within their consortium partnerships; and,

WHEREAS, La Crosse County is the administrative lead for the Western Region for Economic Assistance (WREA) IM consortia, a collaboration of eight western Wisconsin counties which employs an innovative service delivery model that leverages all three intended legislative efficiencies and is uniquely collaborative in how workload and managerial structure is shared across county boundaries; and,

WHEREAS, the Department of Health Services (DHS) deferred to the Wisconsin County Human Services Association (WCHSA) on how to distribute CY 2012 State IM funding, consequently adopting a formula that continued to assign funding to individual counties instead of consortia, failed to consider legislatively mandated maintenance of effort (MOE) levels, distributed the 17 percent State funding reduction in a widely disparate fashion and continued to subsidize duplication and inefficiency; and,

WHEREAS, the WREA and Northern consortia were impacted most negatively by the WCHSA methodology, absorbing State funding reductions exceeding 30 percent at the same time some of the other consortia saw funding reductions of only 7 percent and some individual counties actually received funding increases; and,

WHEREAS, using the current allocation formula to set consortia funding levels for CY 2013 would continue to place an unnecessary and potentially unsustainable workload burden on WREA and other disparately impacted consortia and is unfair to the elderly, disabled and other individuals they serve who depend on timely access to income maintenance benefits; and,

WHEREAS, at this time of such limited resources, when taxpayers are demanding collaboration and increased efficiency, DHS should be using a funding methodology that rewards efficiency and incentivizes consortia to employ collaborative service delivery models that maximize the benefits of the consortia model.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors requests that DHS adopt for CY 2013 a new funding methodology that considers MOE levels, better equalizes funding resources among consortia, rewards collaboration and drives regional IM systems to leverage the efficiencies intended by the Legislature.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Clerk shall mail a copy of this resolution to Governor Scott Walker, State Senator Jennifer Shilling, Representative Jill Billings, Representative Steve Doyle, and Secretary of Administration Secretary Michael Huebsch.

FISCAL NOTE: A new funding methodology could substantially increase funding for the WREA consortia.

Date: 6-12-12
[Signature]
HHS COMMITTEE CHAIR
Renee Weston
RECORDING CLERK

Date: 6/11/2012
[Signature]
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR
[Signature]
RECORDING CLERK

	Reviewed Only	Recommended	Not Recommended	
Co. Admin.		<u>50</u>		Requested By: Jason Witt
Fin. Director	<u>67</u>			Date Requested: 6/7/2012
Corp. Counsel	<u>192</u>			Drafted By: Jason Witt
Board Chair				

Adopted by the La Crosse County Board this 21 Day of June, 2012

STATE OF WISCONSIN
COUNTY OF LA CROSSE
I, Ginny Dankmeyer, County Clerk of La Crosse County do hereby certify that this document is a true and correct copy of the original resolution required by law to be in my custody and which the County Board of Supervisors of La Crosse County adopted at a meeting held on the 21st day of June, 2012.

[Signature]
Ginny Dankmeyer, La Crosse County Clerk