

**RESOLUTION  
ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Human Services Board  
INITIATED BY



Phil Boutwell  
DRAFTED BY

Human Services Board  
SUBMITTED BY

March 16, 2011  
DATE DRAFTED

**Opposing the Initiative in the Governor's Budget that removes Income Maintenance Administration from the Counties and Creates a State Operated Centralized Income Maintenance Unit**

- 1 **WHEREAS**, the State 2011-2013 Biennial Budget Bill requires that the income maintenance
- 2 administration unit (IM unit) services be centralized at the State by May 1, 2012; and,
- 3
- 4 **WHEREAS**, the income maintenance function is the biggest component of the Economic Support
- 5 Division that is presently located in the Rock County Job Center; and,
- 6
- 7 **WHEREAS**, approximately 50 Economic Support workers enroll eligible Rock County residents in
- 8 economic assistance benefits such as food share and Medicaid and presently maintain an unduplicated
- 9 caseload of 15,800 people; and,
- 10
- 11 **WHEREAS**, those County positions would be eliminated and a centralized income maintenance would
- 12 be created and operated by a private entity under contract with the State; and,
- 13
- 14 **WHEREAS**, while the consolidation of the IM functions would save Rock County approximately
- 15 \$140,000 on an annual basis, it would also result in a number of adverse unintended consequences that
- 16 would cost money and diminish services; and,
- 17
- 18 **WHEREAS**, the Economic Support Division occupies a large portion of the Job Center, and if it is
- 19 eliminated, the rent will increase significantly for the other County operations and partner agencies co-
- 20 located in the Job Center; and,
- 21
- 22 **WHEREAS**, the Job Center lease expires on December 31, 2011 and it is anticipated that the lease will
- 23 be extended on a month to month basis until the full impact of the IM consolidation is understood and
- 24 the Job Center partners can agree to a higher rent and a long term commitment; and,
- 25
- 26 **WHEREAS**, the State presently operates Badger Care Core, Badger Care Core Plus, and FoodShare
- 27 through an Enrollment Services Center (ESC) operated by a private entity, which is the identical model
- 28 to what is being proposed for the State centralized IM functions; and,
- 29
- 30 **WHEREAS**, at present, only 16% of its Badger Care Core, Badger Care Core Plus, and FoodShare
- 31 cases are being processed within the stated goal of less than the self-imposed thirty-day enrollment
- 32 standard; and,
- 33
- 34 **WHEREAS**, operating an effective income maintenance function requires knowledgeable and
- 35 committed staff in a local setting that can enroll clients in a timely fashion without errors, and solve
- 36 complex problems in a short period of time so that County residents do not go without basic needs;
- 37 and,
- 38
- 39 **WHEREAS**, the Human Services Board views IM as a core mission of the Department and not having
- 40 a local presence of IM staff would result in less effective service delivery and more costly Child
- 41 Protective Services, Mental Health and Community Support programs, Juvenile Justice Services, and
- 42 Long Term Support programs.
- 43
- 44 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled
- 45 this 24<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2011, does hereby oppose the initiative in the Governor's Budget that takes
- 46 income maintenance administration away from the counties and creates a statewide centralized Income
- 47 Maintenance Unit; and,

11-3B-322

**Opposing Initiative in Governor's Budget that takes Income Maintenance Administration away from Counties and Creates a Statewide Centralized Income Maintenance Unit**

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48 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Rock County Clerk is directed to send a copy of this  
49 resolution to the Rock County Legislative Delegation, the Wisconsin Counties Association, and to all  
50 other counties in the State of Wisconsin.

Respectfully submitted,

Human Services Board

*Brian Knudson*

Brian Knudson, Chair

*Jennifer Bishop*

Jennifer Bishop, Vice Chair

*Robert L. Fizzell*

Robert Fizzell

*Kathy Kelm*

Kathy Kelm

Absent

Minnie Murray

*Phillip Owens*

Phillip Owens

Absent

Terry Thomas

*Sally Jean Weaver Landers*

Sally Jean Weaver-Landers

Absent

Marvin Wopat

FISCAL NOTE:

This resolution addresses a legislative policy issue and has no direct fiscal impact on Rock County operations in and by itself.

*Jeffrey A. Smith*

Jeffrey A. Smith

Finance Director

LEGAL NOTE:

Advisory only.

*Jeffrey S. Kuglitsch*

Jeffrey S. Kuglitsch

Corporation Counsel

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

Recommended.

*Randy Terronez*

Randy Terronez

Acting County Administrator