



RESOLUTION # 44-2/25

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

ITEM # 2-16

**BOARD ACTION**

Adopted:   
For: 24  
Against: 0  
Abstain: 0  
Abs/Excd: 0  
Vote Req: 1  
Other Action: -

**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE ACTION**

Adopted:   
For: 1  
Against: 0  
Abstain: 0  
Abs/Excd: 2

**RE: ADVOCATING FOR EXPANDED INPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH FACILITIES IN WESTERN WISCONSIN**

**WHEREAS**, Wisconsin has limited resources when it comes to in-patient crisis care for individuals with mental illness, including for those incarcerated in county jails; and

**WHEREAS**, recent closures of facilities place a higher burden on the facilities that remain open; and

**WHEREAS**, the lack of available public and private inpatient behavioral health beds is a significant issue both in emergency mental health placements as well as for individuals in the criminal justice system awaiting assessment and treatment; and

**WHEREAS**, local law enforcement agencies are tasked with providing transportation of individuals experiencing a mental health crisis and they often spend hours waiting for facilities to respond to requests for in-patient beds; and

**WHEREAS**, incarcerated individuals awaiting mental health assessment at State-run facilities often wait 6-9 months for availability; and

**WHEREAS**, a significant number of individuals experiencing a mental health crisis end up being transported by law enforcement to the State facility in Winnebago (Winnebago Mental Health) and the State facility in Madison (Mendota Mental Health); and

**WHEREAS**, the great distance traveled puts a financial strain on counties and local municipal law enforcement agencies, not to mention the emotional strain experienced by the individuals being transported for several hours; and

**WHEREAS**, La Crosse County would like to work with other counties in the State to lobby for State funding to establish additional in-patient crisis facilities to serve the State of Wisconsin as well as lobby for the addition of a regional State-run hospital on the Western side of the State; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED**, the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors urges the State Legislature and the Governor to expand funding for an additional regional State-run facility and/or subsidies for private, not-for-profit organizations to establish an in-patient acute behavioral health unit to serve counties; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, The La Crosse County Board of Supervisors encourages other counties in the State to join in the lobbying efforts and pass a similar resolution.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the County Clerk is directed to send this Resolution to the Governor, State Legislators, the Wisconsin Counties Association, and other County Clerks upon passage.

**FISCAL NOTE:** This advisory resolution has no direct fiscal impact to La Crosse County.

Date: 2-11-25

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*Dale Madsen*

*Jane Klekamp*

COMMITTEE CHAIR

RECORDING CLERK

Reviewed Only

Recommended

Not Recommended

Co. Admin. \_\_\_\_\_  
Fin. Director \_\_\_\_\_  
Corp. Counsel \_\_\_\_\_  
Board Chair \_\_\_\_\_

*JK*

Requested By: Jane Klekamp  
Date Requested: January 28, 2025  
Drafted By: Corporation Counsel

Adopted by the La Crosse County Board this 20 Day of February, 2025

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 20<sup>th</sup> day of February 2025.

*Ginny Dankmeyer*  
Ginny Dankmeyer, La Crosse County Clerk