



Dane County, WI
210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Madison, WI 53703



DATE: December 8, 2022

TO: Personnel and Finance Committee

RE: Travel to Bexar County, Texas

FROM: Colleen Clark Bernhardt
Manager, Policy and Practice Innovation
Coordinator, Dane County Criminal Justice Council

Dane County Ordinance Chapter 20, Section 20.16, prohibits travel to states that have enacted a law that has the effect of voiding protections against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. Subsection 20.16(3)(c) and 20.21 provide the Personnel and Finance Committee the ability to grant exceptions to this prohibition.

Dane County is a member of the National Association of Counties Familiar Faces Initiative. According to their website, the vision of the initiative is “better outcomes and lower incarceration rates for individuals who frequently cycle through jails, homeless shelters, emergency departments and other local crisis services. Through the Familiar Faces Initiative, the National Association of Counties empowers communities to share data and integrate care options between health and justice systems so they can intervene earlier, improve outcomes and reduce incarceration and hospitalization rates.”

The [Familiar Faces Initiative \(FFI\): Improving Outcomes through Coordinated Health and Justice Systems](#) launched on May 12, underscoring community leaders’ commitment to improving life outcomes for high-needs residents with complex behavioral health conditions. At the launch, the [National Association of Counties \(NACo\)](#) announced new opportunities for counties and cities to engage in this work, including the launch of Peer-Learning Sites to model effective cross sector data-sharing and familiar faces programming.

While NACo will cover the costs of the Chair of the CJC and myself for travel and lodging, this memo requests an exception to Section 20.16 to cover the costs of my food and incidental expenses on this trip in early January 2023 to Bexar County, Texas.

This Peer Learning opportunity marks a multi-year effort by the CJC and the CJC-Behavioral Health subcommittee to review peer alternatives to those with a behavioral health crisis. The travel expenses borne by the county will be approximately \$400.

Thank you for your consideration.