



DANE COUNTY

Joe Parisi
County Executive

November 15, 2019

To: Dane County Board of Supervisors

Fr: County Executive Joe Parisi 

Re: Signing 2020 Dane County Budget

It's with great honor today I signed the 2020 Dane County budget, county government's roadmap of work priorities for the coming year. This \$663 million budget includes our most significant efforts to date at improving mental and behavioral health, confronting the scourge of addiction, increasing opportunity for our young people and their families, and protecting the lakes and lands that will long outlast our time here. I talked at the outset of this budget of our shared imperative to care for the people and places that comprise the fabric of this community. The budget signed today is a reflection of our shared values.

There's much good work to focus on at the completion of this budget process. I would like to highlight a couple of initiatives in particular I'm excited to see come to fruition at the dawn of a new decade. The success we've seen bringing mental health professionals into our schools to work directly with children creates a logical opportunity to take the work done with the "Building Bridges" school based mental health teams into other places young people gather, like our neighborhood/community centers. This budget includes \$500,000 in new mental health supports and trauma informed care for kids in our community centers. It creates a dedicated link between those centers and our Dane County Parks, sharing the magic that happens naturally around us every day outside the confines of our work environments.

To be compliant with a 2017 legal opinion from Dane County Corporation Counsel, the budget signed today does include one technical partial veto of language. Corporation Counsel reviewed the language and advised it be removed given it is inconsistent with the recent legal opinion. Corporation Counsel's opinion that informed this partial is attached to this memo. As a result, I am vetoing the following language:

1. *Line 93*: Insert a period after the word "family," and delete the remainder of the sentence (which ends on line 94).
2. *Line 102*: Add a period after the word "services" and delete the phrase "and recommended criteria for grants." Delete the entirety of the language in (c), which ends on line 103.
3. *Lines 106 and 107*: Add a period after the word "Proposals." Delete all of line 106 after the word "Proposals" and delete line 107 up to and including "2020."

Additionally, today I asked Dane County Human Services to take following impactful steps to promptly advance the community's shared goal of universal access to mental health care and recovery:

1. Immediately develop plans to create a new Dane County Universal Access Call Center to help patients, family members, and providers navigate the complex networks of mental and behavioral health care. In response to the recently completed PCG Community Behavioral Needs Analysis, we can use new money approved in the 2020 budget to create a central steering point to improve access.
2. Convene a work group consisting of private health care providers and insurers, community stakeholders, and the county to develop the appropriate agreements needed between private and public entities to ensure seamless interaction among those who provide mental and behavioral health care. Our goal should be a single point of access – regardless of where someone first presents in need of care, those who are able to provide it can share between systems to improve patient outcomes.
3. Extend an existing contract with NAMI Dane County to provide countywide crisis intervention training for all front line personnel – police officers, emergency medics, social workers and others who often first come into contact with individuals presenting in crisis and in need of referral to care. This training will help defuse situations and provide an entry point to necessary mental and behavioral health care. It's estimated this extensive training will cost \$60,000.

A couple of weeks ago, Dane County Human Services staff and I met with community and neighborhood center leaders from across the county to discuss how to best partner to achieve the greatest good with the new mental health resource money in the budget. A second conversation is already scheduled for shortly after Thanksgiving. Director Tessmann and I met with Charles and Cindy Tubbs in recent weeks as well to ensure a new fund created in the budget bearing the name of their deceased son prioritizes the opportunities they have too painfully been made aware of within existing mental health and addiction recovery services. Our work to get this money into the community is well underway. The opportunity before us is great.

I'm grateful for our opportunity to partner on the issues facing Dane County residents and continuing our work investing in the people and places that make this such a special place. Thank you.