

2021 RES-080

INCREASING SOCIAL WORKER POSITION AUTHORITY IN THE OUT OF HOME CARE UNIT
DCDHS - PEI DIVISION

The Out of Home Care (OHC) Unit within Dane County Department of Human Services' (DCDHS) Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) Division is responsible for licensing Dane County Foster Parents, licensing relatives as foster parents, matching children to both family based and congregate care placements and operating the Department's Voluntary Kinship Care program. The OHC Unit is comprised of 11.25 FTE Senior Social Workers, a 1.0 FTE Social Service Specialist and a 1.0 FTE Social Work Supervisor who support a total of 165 licensed foster homes and 167 Kinship Care providers and oversee general placement needs of 227 children and youth in Out of Home Care.

In November 2020, the State of Wisconsin enacted changes to the Kinship Care Administrative Rule (WI DCF 58) requiring increased in person contact and administrative tasks in order to process applications for and provide ongoing support for persons caring for their relative's children. Well over 60% of Dane County's Kinship Care providers are BIPOC (Black, Indigenous People of Color) individuals who receive a very modest stipend to care for their relatives' children and keep them out of formal child welfare systems. Additionally, in October 2021, the State of Wisconsin must comply with the federal Families First Prevention Act that prioritizes keeping children with their families. The Families First Act requires decreased use of congregate care and increased use of relative placements and family foster homes when out of home placement is needed. Increasing the licensing of and support of relative and family foster homes requires increased staffing support. This resolution seeks to increase an existing .75 FTE Senior Social Worker position to 1.0 FTE Social Worker position using savings from the Alternate Care budget from increased use of less costly family based placement options.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that position authority in the Human Services Department is increased from .75 FTE Senior Social Worker (SW20) position number 1324 to 1.0 FTE Senior Social Worker (SW20) position in payroll org 6073 effective July 1, 2021 within the PEI Division. The costs for this position authority increase will be covered entirely by shifting levy savings from Alternate Care expenses.

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED that the following expenditure accounts be adjusted within the Alternate Care Budget in the Department of Human Services:

Expenditure ORG	Account Number	Account Title	Amount
73000	35504	Residential Care Centers	(\$15,200)
73000	10009	Salaries and Wages	\$10,400
73000	10099	Retirement	\$800
73000	10108	Social Security	\$800
73000	10117	Health	\$3100
73000	10153	Dental	\$200
73000	10171	Disability Insurance	\$100
73000	10250	Salary Savings	(\$200)
		Total	\$0