

## 2024 RES-394

### RECOGNIZING APRIL 2025 AS NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

**WHEREAS**, April is recognized as National Child Abuse Prevention Month and this year's theme is "Powered by Hope, Strengthened by Prevention;" and

**WHEREAS**, this month provides an opportunity to raise awareness and take action to prevent child abuse and neglect, and a time for our community to come together to reflect on what each of us can do to make a positive impact on the well-being of children; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2023 in Dane County, there were 1,280 reports of abuse or neglect of a child between the ages of 0-17 years made to Child Protective Services, or 11.6 incident reports per 1,000 children in the county; and

**WHEREAS**, childhood trauma, including abuse and neglect, can have psychological, emotional, social, and physical effects throughout an individual's lifetime that often is carried forward into future generations; and

**WHEREAS**, Positive Childhood Experiences (PCEs)—such as loving caregivers and safe, stable, and nurturing relationships—play a vital role in helping children thrive by mitigating trauma and the negative impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs); and

**WHEREAS**, every child deserves to grow up in a safe, supportive, and loving environment, free of abuse and neglect, so that they can prosper and live full, healthy, and happy lives; and

**WHEREAS**, children and families who receive the support they need before a crisis occurs are better equipped to provide safe, healthy, and nurturing environments, leading to safer, healthier children who are more hopeful about their futures; and

**WHEREAS**, strengthening families through concrete economic, social, and community-based supports—and investments in prevention initiatives such as home visiting programs, family strengthening policies, and community-based child abuse prevention efforts—reduces the likelihood of abuse and neglect and ensures children have the foundation for lifelong well-being; and

**WHEREAS**, effective child abuse and neglect prevention activities succeed through the partnerships created between Dane County's child welfare professionals, early childhood professionals, non-profits, educators, healthcare providers, community- and faith-based organizations, government agencies, law enforcement agencies, first responders, and families; and

**WHEREAS**, the Dane County Department of Human Services offers an array of services both directly and through partnerships with local agencies for families and children to prevent child abuse and neglect, and build strong, safe, and healthy children and families that are positioned for future success and that will benefit the entire community; and

**WHEREAS**, prevention of child abuse and neglect remains the best defense for our children and families.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Dane County Board of Supervisors recognizes April 2025 as National Child Abuse Prevention Month in Dane County and celebrates the many Dane County departments and employees, community organizations, educators, law enforcement, healthcare providers, community and faith-based organizations, and other advocates who dedicate themselves to preventing child abuse and neglect in our community and to improving the quality of life for all children and families.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the Dane County Board of Supervisors acknowledges that we must continue to work together as a county to increase awareness about child abuse and neglect, and to promote the physical, social, and emotional well-being of children and families for a county, state, and world where every child can grow up happy, healthy, and safe with hope for their future.

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Patrick Miles, Chair  
Dane County Board of Supervisors

Signed and sealed before me this  
\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

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Scott McDonell,  
Dane County Clerk