

**ACCEPTING GRANT FUNDS AND CREATING A BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAM  
SPECIALIST PROJECT POSITION DCDHS - PEI DIVISION**

The Dane County Department of Human Services (DCDHS) Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) Division has received competitive grant from the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF) to better serve children and youth with high acuity needs placed in foster and kinship care. The grant, Expansion of Community Based Services to Support Children with High Acuity Needs in Out of Home Care, begins March 1, 2023 and will end on December 31, 2024. The goals of the grant are to decrease use of congregate care placement for children with high acuity needs and increase community placement, increase placement stability and prevent re-entry to out of home care for this population. This grant funds the creation of a Project Behavioral Health Specialist position within the Department’s Out of Home Care (OHC) Unit and expands funding for hourly respite for school aged children who are in foster or kinship care. The Behavioral Health Specialist project position will train foster and kin providers on topics related to children and youth mental health and substance use treatment needs, teach caregivers to effectively use and execute mental health crisis response plans, and provide regular consultation and technical assistance to all Dane County licensed foster parents and relative providers caring for a child with higher acuity needs. Consultation with caregivers will focus on ensuring providers (both foster parents and kin) have the skills needed to successfully help children integrate therapeutic coping skills and strategies into daily living and assist caregivers in enacting trauma informed parenting and shared parenting practices that meet the needs of children with higher acuity needs and behaviors. The position will also provide consultation and technical assistance to Licensing and Child Placing Social Workers on appropriate use of community therapeutic supports and services. This DCF grant also funds an increase in staffing at the Respite Center, specifically offering an average of 10 hours per week of hourly respite for school aged children with higher acuity needs in out of home placement. The ability to give relative and foster parents a few hours of daytime respite for school aged children with higher acuity needs will greatly aid in their ability to continue to successfully care for these children. For the children, the Respite Center will provide a small, safe, and nurturing environment to practice their coping skills, and have positive interactions with peers and other adults. If desired by the family and team, the Respite Center could continue to be a respite resource for the family to help ensure successful reunification and prevent re-entry to out of home care.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Dane County Board does hereby support and authorize the creation of a 1.0 FTE Behavioral Health Specialist project position (M-10) in payroll org 6073 effective March 26, 2023 within the PEI Division in the Human Services Department.

**BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED** that the following new revenue and expenditure accounts be added and that the revenue increase be credited to the County General Fund and transferred from the General Fund to the following expenditure accounts within the Alternate Care Budget in the Department of Human Services:

Revenue			
<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Account Title</u>		<u>Amount</u>
73000 85146 (NEW)	Community Based Services Expansion		\$125,500

49	Expenditures		
50	<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Account Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>
51	73000 10009	Salaries and Wages	\$64,000
52	73000 10099	Retirement Fund	4,400
53	73000 10108	Social Security	4,900
54	73000 10117	Health	17,100
55	73000 10153	Dental	1,300
56	73000 10171	Disability Insurance	100
57	73000 10250	Salary Savings	(1,300)
58	73000 35408 (NEW)	Community Prevntn Orgnztn & Aware	<u>35,000</u>
59	Total Expenditures		\$125,500
60			