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A report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting approval of \$4,076,974 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to expand the secure and community continuum of care opportunities in Milwaukee County, by recommending adoption of the following:

A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 was signed into law by President Biden on March 11, 2021, in efforts to support individuals, families, businesses, and governments impacted by the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Milwaukee County (the County) will receive \$183.7 million in ARPA funding, through the ARPA State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors adopted File No. 21-555: “A resolution to create a Task Force (ARPA Task Force) to review and recommend funding allocations to the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors for monies received by the County in the Federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021”; and

WHEREAS, of the County’s \$183.7 million of ARPA aid, approximately \$36,739,238, has been recommended by the ARPA Task Force for Community Support, to generate projects that respond to economic harms to workers, families, small businesses, impacted industries, and the public sector in the County; and

WHEREAS, in June of 2022, the Revenue Loss Recovery Workgroup recommended \$4,076,974 to expand the secure and community continuum of care for justice-involved youth based on criteria set forth by the ARPA Task Force; and

WHEREAS, pandemic challenges have contributed to both a dramatic increase in the number of young people entering the youth justice system on serious charges, and an intensification of staffing shortages in the Children, Youth, and Family Services (CYFS) Division, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), while at the same time the County is working with the State of Wisconsin (the State) to end State corrections placements at Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake; and

WHEREAS, the County has seen a significant increase in youth referred to the youth justice system committed on serious charges, and between 2019 and 2021, CYFS-DHHS saw a 37 percent increase in youth referrals on armed robbery, and a 129 percent increase in youth referred on possession of a dangerous weapon charge (55 referrals in 2021 compared to 24 in 2019); and

45 WHEREAS, the State’s efforts to close the only remaining youth prisons –
46 Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake – have placed additional strain on the County
47 Accountability Program (MCAP) in detention, which has been operating with a waitlist
48 with some youth having to wait six to 10 weeks to begin the treatment program; and
49

50 WHEREAS, the proposed project will address an urgent need to build staff and
51 programming capacity within CYFS-DHHS, and increase programming for young people
52 who need it most; and
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54 WHEREAS, the ARPA Task Force recommended this project for funding on
55 June 9, 2022; and
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57 WHEREAS, the Committee on Health Equity, Human Needs, and Strategic
58 Planning, at its meeting of July 13, 2022, recommended adoption of File No. 22-805
59 (vote 4-0); and
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61 WHEREAS, the Committee on Finance, at its meeting of July 21, 2022,
62 recommended adoption of File No. 22-805 (vote 7-0); now, therefore,
63

64 BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors (County Board)
65 hereby authorizes the expansion of secure and community continuum of care
66 opportunities in Milwaukee County, supported by American Rescue Plan Act revenue in
67 the amount of \$4,076,974 to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS);
68 and
69

70 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Board authorizes DHHS, the
71 Department of Administrative Services, Corporation Counsel, Office of Corporation
72 Counsel, the Office of the Comptroller (Comptroller), and County Executive to prepare,
73 review, approve, and execute all contracts and other documents, and take all actions
74 required for this project funded by \$4,076,974, beginning September 1, 2022, through
75 December 31, 2026; and
76

77 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Board hereby authorizes the Office of
78 Strategy, Budget, and Performance, and the Comptroller to process an administrative
79 appropriation transfer of \$4,076,974 to direct funds to DHHS for the project.
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