

A resolution by Supervisor Johnson, Jr., in support of increasing state funding for, and expanding access to the Treatment Alternatives and Diversion grant program, by recommending adoption of the following:

A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin (the State) prisons are overcrowded, understaffed, and in some cases, very near the end of their physical viability; and

WHEREAS, new Operating While Intoxicated (OWI) laws, the heroin epidemic, and the continuing crisis of methamphetamine addiction are threatening to further increase the population of the prisons; and

WHEREAS, the State has many proven, evidence-based, and cost-effective alternatives to incarceration including, Drug Treatment Courts, Veterans Courts, Family Courts, OWI Courts, the Safe Streets Treatment Options Programs, and other interventions that prove to be more effective than incarceration for reducing recidivism and improving public safety; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, Wisconsin Act 25 authorized grants to counties to establish programs that offer Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD), which provide district attorneys or judges options to offer offenders opportunities to enter into voluntary substance abuse treatment, case management, or other risk reduction services as a safe alternative to jail or prison confinement; and

WHEREAS, TAD programs have certain eligibility criteria, and in 2014, the University of Wisconsin (UW) Population Health Institute recommended that the criteria be modified to allow programs to make admission decisions based on an individual's current level of criminal risk and his/her need for treatment; and

WHEREAS, TAD programs also have legislatively mandated evaluations, and these evaluations show that TAD programs save tax payers money; and

WHEREAS, according to the most recent evaluation completed by the UW Population Health Institute, in conjunction with the State Department of Justice, the State Department of Corrections, the State Department of Health Services, and the Director of State Courts' Office, for every dollar the State invests in TAD programs, it saves \$1.96; and

WHEREAS, due to TAD's continued success, 2013 Wisconsin Act 197 expanded the TAD programs by \$1.5 million annually, and 2015 Wisconsin Act 388 expanded TAD program funding by \$2 million annually, bringing the total TAD expenditure to more than \$6 million for the 2017 calendar year, and increasing the number of TAD sites; and

47 WHEREAS, Milwaukee County's (the County) current TAD grant is \$380,981,
48 and the previous grant was \$333,900, and these monies help to fund diversion and
49 deferred prosecution programs, and require a 25 percent local match; and
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51 WHEREAS, diversion and deferred prosecution programs, along with the
52 County's Drug Treatment Court, a Veterans' Initiative, a pilot Mental Health Court, and a
53 Day Reporting Center, have been proven to save thousands of jail bed days, and the
54 associated expenses, while improving public health and safety by addressing root
55 causes of addiction; and
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57 WHEREAS, the County and all local units of government in Wisconsin are
58 statutorily restricted in their ability to raise revenue to fund local initiatives such as those
59 described above, which is why additional TAD funding is important; and
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61 WHEREAS, the Committee on Judiciary, Safety, and General Services, at its
62 meeting of March 8, 2018, recommended adoption of File No. 18-246 (vote 5-0); now,
63 therefore,
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65 BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors urge the
66 Governor and State Legislature to enhance public safety and reduce unnecessary
67 corrections related expenditures by:
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- 69 1. Increasing funding for the Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD)
70 grant program by \$15 million annually;
- 71 2. Changing the TAD statute so that people who were once convicted of a
72 violent crime can be eligible for TAD programming if the new crime is non-
73 violent in nature;
- 74 3. Changing the statute to ensure that people with a mental illness\
75 (and not a co-occurring addiction issue) are eligible;
- 76 4. Expand TAD in three principal areas:
 - 77 a. Expansion of Operating While Intoxicated Courts, Safe Streets
78 Treatment Options Programs, and other programs that address
79 drunk and impaired driving
 - 80 b. Expansion of drug treatment programs that can help address
81 the growing heroin problem, as well as the lingering issues of
82 methamphetamine, crack, and other drugs
 - 83 c. Expansion of funding for treatment alternatives that are targeted
84 to the communities that have the state's highest incarcerations
85 rates

86
87 ; and
88

89 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, upon adoption, the Office of Government Affairs is
90 authorized and requested to forward copies of this resolution to the Wisconsin Legislature
91 and the Governor of Wisconsin.