

STATE SENATOR KATHY BERNIER
TWENTY-THIRD SENATE DISTRICT



State Capitol • P.O. Box 7882 • Madison, WI 53707
Office: (608) 266-7511 • Toll Free: (888) 437-9436
Sen.Bernier@legis.wi.gov • www.SenatorBernier.com

From: Senator Kathy Bernier
To: Committee on State Affairs
Re: Testimony on Assembly Bill 92
Relating to: grant to a hospital for expanding psychiatric bed capacity.
Date: March 31, 2021

Thank you Chairman Swearingen and committee members for allowing me to submit testimony on Assembly Bill 92 today. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with Rep. James on this important piece of legislation.

A mental health crisis is traumatic under any circumstances, but when the situation escalates to the point where a Chapter 51 emergency detention becomes necessary, the situation is often made worse by the need to transport individuals many hours away while restrained in the back of a squad car. The goal of this legislation is to reduce the time and stress of transporting emergency detention patients great distances from northern and western Wisconsin to Winnebago Mental Health Institute in Oshkosh by instead increasing the number of beds available regionally. Unfortunately, Winnebago has had several high-profile incidents lately, including most recently allowing an adolescent female to be released to a transport driver rather than her mother.

This bill won't solve Wisconsin's mental health crisis alone, but it will help those in crisis by keeping them closer to supporting family and friends, save county and local government resources and potentially serve as a model for similar efforts elsewhere in the state. Initial savings are estimated at \$2.7 million annually and could be much higher.

Assembly Bill 92 directs a one-time \$15 million grant using bonding authority from the last budget for the startup costs of renovating existing facilities and training new staff to add 22 new mental health beds at an Eau Claire area hospital. Ongoing expenses would be absorbed by the hospital. The new and currently existing beds would be split between a 33 adult bed location and a dedicated 18 bed adolescent location nearby. That approaches the number of adolescent beds currently available at Winnebago MHI. This expansion would dramatically help with the difficulties of transporting individuals under Chapter 51 emergency detention to Winnebago MHI for 29 counties in northern and western Wisconsin. Traveling the 300 plus miles from northwest Wisconsin to Oshkosh can take over five hours each way.

Over the last three years these 29 counties have consistently accounted for 22 percent of the individual admissions received at Winnebago MHI. By serving the vast majority of individuals from these counties closer to home and reducing this number, the current strain on Winnebago could be reduced as well.

I ask you to please consider the passage of Assembly Bill 92. Thank you again for allowing me to submit testimony today.



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

JESSE JAMES

Testimony before Assembly Committee on State Affairs
Assembly Bill 92
Wednesday, March 31, 2021

Thank you Chairman Swearingen and committee members for hearing Assembly Bill 92 today. Assembly Bill 92 will grant 15 million to Sacred Heart and St. Joseph's Hospital to expand their psychiatric bed capacity.

Emergency detention is a current law procedure for temporary involuntary commitment of individuals who are believed to be mentally ill, drug dependent, or developmentally disabled and who demonstrate a substantial probability of causing harm to themselves or others or an inability to satisfy certain basic needs due to a mental illness.

As someone with over 20 years of experience in law enforcement, I know firsthand how traumatic emergency detention is for everyone involved. When someone is going through a mental health crisis, and are deemed a danger, they can be taken into custody by a law enforcement officer, and transported to a hospital for treatment. The process of transporting individuals from the area they live to a hospital that has capacity to treat them for their needs is a lengthy process. It harms an individual more than it helps them. Right now in western Wisconsin, most law enforcement officers have to transport individuals to Winnebago Mental Health Institute because there is a lack of access to services in our part of the state.

Sacred Heart Hospital and St. Joseph's are existing facilities that are willing to upgrade their facilities to be able to treat more individuals with mental health needs. Expanding psychiatric bed capacity in western Wisconsin will help those who are going through a crisis by keeping them closer to home where their support system is. It will also help them get the care they need at a much quicker rate, rather than forcing individuals to ride in the back of a squad car, handcuffed, for multiple hours when they are going through a mental health crisis.

Increasing psychiatric bed capacity in western Wisconsin will save local dollars for counties and local governments. In 2018, 29 counties in northern and western Wisconsin accounted for 774, or roughly 20 percent of the individual admissions received at Winnebago Mental Health Institute. By being able to serve these individuals closer to home it will not only help their well-being, but also take a strain off on Winnebago Mental Health Institute.

This is a common sense solution that will help those who have mental health needs get care closer to home and in a much quicker fashion. I want to thank Senator Bernier for her many years of working on this issue and bringing me on board.



March 31, 2021

Chairman Swearingen & Members of the Committee on State Affairs
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53707

Re: Assembly Bill 92

Thank you, Chairman Swearingen and Members of the Committee on State Affairs, for considering Assembly Bill 92, which addresses the need for additional behavioral health beds in Western Wisconsin. I am the Executive Director of Behavioral for HSHS Sacred Heart & St Joseph's Hospitals, located in Eau Claire & Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin. Our interest in working with the state to address the need for more inpatient behavioral health beds continues to be strong. HSHS shares the goal of ensuring people have access to inpatient behavioral health beds when they need them. Addressing this shortage directly aligns with our organizational mission, vision, and values.

Specifically, we know there is a need to expand bed capacity to reduce patient holds in the emergency room, keep patients close to home and reduce the heavy state resource burden associated with the high number of Chapter 51 admissions originating from counties in Western Wisconsin admitted to Winnebago Mental Health Institute.

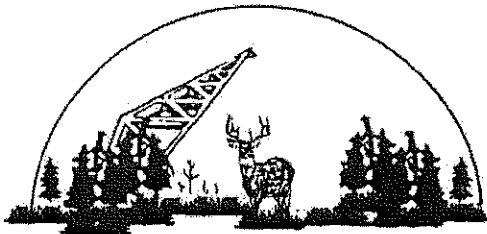
Over the past many months there has been conversations, across the state, about meeting the needs of patients requiring Chapter 51 detention to ensure their own safety and the safety of others. HSHS is committed to serving this specific population in our adult and adolescent behavioral health units.

Not only are we committed to providing services to the population of people with behavioral needs, we are committed to continuing to focus on delivering services with high quality. Patients treated in our behavioral health program, receive the most current treatment, with Dialectical Behavioral Therapy, an evidenced based practice, being our foundation. We continuously review our services to ensure we are delivering the most current treatment approaches that result in the best possible outcomes. Readmission rates are an example of a quality outcome. Across the state, the average 30-day readmission rate for inpatient behavioral health units runs at approximately 10%. Our 30-day readmission rate averages 1.7%. This is an indication of the quality of the services provided to people while they are in our services, and the discharge planning that occurs to prepare people to be successful once they leave our program.

HSHS remains a committed partner in improving behavioral healthcare in the state of Wisconsin and would enjoy this collaboration, with the state, to help address the needs of our communities.

Thank you,

Toni Simonson, PhD
Executive Director – Behavioral Health
HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital
HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital



CORNELL POLICE DEPT.

P.O. Box 796 • 221 Main Street
Cornell, WI 54732-1796

Phone: 715-239-3707
Fax: 715-239-3706

AB-92

Committee on State Affairs, Chairman Swearingen and committee members,

Members of our Police Department would like show support for these bills. In small towns like Cornell throughout NW Wisconsin having access to local mental health treatment beds increase public safety, and lower constraints on agencies with minimal staffing. When our Department must transport a mental health patient to Winnebago Mental Health, it is 380 miles, and 6 to 7 hours of transportation.

By passing these bills, our transportation lowers to around 70 miles and 2 hours. This is a significant step in the right direction for someone in a mental health crisis. Imagine you or a loved one having a mental health crisis, being placed in handcuffs and transported in the back of a police car, for nearly 4 hours. Then when you or your loved one are released, arrangements must be made for transportation home. Often mental health patients feel like a burden to their loved ones, this often exacerbates the situation.

Passing these bills is important to mental health patients and the care they receive. Passing these bills is also important for small communities like ours that only has one Officer on at a time, those 7 hours we must transport a patient; leave our entire City without Law Enforcement protection.

We hope our State Government can have bi-partisan support for this bill. It is a much needed improvement for mental health moving FORWARD, and after all, isn't that what our State stands for.

Respectfully Submitted by our Police Department,

Luke Abbate
OFFICER LUKE ABBATE

Hello!

On behalf of the Take a Stand Against Meth campaign & taskforce, we'd like to include the below testimony for the mental health bill.

1) Recently we posted on the Take a Stand Against Meth Facebook page, and the post generated way more views and clicks than any of our other posts to date. This post contained recovery meetings links and mental health contact information. That's it. Nothing pretty, nothing terrifying. Just info. And it's been viewed 18,000 times and shared 73 times. It is now pinned to the top of our page. I should note that the taskforce page only has 1900 followers and yet, a post containing mental health information very quickly surpassed that.

2) Our reasons for standing against meth and fighting for better access to mental health...

The Take a Stand Against Meth campaign in Chippewa County is officially requesting and has requested more access to mental health, as well as fully supporting the current mental health initiatives to provide more mental health resources.

We are supporting this cause as it both directly and indirectly affects the same campaign goals we are currently fighting for!

For example, if an addict is ready to start recovery but does not have access to mental health resources, how then does recovery begin? One might suggest attending Narcotics Anonymous meetings, or by just saying no.

Sounds good, right? Wrong. One of the most important - if not the most important - tools in a meth user's recovery is cognitive behavioral therapy. Without access to this therapy, users have very little chance at retraining the thoughts that hold them captive to meth and ultimately kicking their addiction to this awful drug.

With that said, the adult son of a campaign volunteer is now a successful recovering addict. Thank goodness! But when he was in active addiction, and seeking recovery, access to mental health treatment did not exist. His solution to that problem was to threaten suicide and other violent self harm in order to be involuntarily committed at the local hospital. By being involuntarily committed, he then received the mental health treatment he so desperately needed.

I have a close family member whose personal life quickly and violently tanked when she became a domestic violence victim. This family member is also a successful recovering heroin addict, with 5 years sobriety. With the added stress, anxiety, and danger she quickly declined and she knew she needed help. She made an appointment with the first available physician (three weeks ago) but was told there was a three month wait for the first available mental health treatment appointment. Three months!! She was thoroughly frustrated and after a week or more of waiting, told me that the stress and anxiety were so bad she was considering using again just to take the edge off. Thankfully, her doctor was able to get her in again and prescribe medication to help her deal with what life was giving her. She is still waiting for the first available mental health appointment. The worst part is that the danger still exists for her, and therefore so does the risk of

using again.

After all, what addict is going to voluntarily wait three months to start recovery? What recovering addict should throw away five years of successful and clean living because help is not available?

The answer to both is NONE.

- No addict is going to wait, and we are going to lose that chance! We are going to lose that son, daughter, mother, or father!

- No recovering addict should ever have to throw away the positive and successful changes because they don't have the right tools and resources to continue fighting for their sobriety!

It seems like a simple answer - just provide more access to mental health treatment. But as you know, this is a huge issue in our area today. The lack of access and resources affects so many of us in so many ways.

The campaign is fully aware of the current push for more mental health access and resources and we want you to know we 100% support these initiatives. Please let us know if and how we can help get these initiatives pushed further and ultimately approved.

The very people we are fighting for need this chance to survive their addiction. The kids who aren't able to return home need this chance for their parents addiction. The son of the volunteer, and his family, needs this chance to continue his fight against meth addiction. My family member needs this chance to continue her sobriety and her life.

We all need this.

Thank you,
Sarah Peck
Take a Stand Against Meth – Chippewa County
Communication Team Chair



**RIVER FALLS
POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Office of the Chief of Police
2815 Prairie Drive
River Falls, WI 54022
715.425.0909

March 30, 2021

RE: AB-92

Chairman Swearingen and committee members on State Affairs:

Thank you for hearing AB-92/SB-86 testimony tomorrow. I'm writing in support of the proposals to reduce the time and stress of transporting emergency detention patient's great distances from northern and western Wisconsin to Winnebago Mental Health Institute by instead increasing the number of beds available regionally.

Your committee has my full support of this initiative! Eau Claire is a desirable location for both western Wisconsin patients, as well as those in northern Wisconsin. Effectively helping those in crisis is a top priority for the River Falls Police Department.

Our current transportation procedures are unacceptable, but we are left with no other choice. Currently, in River Falls, patients going to Winnebago Hospital in need of critical mental health care are transported 250 miles, in handcuffs, on a hard-plastic rear seat of the patrol car. This will mean the patient is in this position for over 4 hours. This is why I believe this proposal will be a win for the patient, our community, and the State of Wisconsin.

This is ineffective in stabilizing the patients stress level and mental well-being and also takes the patient away from their family support system. It has been our experience that most patient's support network (relatives/friends/co-workers) are unable to be a part of their healing process due to the extreme distance from the treatment center. This is especially true for our community because patients we help often attend the University of Wisconsin – River Falls and 50% of the students come from Minnesota.

I am a relatively new police chief to Wisconsin and I quickly realized when I took over leadership in River Falls that our emergency detention process is broken in Wisconsin. This needs to change for the betterment of those we serve. We can do much better!

Thank you for all you do for our great State of Wisconsin. Please let me know if I could help in any way to see this gets the funding that is long overdue.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gordon Young". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and "Y".

Gordon Young
Chief of Police
River Falls Police Department

As a former County Board Chairman in Eau Claire County I have supported efforts to address mental health issues in our area for many years. It is a real commitment for the County and the relatives of those arrested under the present system of transporting those suspected of mental health arrest to the southern part of the State. In the past there were no designated beds for mental health commitments in our area. We have had two area hospitals that have now made those beds designated so the State should allow those evaluations to now take place in northern Wisconsin. We have the professional staff here to accomplish this. I implore your support for both Assembly bill 92 and Senate Bill 86.

Thank you for your time,

Howard Ludwigson
5537 Bayview Dr.
Eau Claire Wi 54703

Pierce County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Nancy Hove
Chief Deputy Steve Albarado



Sheriff Department Phone: 715-273-5051
Administration Fax: 715-273-3409
Investigation Fax: 715-273-3409
Jail/Administration: 715-273-1137

555 West Overlook Drive • Ellsworth, WI

To: Chairman Swearingen and committee members on State Affairs
From: Pierce County Sheriff, Nancy Hove
Date: March 28, 2021

As Pierce County Sheriff, I am pleased to see interest in possible action being taken to address the mental health needs of the citizens of our region. At the present time, our citizens who are in mental crisis are transported in the back seat of a squad car or ambulance for over a four hour drive, one-way, to the Winnebago Mental Health Facility. As the Sheriff, I have concerns over the individual in need of specialized mental health care. In my humble opinion, a mental health crisis is no different than a medical crisis. Can you imagine if you were having a heart attack and the closest hospital is over 4 hours away? For the safety and security of my officers and the individuals being transported, who are already in crisis? Imagine someone in a mental health crisis, being restrained and transported for over four hours. The actions we are forced to take are not reasonable to the ones in mental health crisis.

As Pierce County Sheriff I am in full support of Assembly Bill 92 version, with companion bill Senate Bill 86.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Nancy Hove".

Sheriff Nancy Hove

Dear Chairman Swearingen and other Assembly members of the Committee on State Affairs,

I am in favor of AB 92. The need for psychiatric care in this portion of the state of Wisconsin is evidenced by our half of the state accounting for 20% of the admissions to the Winnebago Mental Health Institute. By granting Sacred Heart Hospital in Eau Claire and St. Joseph's Hospital in Chippewa Falls the funds to expand psychiatric beds for adults and juveniles respectively, this would allow these needy individuals to be treated locally. Additionally, it would reduce the burden on the Winnebago facility.

Another positive factor that the passing of this bill could bring is in considering the mental fragility of those needing in-patient psychiatric care. These individuals' mental stress could possibly be eased somewhat by being treated in a facility closer to home rather than being transported to a facility that is far from home and any emotional support from family and friends that are local.

Thank you for considering my testimony and support for AB 92.

Karen Hurd

Nutritionist, Master of Science Biochemistry

Master of Public Health Candidate at The George Washington University

Karen R. Hurd Nutritional Practice, LLC

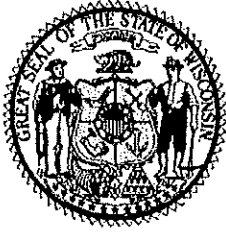
114 S. State Street

Fall Creek, WI 54742

www.karenhurd.com

Residence: 835 S. Liberty Street, Apt 14, Fall Creek, WI 54742

Cell: 715-577-4860



CHIPPEWA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

711 North Bridge Street
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729
Phone: [715] 726-7740 ♦ Fax: [715] 726-7748

E-mail: DistrictAttorneyOffice@co.chippewa.wi.us
Website: www.co.chippewa.wi.us/Departments/DistrictAttorney

WADE C . NEWELL, District Attorney

Assistant District Attorneys

Roy La Barton Gay
Lawrence J. Broeren
Sara Matthews

Scott Zehr
Edward Minser

Office Manager
Victim Services Office

[715] 726-7747
[715] 726-7733

Date: March 30, 2021
To: Chairman Swearingen and Other Members of the Assembly Committee
on State Affairs
From: Wade C. Newell, District Attorney
RE: 2021 Assembly Bill 92


I am fully in support of 2021 AB 92, which will allocate a grant for the expansion of psychiatric bed capacity in the Chippewa Valley.

Untreated mental health issues can often lead to criminal behavior, and increased illegal drug use. Untreated mental health issues put a tremendous burden on the criminal justice system, which is often ill-equipped to effectively deal with mental health issues. As Chippewa County District Attorney, I believe increasing emergency detention beds capacity right here in the Chippewa Valley will have multiple system-wide benefits, to include:

- 1) Timely addressing of mental health needs, before the individual's behavior warrants intervention through the criminal justice system.
- 2) Reduced illegal drug usage, due to untreated mental health issues.
- 3) Reduced transportation and personnel costs for law enforcement, due to current emergency detention beds being all the way across the state.

I believe that increasing the psychiatric bed capacity will have a substantial payoff both in effectively treating mental health issues, and reducing the burden on the criminal justice system.

I would like to thank Representative James for advancing this bill, and all the other Senators and Representatives that have co-sponsored this bill. I would like to thank Chairman Swearingen and the other members of the Assembly Committee on State Affairs for holding a hearing, and allowing me the opportunity to testify in support of this important mental health.



Wade C. Newell
District Attorney
Chippewa County



RICE LAKE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Steven G. Roux
Chief of Police

Brian F. Larson
Captain of Administration

Matthew T. Bach
Captain of Operations

34 S. Wilson Ave. • Rice Lake, WI 54868

March 30, 2021

Representative Rob Swearingen
Room 123 West
State Capitol
PO Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708

Re: Assembly Bill 92 Support Letter/Testimony

Dear Chairman Swearingen and Assembly Committee on State Affairs:

I'm writing in support of this bill which will provide a viable solution to help our emergency detention crisis by increasing the available psychiatric beds in the northwest part of the state.

As you are very well aware, patients in crisis deserve to receive the best treatment possible and transporting them in the back of a police vehicle for several hours to an available hospital is not ideal. There are not a lot of available psychiatric hospitals in this part of the state which results in a lengthy transport if those venues are at capacity. This initiative will undoubtedly help patients stay closer to their homes and local resources!

In Rice Lake alone, we transported eight individuals chaptered under 51.15 to the Winnebago Mental Health Institute and 22 other transports around the state in 2020 at a significant expense to our Department. A transport to Winnebago takes us approximately 8 ½ hours total which adds an operational and financial burden to our small police agency. Officers are often times called in while off-duty or our available officers on a given shift are reduced to provide such transportation.

Although this is not the only solution to this problem, it's certainly a step in the right direction and I respectfully encourage your committee to support AB-92.

Thank you,

Steven G. Roux
Chief of Police
Wisconsin Chiefs of Police 1st Vice President



Mark D. Nicholson
Chief of Police

Tomah Police Department
805 Superior Avenue
Tomah, Wisconsin 54660

Phone (608) 374-7400
Fax (608) 374-7413
tomahpd@tomahpolice.com

March 30, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

I recently became aware that on March 31, 2021 there will be a meeting and testimony provided in reference to Assembly Bill 92. As you are aware AB92 is to provide funding for additional mental health resources and facilities in Eau Claire County for both adults and juveniles.

I am unable to attend the meeting tomorrow to provide testimony therefore I am providing you with this document encouraging our legislatures to support and approve AB92.

I have been with the Tomah Police Department for 30+ years, the last 7 years as the Chief of Police. The counties and communities in and around Eau Claire county are in a crisis as it relates to the issue that is being addressed in AB92; finding available locations/beds that are able to admit subjects which meet the criteria of a Chapter 51.

After a decision has been made that a person meets the criteria for a Chapter 51 and after the person has been medically cleared to be transported to a mental health facility we are often left with the most difficult challenge in the Chapter 51 process which is finding a mental health facility which has an available bed and is willing to accept our subject. This often results in transporting the subject to a mental health facility several hours away. This process pulls officers from other mission critical responsibilities and results in a large financial impact to our overtime budgets.

Along with having less police officers on the street and impacting our overtime budgets, it also results in additional anxieties and concerns for the subject and the subjects families. They are now being taken from their communities and transported to the other side of the state, away from their family and friends who can support them during this difficult time.

The communities and counties in and around our area are in desperate need to find additional resources and facilities to effectively and efficiently handle the mental health calls for service in our area. Supporting and approving AB92 will begin to address this critical issue that we are facing.

Thank you.

TOMAH POLICE DEPARTMENT

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark D. Nicholson', written in a cursive style.

Mark D. Nicholson
Chief of Police



Dunn County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Kevin Bygd
Chief Deputy Marshall Multhauf

615 Stokke Parkway Suite G300
Menomonie, WI 54751
Communications Center: (715)232-1348
Business Office: (715)232-1564
Fax: (715)232-3900
www.DunnCountySheriff.com

March 30th, 2021

Committee on State Affairs, Chairman Swearinger and committee members:

Thank you for hearing Senate Bill-86/AB-92.

I am writing you in support of this bill.

The need for more local psychiatric beds has been a problem that has been ongoing for many years and has seen much attention in the past couple years. We have still not seen any practical solutions come to fruition. Mental health issues are increasing not decreasing. This problem will not go away and needs to be addressed.

Because of limited capacity for psychiatric beds around the state and specifically at our local hospitals, Sheriff's Offices and Police Departments from the northwest and west central regions of Wisconsin often only find placement available at the Winnebago Mental Health Institute. From Dunn County, the transport of the patient in crisis to the Winnebago Mental Health facility is a 3 ½ hour trip one way. To accomplish such a lengthy transport, two deputies are assigned, which strains my agency's staffing and overtime budget.

This is not an occasional occurrence. Agencies from this side of the state frequently only find placement at the Winnebago facility which then also impacts bed availability for those agencies in the central, southern and eastern regions of Wisconsin.

As I mentioned, the lack of capacity has a very significant impact on law enforcement agency staffing and our budgets, however, I want to emphasize that the larger problem in this issue that can't be lost, is the delay in evaluation and treatment for those individuals who are taken into custody, that are currently suffering a mental health crisis.

Please give due consideration to this matter. Increased local capacity will greatly help address the issues faced by law enforcement agencies around the state. It will also help to get more patients suffering an emergency mental health crisis the treatment they need with much less delay.

Thank you for your time and attention to addressing a very significant mental health problem that has impacts felt daily within the State of Wisconsin.

Respectfully,

Sheriff Kevin Bygd
Dunn County, WI

CHIPPEWA FALLS POLICE

Integrity • Compassion • Commitment

March 26, 2021

To Chairman Swearingen and committee members on State Affairs:

Thank you for hearing AB-92/SB-86. I am writing in support of this proposed bill addressing the critical shortage of hospital beds for our community members in crisis and in need of emergency detention.

I have spoken to many members of my community about this issue. As you are well aware, those in crisis are not criminals. However, due to the scarcity of hospital beds and the growing issue of mental health, we are transporting patients for long distances in the back of a squad car. This is not a desirable situation for someone in need of mental health services, a condition already stigmatized by society.

This issue also affects our police officers. Most departments in Wisconsin are already struggling to keep their ranks filled. This has resulted in many hours of overtime just keeping the streets covered. Transporting an emergency detention patient across the state is a heavy added burden. An emergency detention requiring a transport to Winnebago can take well over 8 hours in total between handling the call, hospital clearance and transport time there and back.

The Chippewa Valley is already home to hospitals with experience in serving those requiring emergency detention. This initiative would significantly expand those resources in northwest Wisconsin and the benefits would be felt immediately. The added juvenile beds to this area would be especially welcome as this would allow their caregivers to be closer. Every patient served in Eau Claire is one more bed available in Winnebago or at other mental health hospitals.

I have served the Chippewa Falls community for over 20 years. The emergency detention situation is one that needs immediate attention.

Thank you for all that you do to improve our quality of life here in Wisconsin. Please contact me if I can be of any further help.

Sincerely,



Matthew Kelm
Police Chief
Chippewa Falls Police Department

210 Island Street, Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin 54729-2351

Ph: 715-723-4424 • Fax: 715-723-1456 • www.chippewafalls-wi.gov • Email: policedept@chippewafalls-wi.gov



402 Technology Drive E
Menomonie, WI 54751

March 26th, 2021

Chairman Swearingen and committee members on State Affairs:

This will be regarding Assembly Bill 92 version, with companion bill Senate Bill 86.

I am writing in support of this proposed bill to ensure larger capacity for inpatient psychiatric hospital beds to serve residents of North, Northwestern, and Western Wisconsin.

Northwest Connections (NWC) is the largest emergency mental health crisis services provider in the state of Wisconsin in which we serve 27 counties. Of those, the following counties named in the bill are directly served by NWC, and certainly are negatively impacted by the lack of available psychiatric inpatient hospital beds: Barron, Buffalo, Chippewa, Clark, Dunn, Eau Claire, Jackson, Monroe, Pepin, Pierce, Polk, St. Croix, and Trempealeau.

While inpatient psychiatric care is not the only answer to serving those with mental health crisis needs, it certainly is a viable, pertinent resource to save lives. The suicide rate per capita in Wisconsin is already higher than the national average and statistically suicides occur more frequently in rural areas. NWC serves *rural communities* with already existing disparities in mental health care. Inpatient psychiatry is a vital part of the continuum of care for emergency mental health services that *all* Wisconsin residents should have equitable opportunity to easily access, not just those located near urban centers, such as Madison or Milwaukee.

In our region, we have a geographic incentive to avoid utilization of Winnebago Mental Health Institute (WMHI) which is already over-utilized, and at times, at risk of underserving its numerous residents. This has only grown over the past year in the face of pandemic. Private hospitals have done their best to keep public safety in the forefront while looking to meet the psychiatric needs of those in crisis. We have nationally is an increase in suicides due to larger gaps in services and an undue attention to prevention and intervention efforts for mental health. If we were able to develop larger psychiatric bed capacity in our region of Wisconsin, this is a tangible step to addressing those systemic issues.

In creating a northwestern facility for inpatient psychiatry, our consumers, your constituents, would experience the tremendous, positive outcomes. First, services would more localized offering not only familiarity and direct connection to mental health providers, but person-centered planning and enhanced family involvement. We know that having a support system is the primary protective factor in crisis intervention and prevention of suicides. Second, law enforcement would be able to protect and serve their communities with less time spent in transportation and medical clearance waiting times which pulls law enforcement from the street creating not only more opportunities for violent crime, but unnecessary costs to limited policing budgets. Our law enforcement partners needs more tools and access, not less. Thirdly, this bill would reduce the negative impact on already strained county budgets allowing for greater allocation into community-based programming and crisis diversion efforts. Being able to develop a system of proactive care versus reactionary response is paramount. Fourthly, this initiative is beneficial for ALL communities in Wisconsin because it would create more bed availability in the Southern and Eastern parts of the state allowing for greater access to inpatient psychiatric care for ALL residents. Lastly, the advantages are mostly impactful for the individual in crisis who would be treated more effectively, efficiently, and with greater compassion allowing for more streamlined access to stabilization and treatment; ultimately reducing financial obligations for themselves and other community partners; while having deeper involvement from their natural supports and person-centered interventions.

Most importantly, having greater capacity to serve these primarily more rural communities, who already have a significant disparity in mental health services, would create opportunities to engage and intervene earlier on, developing better connection to mental health resources to save lives, time, and money. I recently heard a colleague from Michigan in their progressive reform retort, "We need to look for opportunities to say 'YES' versus citing our reasons to say 'no.'"

We are all in this together, so please ask yourselves, "Are you just working to stop people from dying? Or are you truly helping people to LIVE?"

Respectfully,



Ashley Williams, MSW, LCSW
Emergency Services Director
Northwest Connections
AshleyWi@nwcg.com
715.939.0436



Trempealeau County Sheriff

36245 Main Street, P.O. Box 67
Whitehall, WI 54773-0067

Telephone: (715) 538-4509
Fax: (715) 538-4410

Visit our web site at <https://co.trempealeau.wi.us/>
E-mail your Sheriff at brett.semingson@co.trempealeau.wi.us

March 29, 2021

To: Wisconsin Assembly Committee on State Affairs
Attention: Chairman Rob Swearingen

Dear Chairman Swearingen,

I write this letter to ask for Committee support for Assembly Bill AB-92, and its Senate companion SB 86. Under the Bill there would be additional mental health beds added to the West Central Wisconsin Region, namely to HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital as an adult facility, and to St. Joseph's Hospital as a juvenile facility.

Currently, many of our Chapter 51 holds end up going to Winnebago Mental Health (WMH) in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. For us in Trempealeau County, from the center of the county, it is a 173 mile, three hour and ten minute drive, one way. We send two deputies on these transports due to the likelihood of the need to stop along the way. The Chapter 51 process requires that the patient return to court within 72 hours of being taken into custody, not counting weekends. This results in another long drive/ride to attend the court hearing, and then back to Winnebago in some cases.

The WMH facility is not a medical hospital. They require that we have the patient medically cleared at a local emergency room before they will accept the patient. Due to strict requirements of WMH, these medical clearances can take as long as eight to twelve hours.

Due to the length of travel and the times needed for medical clearance, it is not unheard of here in Trempealeau County for a person in crisis to be in the custody of police for up to 24 hours from the time of the initial call until they walk in the doors at WMH. The Chapter 51 process is very traumatic to persons in mental health crisis. They need the support of their families while they are in crisis. WMH can be too far away for many families to be there for their loved ones. To me, and to mental health organizations in our area, this is unacceptable. In 2020 our agency had 20 transports to WMH.

The passage of this Bill would mean that the accepting hospital is ½ hour away, and has its own emergency room, thus greatly reducing the amount of time the person in crisis is in police custody, and allowing families to offer the badly needed support.

I urge all our legislators to support this important piece of legislation which will provide support to those in crisis, their families and law enforcement. The mental wellbeing of all is our primary concern, but the secondary considerations are related to cost savings and the staffing hours that impact the budget. This would aid not just us but all law enforcement agencies in West Central Wisconsin.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brett Semingson', written over a horizontal line.

Sheriff Brett Semingson
Trempealeau County Sheriff's Office

Brett Semingson



Strum Police Department

Trempealeau County – Chief Craig Marsolek
202 5th Avenue South – PO Box 25 – Strum Wisconsin 54770
Telephone 715-695-3513 – Fax 715-695-3196

March 17, 2021

RE: SB-86 and AB-92 / Mental Health Beds Bill

I am glad to see a bill that will finally starts to take the mental health crisis seriously. The problem was not created overnight, however this is the first step in the right direction.

The trip to WMHI from the Village of Strum is a 2 hour and 51 minute trip and 170 miles. This is if the weather is great. Add to the time of the medical clearance it could take a total of over 10 hours per officer (maybe even longer) and with a trip that long two officer would be needed. The opportunity to have beds on this side of the state is a win for all people in Wisconsin. It would free up bed space on both sides of the state. It would greatly reduce the risk of accidents in bad weather. It would not stress our resources and more importantly it would get the people who need the help faster.

I would be willing to talk about it at length.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig Marsolek", written over a horizontal line.

Chief Craig Marsolek – Strum Police Department

Dear Sir,

I write in support of the effort to expand the availability of inpatient mental health treatment in northwestern Wisconsin. I was a police officer of the Eau Claire PD for 31 years. During that time, I had many occasions to deal with people in crisis and suffering from mental illness. In many cases we would transport sufferers to the local hospitals for assessment and treatment. The shortage of mental health beds in Eau Claire would sometimes force us to transport them to facilities with availability.

Some of those facilities were quite distant; Middle River near Solon Springs, to Madison, or to the Fox Valley area. Those transports required two officers for security. This put a major strain on an agency with (at that time) minimum shift staffing of six officers. This required calling in off duty officers on overtime for multiple-hour round trips. This was a significant expense, not to mention an ordeal for both the patients and the officers.

This bill would go far to alleviate a major difficulty for all concerned.

With respect,

Garth Melville
Lieutenant, Eau Claire Police Department (retired)

This email is in support of SB-86 and its companion bill AB-92 expanding mental health bed space in Western Wisconsin. As a rural county, the Jackson County Sheriff's Dept., the Jackson County Department of Health and Human Services as well as our local Hospital all struggle with finding resources for our client's in crisis due to the severely limited number of inpatient beds in the Western Region. We are grateful that you are moving forward in sponsoring support for an emergency detention facility in the Western Region. Without local resources, as you know, transport for our clients creates long distance travel which can be up to 3 to 5 hours away. This is not only difficult for the client who is in police custody during this process but for the families who are involved with their loved ones as the distance between the client and the family becomes a barrier for support. It is also difficult for staff to assist with discharge planning and lining up further resources. This traumatizing process makes it more difficult for individuals who are experiencing struggles with mental health and for their families who are watching from the "sidelines". Due to the trauma involved with travel while in police custody, individuals and families are deterred from seeking resources and assistance after this experience. Again, we support and applaud your efforts to create more inpatient beds within the Western Region and hope to see this come to fruition. Thanks so much for your time and attention.

Christine Hovell R.N. B.S.N.

Director

Jackson County DHHS

421 County Road R

Black River Falls, WI 54615

Phone: 715-284-4301 ext 315

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around. Leo Buscaglia

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Good Afternoon,

My name is Allison Fern and I am the Health and Human Services Director with Burnett County. We are located at 7410 County Road K in Siren, WI.

I am writing today regarding SB-86 and AB-92 as it is our understanding the legislation has been reintroduced by Senator Bernier and Representative James. I am writing to you today in support of SB-86 and the companion AB-92 bill to expand mental health bed space in Western Wisconsin. We echo what you have heard from others within the Western Region. Given our county seat is a 4+ hour drive to Winnebago, the strain on our local residents and resources is incredible. Our Behavioral Health unit staff and management coupled with our crisis line resources do an excellent job in diverting and utilizing community based resources when safely possible. However, when a mental health bed is needed, we are too often having to put both children and adults experiencing an acute mental health crisis in the back of a squad car to be transported for more than 4 hours away from their community and family.

We know children and adults are best served within their communities. Please vote in support of this legislation.

Thank you for your time,
Allison

Allison Fern, CSW

Director, Burnett County Department of Health and Human Services

P:(715)349-7600, ext. 2211

F: (715)349-2145

afern@burnettcounty.org

Please note my extension has changed

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Good Afternoon,

My name is Jeremy Jacobs and I am the Human Services Director for Rusk County. I offer the following narrative in support of SB-86 and AB-92.

Rusk County Health & Human Services and local partners support the reintroduction of this impactful legislation, as noted in SB-86 and its companion bill AB-92, as it pertains to increasing the mental health bed space in Western Wisconsin. We can all attest to the traumatic impact that hospitalization can have on one's life. The ability to swiftly and efficiently get a consumer to a safe environment can make all the difference in a life while showing compassion and concern for all involved. With additional regional options present, there is a greater likelihood of long-lasting connectivity promoting support and building trust that often is a forgotten component.

Too often we are seeing our law enforcement officers embarking on a 10-hour long round trip that stresses the local departments, budgets and moral. Together, incrementally, we can change the trajectory of how mental health is delivered in our communities. This starts with resources that are available.

Thank you for the efforts!!!

Jeremy

Hello,

This is a statement of support for SB-86 and its companion bill AB-92. There has been a significant shortfall of inpatient psychiatric beds in Northern Wisconsin. In the NW region, there are just a few psychiatric inpatient units. These include Ashland, Mayo, Amery and Sacred Heart. 17 counties utilize these hospitals on a regular basis and are frequently in competition with one another for bed space. This has often resulted in the need for transporting residents currently in serious mental health crisis to the Winnebago Institute.

To describe the scenario, Winnebago is 5.5 hours away from Superior, WI. An individual in mental health crisis is not well served sitting in the back of a squad car for this period of time. Winnebago is often at or over capacity so you can see the need is integral. In addition, due to distance, the resident lacks natural supports as their friends and family are not able to access them. Natural supports are integral to recovery.

Law enforcement will provide the transport to Winnebago during an emergency detention. This removes the officer from the community for over 11 hours. This potentially has an impact on public safety as well impact on this officer.

Winnebago is an IMD and therefore may not be billed to medical assistance. The full cost of the per diem, can be excess of \$1000/day and is paid for by county tax levy. If a resident remains in Winnebago for any period of time, the cost can have a significant impact on a county's provision of other services. In addition to the per diem, the cost of transport which can be several thousand dollars also impacts the county. Winnebago is heavily needed and used across the state I am sure, but you can see by the example of how an increase in facilities could bring a lower impact on county levy and budget. In addition, and most importantly, opening more options would give the citizens who need the care most a chance for a better outcome being closer to supports and community resources.

SB-86 and AB-92 would provide the necessary support to counties to better serve their residents. Thank you for this consideration and your commitment to Wisconsin.

Kindly,

Anna Carlson, Director
and
Dave Longsdorf, Deputy Director

Douglas County Department of Health & Human Services
1316 N 14th Street, Suite 400
Superior WI 54880
(715) 395-1318
(715) 395-1370 Fax
Anna.Carlson@douglascountywi.org

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March 16, 2021

I am writing this letter to show support of SB-86/AB-92. Supervising the Emergency Services DHS 34 Crisis Team within Eau Claire County DHS, I have firsthand involvement with emergency detentions that occur in our county. In 2020, we had 382 emergency detentions occurs in our county.

Capacity of inpatient psychiatry beds is low in the entirety of the state. Being that Eau Claire has two hospitals with psychiatric units, Mayo and Sacred Heart, we commonly see situations in which there are no available inpatient psychiatric beds for individuals in need. People are coming from all areas of the state in hopes for psychiatric care. Because of this, in 2020, we had 99 emergency detentions occur with residents of other counties in Eau Claire primarily because they came to our community seeking mental health care and it was not available to them.

Not having inpatient psychiatric beds available in this area of the state causes much concern. Primarily, our community members are not able to receive needed services close to home when they are in crisis. Needing that level of care can be difficult in and of itself. Having to go hours away from home to receive those services can make things even worse. Waiting hours for the bed location process is a detriment to individuals in an active crisis situation. The hours spent by law enforcement transporting individuals under an emergency detention to other areas of the state pull them away from other needs in our community.

This grant and addition of psychiatric beds for both adults and adolescents would be a tremendous step in the right direction of improving mental health care to those living in this area of Wisconsin. I can speak on behalf of Eau Claire County DHS that we support forward movement with this particular bill.

Sincerely,

Lalita Prorok, MS, LPC

Lita Prorok, MS, LPC
Crisis Supervisor
Eau Claire County DHS
721 Oxford Ave
Eau Claire, WI 54703

I support any and all increases to access for mental health resources for anyone seeking help in the Eau Claire and Chippewa county areas. My ex-husband, my son's father, has struggled with addiction for almost 30 years. He's diagnosed with several mental health disorders and has been in and out of prisons for much of his adult life. I wonder if he had access to resources when he was younger, if some of his struggles could have been avoided and my son could have a father. Because of my ex-husband's lifestyle, I've known people who died over the years from suicide, drugs or other related causes, and many more who continue to be in and out of jail, without any hope of recovery. Without hope, they give up. The community needs to step up and provide that hope.

Drug use is not the problem. It's a symptom. The real problem is untreated mental health issues. More beds is a great step in the right direction. We especially need space for youth. It's so important to address mental health at a young age to help people avoid the path of self-loathing, worthlessness and shame that leads many to drug use. I am that person who needed just that. Luckily, I was able to change my lifestyle after years in addiction and become a functioning member of society. I want to do anything I can to help people avoid what I lived through and what I see my ex-husband living.

On Tuesday, March 16, 2021, I drove my ex-husband to treatment when he asked for a ride. He's the person who has hurt me, and our son, the most and yet, I'll never stop trying to help him so my son can have his dad back. I want the community, the counties, and the state to do whatever they can to help people who want help too. Let's get more beds for mental health. And let's go from there. Those of us who have struggled, or are living, with mental health issues will support anyone who is trying to get help. We must help those who want help. It's part of our Wisconsin values and it keeps family's together.

Thank you,

Andrea Hoover
Volunteer with Take a Stand Against Meth
124 Terrence Street #7
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729
Andreajhoover@gmail.com
715-531-8321

To Whom It May Concern:

I want to express my sincere gratitude for considering the passage of SB-86 and its companion bill AB-92. The lack of emergency mental health services within the Western Region has caused an extreme financial burden to County Departments and undue, and extended, trauma to our Wisconsin Families. When a child has a mental health crisis, Winnebago Mental Health Clinic is often the only option for treatment. A child handcuffed and transported 150 miles away from family and local supports only multiplies the trauma endured by the child, and, diminishes the natural family support children need in a time of crisis. The burden on these families to find daycare for other children, lodging, and gas to travel such a distance, reduces the ability of family to advocate or engage in their child's treatment. Without offering a closer treatment option for children, where families and local services can support, our children in crisis are going without vital supports and we are eluding the healing process needed for stabilizing our children and the family homes within our communities.

Please consider the amazing impact on children and families who would benefit from a close regional treatment option. I implore you to do what is in the best interest of your Wisconsin families with the passage of SB-86 and AB-92.

Sincerely,

*Pamella Kernan, Director
Department of Social Services
Clark County Court House
517 Court St., RM 502
Neillsville, WI 54456*

Pamella.kernan@co.clark.wi.us

Please note I am intermittently working remotely and available 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. by email, skype, Webex or phone at Phone:715-743-5233 or 715-743-4094

Good Afternoon,

As the Human Services Director for Pepin County I feel it is important to acknowledge the work and support that has gone into the development and consideration of support for passage of SB-86 and its companion bill AB-92. Mental Health crisis situations impact each county, no matter the size. One concern that is specific to Western and Northern Wisconsin is the location of emergency detention facilities. As you may be aware, counties located in Western/Northern Wisconsin are limited in local hospital psychiatric hospital beds. This means, when the option for community support is not at a level to ensure safety of the person or community, local Law Enforcement Officers must leave their communities and travel across the state to Winnebago or Mendota Institutions. For Pepin County, this means that we no longer have an Officer available for other emergency needs as Pepin typically has one Officer on duty per shift. In addition, there is an extensive wait time for Law Enforcement Officers to complete the Medical Clearance mandate prior to beginning the trip across Wisconsin. The costs associated with this process is high for counties such as Pepin.

In addition to fiscal impacts we must consider the impact that the length of this process takes on the person that is not in a healthy state of mind. I would like to share a personal story with you. My mother in law, who suffers from bipolar disease, has been through the emergency detention process many times throughout her life. Each time that it occurs she becomes physically and emotionally vulnerable as she believes she is going to jail. The ride to the emergency detention facility is one where she continues to believe that she is "bad" and that she is being arrested for being bad, not understanding that the Law Enforcement escort is for her safety. If you can put yourself in her place or my husband's place in watching this occur with his mother. What would it be like to ride in the back of a Law Enforcement vehicle for four hours believing you are heading to jail because you are bad when truly it is due to a condition that impacts your brain, which is not your fault, but rather a condition that was inherited from her mother? When she is in this state of mind, she cannot comprehend that it is the disease, she only sees that she is at fault. Now, think about the other people in your life and community that may be impacted in the same way by a trip across the state, only to arrive at a facility that is over capacity, and that family members live too far away to visit or not have available transportation or funding to make the trip. We cannot undervalue the impact of natural support in the recovery process.

We have a real opportunity to make a difference in the lives of not only the persons that need the emergency detention but also for their loved ones, and community. We have an opportunity to use our Local Law Enforcement for community safety by shortening the length of their trip to emergency detention to under an hour for Pepin County and other counties in the region. We have an opportunity to reduce the costs to both local levy and state funds by providing the service within a reasonable distance.

I appreciate the opportunity to address this important issue with you and to send my appreciation for your anticipated support of SB-86 and AG-92.

Sincerely,

Paula R. Winter

Paula R. Winter
Director

Pepin County Human Services
740 7th Ave West
P.O. Box 39
Durand, WI 54736
pwinter@co.pepin.wi.us
715-672-8941 ext 158
Fax: 715-672-8593

Good Afternoon:

My name is Kris Korpela and I am the director of the Dunn County Department of Human Services at 3001 US Hwy 12 East, Menomonie WI 54751.

This email is in support of SB-86 and its companion bill AB-92 expanding mental health bed space in Western Wisconsin. Having previously testified in favor of similar legislation in the past, I remain in staunch support of anything that we can do to increase capacity for emergency detention holds in Western Wisconsin. It is beyond comprehension to put myself in the seat of someone who is experiencing a mental health crisis and must sit through hours of medical clearance and then transportation to a distant part of the state, in a squad car, in handcuffs. Or to be the mom, sister, wife, daughter, etc of someone in that situation.

Attached is data collected from the 17 counties of the Western Region illustrating that while the number of emergency detentions initiated by crisis staff has remained stable or even declined in the past five years, the number of persons who must be held at Winnebago has dramatically increased. In 2013, 5% of all emergency detentions were placed at Winnebago. In 2020, that number rose to 27%, or 400 people from Western Wisconsin. Our crisis programs are effective in diverting about 70% of persons who touch the system away from emergency detention but we have to have an accessible and safe place for hospitalization that does not involve travel across the state.

Please vote in support of this legislation.

Kristin Korpela
Director
Dunn County Department of Human Services
Menomonie, WI 54751
715-231-2750

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Western Region Emergency Detention Statistics

COUNTY	YEAR	Total Emergency Detentions (ED's) Per County Per	# of ED's to Winnebago per county per year	Net county costs for Winnebago placements *	Estimated average cost per round trip for ED transports **	Total transportation costs for ED transport from County Seat to Winnebago ***	Net County Costs for Mendota placements*
BARRON	2013	148	6	\$163,907	\$978	\$5,865	
	2014	167	15	\$62,703	\$978	\$14,664	
	2015	152	21	\$165,648	\$978	\$20,529	
	2016	126	23	\$199,826	\$978	\$22,484	
	2017	118	34	\$105,239	\$978	\$33,238	
	2018	101	28	\$199,843	\$978	\$27,372	
	2019	107	22	\$115,208	\$978	\$21,507	\$12,677
	2020	100	35	\$283,211	\$978	\$34,215	\$1,053
BURNETT	2013	41	2	\$5,619.00	\$1,149	\$2,298.16	
	2014	30	1	-\$18,499.00	\$1,149	\$1,149.08	
	2015	31	2	\$29,325.00	\$1,149	\$2,298.16	
	2016	31	3	\$16,757.00	\$1,149	\$3,447.24	
	2017	35	3	\$25,396.00	\$1,149	\$5,745.40	
	2018	34	9	\$20,816.00	\$1,149	\$40,341.72	
	2019	32	7	\$19,482.00	\$1,149	\$8,043.56	\$0
	2020	27	10	\$45,947.00	\$1,149	\$11,490.80	\$17,436
BUFFALO	2013	14	1	\$5,186.00	\$882	\$881.54	
	2014	15	1	-\$4,673.00	\$882	\$881.54	
	2015	13	2	\$12,201.00	\$882	\$1,763.08	
	2016	27	6	\$33,053.00	\$882	\$5,289.24	
	2017	13	6	\$52,170.00	\$882	\$5,289.24	
	2018	29	10	\$47,030.00	\$882	\$8,815.40	
	2019	27	2	\$48,430.00	\$882	\$1,763.08	\$0
	2020	17	3	\$76,695.00	\$882	\$1,644.62	\$0
CHIPPEWA	2013	135	1	\$134,856.00	\$813	\$812.94	
	2014	154	7	\$193,935.00	\$813	\$5,690.58	
	2015	160	18	\$47,931.00	\$813	\$14,632.92	
	2016	163	11	\$83,861.00	\$813	\$8,942.34	
	2017	168	30	\$297,205.00	\$813	\$24,388.20	
	2018	136	21	\$100,151.00	\$813	\$17,071.74	
	2019	176	25	\$317,913.00	\$813	\$20,323.50	\$16,840
	2020	112	34	\$151,705.00	\$813	\$27,639.96	\$0
CLARK	2013	70	3	\$76,687.00	\$607	\$1,821.42	
	2014	107	7	\$178,639.00	\$607	\$4,249.98	
	2015	92	8	\$228,704.00	\$607	\$4,857.12	
	2016	91	10	\$241,858.00	\$607	\$6,071.40	
	2017	80	7	\$182,547.00	\$607	\$4,249.98	
	2018	39	4	\$0.00	\$607	\$2,428.56	
	2019	53	12	\$0.00	\$607	\$7,285.68	\$0
	2020	40	11	\$0.00	\$607	\$6,678.54	\$0
DOUGLAS	2013	43	1		\$1,303	\$1,303.43	
	2014	33	0	\$200,898.00	\$1,303	\$0.00	
	2015	28	3	\$545,025.00	\$1,303	\$3,910.29	
	2016	39	6	\$640,177.00	\$1,303	\$7,820.58	
	2017	37	11	\$773,781.00	\$1,303	\$14,337.73	
	2018	34	1	\$455,547.00	\$1,303	\$2,606.86	
	2019	45	5	\$545,144.00	\$1,303	\$6,517.15	\$518,138
	2020	60	5	\$268,145.00	\$1,303	\$6,517.15	\$173,644
DURN	2013	114	2	\$60,219.00	\$899	\$1,797.38	
	2014	107	5	\$80,310.00	\$899	\$4,493.45	
	2015	90	9	\$75,103.00	\$899	\$8,088.21	
	2016	58	9	\$177,743.00	\$899	\$8,088.21	
	2017	103	13	\$160,146.00	\$899	\$11,682.97	
	2018	81	12	\$148,623.00	\$899	\$10,784.28	
	2019	100	14	\$144,632.00	\$899	\$12,581.66	\$5,760
2020	86	20	\$510,899.00	\$899	\$25,163.32	\$29,405	
EAU CLAIRE	2013	282	3	\$44,556.00	\$792	\$2,377.08	

	2014	292	22	\$265,054.00	5792	\$17,431.92	
	2015	308	32	\$248,693.00	5792	\$25,355.52	
	2016	344	54	\$419,407.00	5792	\$42,787.44	
	2017	353	52	\$629,722.00	5792	\$41,202.72	
	2018	371	12	\$450,782.00	5792	\$9,508.32	
	2019	360	63	\$656,769.00	5792	\$49,918.68	\$116,417
	2020	374	43	\$455,827.00	5792	\$35,656.20	\$69,501
JACKSON							
	2013	52	10	-\$22,492.00	5648	\$6,480.00	
	2014	36	8	\$808,169.00	5648	\$5,184.00	
	2015	51	11	\$144,410.00	5648	\$7,128.00	
	2016	60	14	\$444,289.00	5648	\$9,072.00	
	2017	47	13	\$321,984.00	5648	\$8,424.00	
	2018	18	6	\$387,569.00	5648	\$3,888.00	
	2019	33	10	\$139,296.00	5648	\$6,480.00	\$29,390
	2020	42	12	\$181,691.00	5648	\$7,776.00	\$0
LACROSSE							
	2013	312	19	\$122,597.00	5703	\$13,360.42	
	2014	371	19	\$532,101.00	5703	\$13,360.42	
	2015	358	32	\$539,571.00	5703	\$22,501.76	
	2016	296	38	\$812,069.00	5703	\$25,314.48	
	2017	299	47	\$368,880.00	5703	\$33,049.46	
	2018	317	62	\$418,124.00	5703	\$43,597.16	
	2019	342	56	\$401,165.00	5703	\$39,376.08	\$25,450
	2020	208	61	\$465,153.00	5703	\$42,893.98	\$112,670
MONROE							
	2013	158	5	\$62,874.00	5614	\$3,070.00	
	2014	186	13	\$307,783.00	5614	\$7,982.00	
	2015	202	27	\$325,841.00	5614	\$16,578.00	
	2016	104	17	\$141,632.00	5614	\$10,438.00	
	2017	84	30	\$287,401.00	5614	\$18,420.00	
	2018	147	18	\$109,912.00	5614	\$11,052.00	
Used Average	2019	63	21	\$344,876.00	5614	\$12,894.00	\$2,706
	2020	54	17	\$161,342.00	5614	\$10,438.00	\$0
PEPIN							
	2013		4	\$47,456.00	5854	\$3,416.40	
	2014	24	2	\$10,490.00	5854	\$1,708.20	
	2015	11	0	\$265.00	5854	\$0.00	
	2016	12	4	\$31,022.00	5854	\$3,416.40	
	2017	9	3	\$6,487.00	5854	\$2,562.30	
	2018	16	2	\$0.00	5854	\$1,708.20	
	2019	17	3	\$3,016.00	5854	\$2,562.30	\$0
	2020	16	3	\$62.00	5854	\$2,562.30	\$0
POLK							
	2013	114	4	\$88,748.00	\$1,091	\$4,363.08	
	2014	106	11	\$228,508.00	\$1,091	\$11,998.47	
	2015	102	11	-\$26,357.00	\$1,091	\$11,998.47	
	2016	117	22	\$161,439.00	\$1,091	\$23,996.94	
	2017	100	28	\$91,941.00	\$1,091	\$28,360.02	
	2018	78	22	\$175,321.00	\$1,091	\$23,996.94	
	2019	85	23	\$145,886.00	\$1,091	\$25,087.71	\$500
	2020	81	30	\$212,145.00	\$1,091	\$32,723.10	\$450
PIERCE							
	2013	81	13	\$118,500.00	\$1,043	\$13,555.75	
	2014	86	6	\$48,887.00	\$1,043	\$6,256.50	
	2015	96	11	\$87,037.00	\$1,043	\$11,470.25	
	2016	78	22	\$273,437.00	\$1,043	\$22,940.50	
	2017	75	19	\$267,288.00	\$1,043	\$19,812.25	
	2018	78	17	\$185,825.00	\$1,043	\$17,726.75	
	2019	57	11	\$425,723.00	\$1,043	\$11,470.25	\$0
	2020	48	18	\$467,073.00	\$1,043	\$18,769.50	\$0
RUSK							
	2013	12	0	-\$500.00	5882	\$0.00	
	2014	26	1	\$6,362.00	5882	\$681.54	
	2015	17	0	\$1,289.00	5882	\$0.00	
	2016	24	2	\$45,013.00	5882	\$1,763.08	
	2017	26	5	\$34,158.00	5882	\$4,407.70	
	2018	15	3	\$33,654.00	5882	\$2,644.62	
	2019	19	3	\$16,697.00	5882	\$2,644.62	\$0
	2020	25	11	\$97,977.00	5882	\$9,696.94	\$0
ST CROIX							
	2013	165	14	\$68,816.00	\$915	\$12,803.28	

	2014	190	35	\$387,188.00	5915	\$32,008.20	
	2015	141	37	\$138,263.00	5915	\$33,837.24	
	2016	129	30	\$310,797.00	5915	\$27,435.60	
	2017	133	51	\$326,872.00	5915	\$46,640.52	
	2018	136	53	\$253,279.00	5915	\$48,469.56	
	2019	134	49	\$407,411.00	5915	\$44,811.48	\$22,291
	2020	123	47	\$188,555.00	5915	\$42,982.44	\$0
TREMPLEAU							
	2013	53	8	\$30,980.00	\$768	\$6,146.80	
	2014	88	8	\$78,421.00	\$768	\$6,146.80	
	2015	58	11	\$251,664.00	\$768	\$8,451.85	
	2016	58	13	\$145,755.00	\$768	\$9,988.55	
	2017	70	12	\$119,600.00	\$768	\$9,220.20	
Used Average	2018	62	52	\$52,144.00	\$768	\$39,954.20	
	2019	55	20	\$112,920.00	\$768	\$15,367.00	\$0
	2020	67	30	\$205,406.00	\$768	\$23,050.50	\$0
WASHBURN							
	2013	31	0	-\$287.00	\$1,060	\$0.00	
	2014	27	0	\$9,573.00	\$1,060	\$0.00	
	2015	48	3	\$24,254.00	\$1,060	\$3,179.70	
	2016	40	6	\$17,781.00	\$1,060	\$6,359.40	
	2017	29	5	\$31,369.00	\$1,060	\$5,299.50	
	2018	38	4	\$6,450.00	\$1,060	\$4,239.60	
	2019	20	4	\$41,860.00	\$1,060	\$4,239.60	\$70,058
	2020	21	0	\$79,407.00	\$1,060	\$0.00	\$30,008
TOTALS ALL COUNTIES							
				* All costs which includes ED's and longer term stays.	** Saint Croix County estimated cost for one trip from each county seat to Winnebago.	*** Does not include transportation costs for other court appearances.	Winnebago as % of the total Eds
	2013	1825	96	\$987,722		\$80,353	5%
	2014	2045	161	\$3,375,849		\$134,086	8%
	2015	1958	238	\$2,838,868		\$196,580	12%
	2016	1797	288	\$4,145,935		\$245,656	16%
	2017	1779	369	\$4,102,186		\$316,330	21%
	2018	1730	337	\$3,153,070		\$286,206	19%
	2019	1727	350	\$3,886,428		\$292,873	20%
	2020	1501	400	\$3,851,240		\$340,899	27%
Yearly average # of ED's for Region				* Source of above - CARS Report			
	2013	101					
	2014	114					
	2015	109					
	2016	100					
	2017	99					
	2018	96					
	2019	96					
	2020	83					

Thank you Senator Bernier and Assembly Representative James for listening and taking this action to better serve those suffering from a mental health crisis in Western and Northern Wisconsin. We are the professionals trying to serve this critical population at their most dire time but we can only do so much with the limited resources locally. Washburn County is four plus hours away from Winnebago Mental Health Institute, the likely only option when the few local psychiatric hospital beds are full. Adding the additional stressor of being transported in the back of a police vehicle, handcuffed, for such a long period of time does not give the person confidence that the system is there to help. Obviously this also takes a toll on law enforcement personnel and budgets, as you are already aware of their valid grievances. DHS recognizes there is a shortage of psychiatric hospital beds in the region, the problem is real, and with your efforts we hope our vulnerable population will find some relief in the near future. Washburn County as a whole fully supports the passage of these bills to bring regional psychiatric hospital bed capacity to a level that better meets our people's needs.

Jim LeDuc

Director, Washburn County Health & Human Services Department
PO Box 250
Shell Lake, WI 54871

715-468-4767

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Thank you Senator Bernier and Assembly Representative James for your efforts to address mental health crisis services in the Western Region of Wisconsin. St. Croix County supports SB-86 and its companion bill AB-92 to expand bed capacity for persons with emergent mental health needs. While we understand that long-term solutions to mental health and addiction crisis can and should be addressed through preventive health care measures and parity, we recognize the critical need for addressing our current lack of bed capacity in this region. Persons who require emergency mental health services must be treated with the dignity and care that is afforded to other types of serious health concerns with local options for accessing that care in a timely manner. Events of the past year have only exacerbated the acuity and complexity mental health conditions encountered by our crisis response service areas and we must be prepared for what may be an inevitable increase in our communities' needs. For these reasons, please vote in favor of this important legislation.

Bob Rohret

Bob Rohret | Administration - HHS Director

Health and Human Services

1752 Dorset Ln New Richmond WI 54017

T: 715-246-8223

Bob.Rohret@sccwi.gov



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Good Afternoon,

My name is Tonya Eichelt and I am the director of the Polk County Community Services Division at 100 Polk County Plaza, Balsam Lake, WI 54810.

I am emailing to continue support of SB-86 and its companion bill AB-92 expanding mental health bed space in Western Wisconsin. Having previously testified in favor of similar legislation, Polk County continues to support an increased capacity for emergency detention holds in Western Wisconsin. As my previous testimony will reflect, the trauma inflicted upon someone who is currently in a mental health crisis is only exacerbated when being hauled across the state in handcuffs in a squad car. I cannot imagine being put into this situation for my own care or any of my loved ones. In addition to the traumatic experience at the beginning of the mental health crisis, my care team also needs to deal with discharge planning with me from across the state, which is not ideal or efficient.

Here in Polk County we recently dealt with a situation in which we had a COVID positive teen in need of transport to Winnebago for very significant behavioral issues. It was New Year's Eve 2020, during COVID and a blizzard. A local ambulance company attempted to transport but could not complete because the rig crashed in the blizzard conditions. Thankfully, everybody was ok but the COVID positive teen still needed transport across the state. The local law enforcement agency ended up sending a deputy to do the transport which then required a 14 day quarantine because of the exposure to COVID. It took nearly 1 entire day, multiple professionals, an ambulance crash and a deputy being placed on quarantine to develop this less than desirable plan to get the teen appropriate care.

I believe Dunn County shared information on the number of emergency detentions at Winnebago. To summarize, in 2013, 5% of all emergency detentions were placed at Winnebago. In 2020, that number rose to 27%, or 400 people from Western Wisconsin. Our crisis programs are effective in diverting about 70% of persons who touch the system away from emergency detention but we have to have an accessible and safe place for hospitalization that does not involve travel across the state.

Please vote in support of this legislation.

Thank You,
Tonya



Tonya Eichelt, CSW, MPA
Division Director
Polk County Community Services Division
Interim Health Officer
Dept of Children and Families- Public Health- Behavioral Health
100 Polk County Plaza, #50
Balsam Lake, WI 54810
Phone: 715-485-8493
Fax: 715-485-8490
Email: tonya.eichelt@co.polk.wi.us