

RESOLUTION 2017-19

**SUPPORTING RETENTION AND EXPANSION OF WISCONSIN'S AGING AND
DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTERS' DEMENTIA CARE SPECIALIST PROGRAM AND
PROMOTING THE WORK OF THE DEMENTIA COALITION IN SAWYER COUNTY-**

WHEREAS, in Wisconsin, it is estimated that 115,000 individuals age 65 and older are living with some form of clinically diagnosable dementia, and by 2040 that population is expected to grow to 240,000; and

WHEREAS, in Sawyer County, it is estimated that over 429 individuals are living with some form of clinically diagnosable dementia, and the care and treatment of persons with dementia is now being described as a public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, 90% of people with dementia live in their home and 22% live alone; a diagnosis of dementia doesn't mean a person has to lose their dignity or their ability to remain in their home and part of the community; and

WHEREAS, Sawyer County has made a significant commitment to persons with dementia through the critical work of the Aging and Disability Research Center's (ADRC's) Dementia Care Specialist (DCS), and through the work of the Dementia Network, which includes the Purple Angel Program (Business Training Program), and Memory Cafés; and

WHEREAS, the DCS and Dementia Coalition strive to improve the quality of life for all those affected, including people living with memory loss and their caregivers, while helping them to remain in the community where they want to live and cost-savings to taxpayers can be realized and

WHEREAS, each day that an individual remains in the community, and outside of expensive publicly funded institutional care facilities, saves the taxpayers an estimated \$161 per day or \$58,925 annually, making the DCS program a wise and sound investment of public dollars.

WHEREAS, the ADRC of Sawyer County has experienced a steady growth in contacts by customers, caregivers and professionals (there were 2,506 contacts in 2016); and

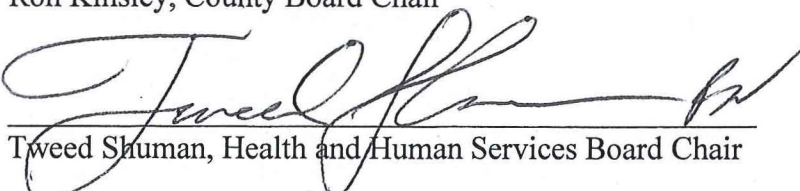
WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services' proposed budget does not include funding for the DCS positions in 2017-2019, thereby removing this valuable expertise and coalition support from the community.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Sawyer County Board Chair and the Health and Human Services Board Chair respectfully request that these critical programs and services be consistently available in Sawyer County and around the State of Wisconsin by having the state add Dementia Care Specialists funding to ADRC base allocations in the next proposed 2017-2019 biennial state budget.



Ron Kinsley, County Board Chair

05-18-17



Tweed Shuman, Health and Human Services Board Chair

5/18/17