

RESOLUTION NO.: __-2014

INTRODUCED BY:

INTENT: ADOPT THE FEASIBILITY STUDY AND DEVELOP A BUSINESS PLAN FOR A MULTI-COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, the governing bodies of Marathon, Lincoln and Lantlode Counties commissioned a study under Section 46.23(3), Wis. Stats., to determine the feasibility of delivering social service programs as identified in Section 46.22(1) (b), Wis. Stats., on a multi-county basis, including but not limited to: children and families (Chs. 48 and 49, Wis. Stats.); juvenile justice (Ch. 938, Wis. Stats.); and

WHEREAS, the Counties appointed representatives to serve on a Multi-County Human Services Feasibility Study Task Force; the Task Force has completed its assignment and submits the attached Feasibility Study for review and approval of the respective County Boards; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force finds that it is feasible to develop and make available to the residents of Marathon, Lincoln and Lantlode Counties a comprehensive range of human services in an integrated and efficient manner through the establishment of a unified administrative structure and unified policy-making body as a multi-county human services department; and

WHEREAS, since a Feasibility Study is merely the first step in the process of considering the establishment of a multi-county human services department, the next step in the process would be the development of a Business Plan, which would also meet the requirements of an implementation plan as outlined in the state document "*Development of Community Human Service Departments*"; and

WHEREAS, the Feasibility Study Task Force recommends the development of a Business Plan in order to provide the county boards with the additional information they need in order to make an informed decision on whether to proceed with a multi-county human services department; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Business Plan is to describe and analyze the steps required to operate a human services department, including but not limited to: governance, policy directives, organizational structure, personnel management and technical needs; identify key development steps and a projected timetable; establish priorities and cost estimates; prepare an inventory of existing resources and identify any needed resources; and provide a plan for coordination of services and continuity of care; and

WHEREAS, it is understood that the development of a Business Plan does not create any obligation on behalf of the respective governing bodies to create a multi-county human services department as such action would require the additional approval of each member County Board in the form of a separate resolution (i.e., to adopt the Business Plan and to create a multi-county human services department); and

WHEREAS, it is further understood that in order to create a multi-county human services department the approval of three separate State agencies is also required (Departments of Health Services, Corrections and Children and Families); and

WHEREAS, in order to complete a Business Plan, it will be necessary to retain the services of an independent consultant to provide the necessary technical assistance and it is anticipated that it would take approximately one year to complete the Business Plan; and

WHEREAS, it is recommended that the Counties appoint representatives to serve on a task force to develop the elements of the Business Plan and to prepare a request for proposal (RFP) to provide technical assistance to a joint Business Plan Development Committee; and

WHEREAS, it is understood that depending upon the applicable financial rules and funding mechanism for consultant services, additional County Board approval may be required to accept the RFP for Business Plan consulting services; and

WHEREAS, the costs of completing the Business Plan are estimated at \$135,000, and that these costs will be shared equally among the three counties.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the _____ County Board of Supervisors, to adopt the Feasibility Study for a multi-county human services department and develop a Business Plan for the purpose of providing additional information to the county boards which will assist in determining whether to proceed with a multi-county human services department.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, to appoint representatives to serve on a task force to develop the elements of a Business Plan and to prepare a request for proposal (RFP) to provide technical assistance to a joint Business Plan Development Committee.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the development of a Business Plan does not create any obligation on behalf of the respective governing bodies to create a multi-county human services department as such action would require additional approval of each County Board in the form of a separate resolution (i.e., to adopt the Business Plan and to create a multi-county human services department).

FISCAL NOTE: Preliminary cost estimates for Business Plan development consulting services range from \$75,000 - \$150,000. For the purpose of this resolution, cost has been estimated at \$135,000 (\$45,000 from each County). The NCHC Reserve Fund may remain a viable option to fund the costs associated with the development of a Business Plan.