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**POSITION STATEMENT ON FAMILY CARE, THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET
PROPOSAL TO REDESIGN
THE LONG-TERM CARE DELIVERY SYSTEM**

The Long-Term Care Provider Coalition consists of the following organizations:

**Wisconsin Assisted Living Association (WALA)
Wisconsin Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (WAHSA)
Wisconsin Association of Residential Facilities (WARF)
Wisconsin Health Care Association (WHCA)**

Collectively, our members provide services to a majority of the recipients of long-term care in our current system. We have worked with Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) Secretary Joe Leean and many others over the past three years in seeking to identify ways to improve our long-term care delivery system.

The Coalition strongly supports the Administration's long-term care goal: To develop "a comprehensive long-term care system that maximizes an individual's choice of services, providers and care settings as long as such care is necessary and meets a minimum level of quality standards and is cost effective."

In addition, the Coalition continues to support the compelling need for Resource Centers to serve as one-stop shopping service centers for consumer information and assistance with long-term care service availability, benefits, options and eligibility. We also support addressing the current institutional bias of the Medicaid program and replacing this bias with a system that enables care and services to be provided in the most appropriate setting, consistent with the above stated goal. The Coalition embraces a system that fully recognizes the appropriate roles of all providers in addressing the varying and changing long term care needs of individuals.

The Long-Term Care Coalition Position on Family Care

The Coalition was encouraged by the January 11th announcement by Governor Thompson and Secretary Leean to pilot test DHFS' Family Care proposal. We concurred with the Secretary's recommendation to the Governor that given "the significant concerns" that had been expressed by all parties affected by the proposal it was "prudent to use the pilot approach to Family Care at this time."

However, the language presented in the Governor's budget bill (1999 Senate Bill 45/Assembly Bill 133) cannot be reconciled with what we perceived as an intent to pursue and evaluate Family Care's pilot performance prior to proceeding with any further phase-in. Indeed, s.46.281(1)(e) of the budget bill gives DHFS full authority to proceed with statewide implementation of Family Care, without any further legislative review and irrespective of the performance, outcomes and cost of the "pilots".

Coalition members have argued consistently throughout the three-year Family Care developmental process that a thorough and extensive evaluation of the data collected by the resource center and CMO pilots prior to statewide implementation is the only prudent approach to protect state taxpayers, county property taxpayers and, most importantly, the elderly and disabled persons who will utilize the long-term care services Family Care is intended to provide. **Consistent with that position, Coalition members seek your support for revisions to SB 45/AB 133 to address the following concerns:**

- The Family Care budget proposal should be deleted as a statutory provision and placed in SB 45/AB 133 as a nonstatutory provision to ensure that Family Care does not proceed statewide until the Resource Center and CMO pilot projects are conducted, completed and evaluated. In addition, s.46.28(1)(e) of the bill should be deleted.
- An analysis of the DHFS' Family Care cost model and assumptions by a reputable actuary or actuarial firm must be concluded prior to the adoption of the Family Care budget proposal. Among other things, the actuary/actuarial firm should recommend how long the pilots should operate to provide policymakers with the data necessary to determine whether to proceed statewide with Family Care, to revise the proposal or to scrap it entirely. Our proposed "Required Elements of the Family Care Pilot Projects and Evaluation" is attached.
- The Coalition supports the proposed expansion of the number of CMO pilots to 9 counties and the selection of 2 of those counties to test the concept of integrating physician and other acute care services with long-term care services.
- The data collected from the pilots upon the conclusion of their operation should be analyzed thoroughly before the Legislature considers either a phased-in or a statewide implementation of Family Care. Enabling legislation to expand Family Care must incorporate the findings and recommendations that result from that evaluation, if the data suggests Family Care should move forward.
- When this objective is achieved, Family Care will have been tested, analyzed, and modified based on accurate cost data obtained through the pilots.
- Statewide implementation could then be phased-in as appropriate.

Policymakers should not confuse our support for piloting Family Care, however, with either support for the proposal or belief that Family Care will work as intended. To the contrary, Coalition members continue to believe that Family Care as proposed in SB 45/AB 133 is based on assumptions which range from unsupported by available data to out-and-out faulty. From our perspective, the benefit of the proposed pilots is that previously unavailable data will be collected and analyzed to either confirm, refute or modify the DHFS' Family Care assumptions. Among the DHFS assumptions we challenge and we hope the pilots will address are the following:

- 1) **Data is insufficient to support the claim that in-home care is less expensive than congregate care.** What may be the key tenet espoused by Family Care proponents is that given the exact same needs, preferences and health status, it is less expensive to provide long-term care services to an individual at home than it is in a congregate setting. The Coalition strongly argues that neither the DHFS nor Family Care proponents have the data available to support that claim. (Please see the attached "Conclusions and Recommendations" from an April 1995 study of the Community Options Program conducted by two UW-Madison professors which we believe supports our contention.) For example, while each nursing home resident's health status is identified by a level of care determination established by the DHFS, COP and waiver clients receive no similar health status determinations. While the Family Care proposal will provide a uniform functional screen which should provide an apples-to-apples cost comparison between congregate care and community care, no similar comparisons can be made today because of the insufficient data compiled for COP and waiver clients. Thus, the DHFS Family Care cost model could actually be an apples-to-oranges comparison

which ultimately reflects vastly overstated savings from a shift to community care. Coalition members believe Family Care should not be implemented fully until the data necessary to support or refute these claims is collected and analyzed.

- 2) **The average nursing home resident is older, more frail and in need of more costly services than his/her counterpart in the community.** In a 1996 profile of long-term care clients developed by the DHFS Office of Strategic Finance, the executive summary stated: "As a group, nursing home residents tend to show more adverse conditions, functionally or mentally, than their community waiver counterparts. Relatively more nursing home residents are at a higher level of skilled nursing care need, have many more functional impairments in activities of daily living ..., and show signs of memory loss or cognitive problems. They also are more likely to exhibit problem behaviors, show signs of mental distress, and have problems with incontinence." It appears to the Coalition that it may cost more to provide facility-based care, not because community care itself is less expensive, but rather because facility-based residents on average have greater needs and require more costly services than community-care clients.
- 3) **The cost implications of the "woodwork" effect are unknown.** Under the Family Care budget proposal, all persons meeting its comprehensive level eligibility standards will be entitled to expanded benefits under the Care Management Organization (CMO). The envisioned CMO benefit package is expressly designed to attract enrollees through the promise of expanded choices and benefits. This prospect of entitlement to more extensive publicly-financed long term care services will have a "woodwork" effect that will attract more individuals into the system and accordingly increase aggregate program costs. The pilot projects should be utilized to measure the impact such induced demand will have in increasing program service utilization and cost.
- 4) **The DHFS cost model used to develop Family Care is based on questionable, if not faulty, assumptions.** The inadequacy of the DHFS database is not the only concern the Coalition has with the assumptions the DHFS identified in its Family Care cost model. We disagree with or dispute their assumptions related to, among other issues, the cost impact of a healthier elderly population, the bias against congregate care settings, the time and cost to conduct a functional screen, the frequency of client functional/eligibility redeterminations, "outreach" funding, the reliance on "gross cost" averaging, the effect of redesign on Medicaid card costs, the projected reduction in nursing facility utilization, the permanency of initial placements, capitation rates, blended rates, applicability of the Oregon experience, quality assurance programs, cost of payments to family members and authority of care managers.
- 5) **Waivers from the federal Health Care Financing Administration, which would be required under Family Care, are dependent upon a showing of "budget neutrality;" in other words, Wisconsin would have to show that within a certain timeframe (i.e., 5 years), implementation of Family Care would cost the federal government no more than the cost of continuing the current system.** The State believes it can meet this test; Coalition members disagree because we believe the State is relying on faulty cost assumptions and that the true cost of Family Care will be significantly greater than the DHFS projection. What if we are right: will the federal waivers be granted? Data collected through the pilots could be the determining factor.
- 6) **The county property taxpayer ultimately may be asked to subsidize Family Care.** Under Family Care, CMOs eventually will be required to accept the same risk as HMOs: a monthly capitation rate will be paid to the CMO for each enrollee and the CMO will be required to manage the care of each enrollee within that capitation rate. If the cost of services exceeds the capitation rate, additional

funds will have to be found. Unlike the COP or waiver programs, there will be no option to create a wait list or suspend services when funds expire. If counties are to serve as CMOs, those "additional funds" almost certainly would have to come from the local property taxpayer, unless additional state tax dollars can be found. Are counties prepared to accept that kind of risk? Without the ability to review the data collected by the pilot counties, we believe the answer to that question is "no".

The attached contains what Coalition members believe at the very least (pending the findings of an actuary) should be the required elements of the Family Care pilot projects.

3/4/99

Required Elements of the Family Care Pilot Projects and Evaluation

Prior to either a phase-in or a statewide implementation of Family Care, the following activities must be undertaken:

- Engage the services of an actuary to identify data that must be collected by the pilot counties to permit an actuarial assessment and comparison of the fiscal and operational risks Family Care will present for state and county governments and their respective taxpayers. In addition, the actuary should recommend the optimum length of time the CMO pilots should operate in order to provide the data necessary to evaluate those financial and operational risks.
- Engage the services of an actuary to assess the adequacy of the current database of the Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) and proposed costing methodology for purposes of projecting Family Care costs and capitation levels.
- Commission an actuarial study to determine the number of CMOs that could be reasonably sustained under state-wide or regional implementation of Family Care.
- Require participating counties to collect detailed and uniform client data to assist in the evaluation of Family Care pilots.
- Mandate and validate that the functional and financial screening tools are completed for all long term care clients. This will ensure that complete baseline information has been gathered regarding the LTC needs of all clients.
- Establish the cost of and time required to complete the functional and financial screening tools and the overall administrative costs associated with the Family Care pilots.
- Evaluate whether the functional and financial screening tools and the resultant client's score (which establishes the CMO's capitation rate) are an accurate predictor for the actual cost of the client's LTC service plan.
- Determine the overall cost-effectiveness of Family Care: The evaluation should reflect each client's health, functional and behavioral status and the total cost of her/his service plan. The evaluation should include the impact of Family Care on all health and long term care expenditures, including acute and primary care. Expenditures should include all funding sources, including Medicaid, Medicare, COP, home and community-based waiver programs, community aids, and all other federal, state and local expenditures. Findings should include a determination of whether Family Care creates an incentive for CMOs to shift costs to the acute/primary care system. The evaluation should directly assess which service settings/options are most cost-effective and appropriate given a client's health, functional and behavioral status.

- Evaluate the quality of care, life and services provided to Family Care clients in all settings (in-home care, nursing facilities, congregate care settings, etc.) The evaluation should determine if the client's service setting enables the client to achieve her/his highest practical health, social, psychological and functional well-being.
- Evaluate the impact client advocacy and appeal systems have on the availability, provision and cost of recommended service plans.
- Evaluate the timeliness of securing necessary client services, including the presence of any decision-making bottlenecks (e.g., delays in obtaining services for hospitalized clients).
- Evaluate whether a sufficient number of paid and volunteer caregivers are available to meet the LTC needs of Family Care enrollees. In particular, can the current and future labor market support a non-facility-based long term care delivery system, as envisioned under Family Care, or is a greater emphasis on congregate settings more realistic?
- If the evaluation of the data collected through the pilots is to have any value, the pilots must be run as if Family Care were operational. Counties (CMOs) should not be granted programmatic "shortcuts" as an incentive to participate in the pilots. By the same token, we believe participating counties/tribes should be held harmless for the costs they incur pilot testing these programs. The pilots should expressly test whether CMOs are able to arrange or provide quality long term care and services for its clients within the capitation rates authorized by the DHFS. Finally, to avoid any real or perceived research biases within DHFS relative to Family Care, the Family Care pilot evaluation should be conducted by a qualified, independent third-party.

**A Review of Community Based Long Term Care with Emphasis on
Wisconsin's Community Options Program**

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University of Wisconsin-Madison**

and

**Greg Arling, PhD
Center for Health Systems Research and Analysis
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April, 1995

The analysis for this report was supported by a faculty development grant provided by the Network for Health Policy Research. As with other Network papers, the report's conclusions and recommendations are those of the authors. They have not necessarily been endorsed by the Network's Advisory Board.

EMPHASIS ADDED

Conclusions and Recommendations

A. Conclusions

Since implementation in 1982, COP has grown rapidly and provides an important service to needy clients throughout the State of Wisconsin. The organizational structure of COP has maximized "client choice". Any Wisconsin resident who meets financial and level of care criteria is eligible for COP services as an alternative to entering a nursing home or other institutional setting. Once an assessment and care plan are completed, counties can provide a variety of services tailored to client needs. They also can mix COP funds with other funding sources, such as Medicare and Medicaid, in order to fill "gaps" in service delivery. However, in spite of the successes of the COP, we feel that improvements in program structure and operations can be made. The need for improvement is based on the following conclusions:

- Although COP program growth has occurred at the same time as a decline in nursing home use, it is not clear whether COP has had a significant effect on these changes in utilization. There are a number of other factors that may have influenced nursing home use, such as a moratorium on new bed construction, elimination of Medicaid coverage for persons at ICF 3 and 4 levels of care, and increases in the number of Medicare financed nursing home residents. Available data simply are not sufficient to determine the extent to which COP has been responsible for the decline in nursing home use.
- COP does little targeting of services to persons who would be at greatest risk of nursing home admission. The single most important finding from the CBLTC demonstrations is that without effective targeting, CBLTC is unlikely to significantly influence nursing home use. The limited data that are available from COP suggest that COP clients may have fewer care requirements (lower level of care and less likely to be terminally ill) than nursing home residents. Yet, it is the more dependent and medically unstable individual who is at greatest risk of nursing home admission.
- The State has reported lower average costs for COP/COP-W clients when compared to nursing home users. Yet, these comparisons may not be valid because they fail to adequately adjust for potential differences in care needs between the two populations. Unfortunately, information is not available with which to make accurate cost comparisons between community and institutional settings.
- The absence of careful targeting reflects a wider problem in establishing program priorities. The "first come, first served" approach may be adequate under conditions of steadily increased funding. Yet, when State or local funds are constrained, many counties develop long waiting lists and as a result, persons who are in critical need of services may not receive them. The Hospital Link initiative is one attempt to direct

services to clients in crisis situations. This program, however, is operating in only a few counties and has too few openings to meet the demand for services or to have a measurable effect on nursing home admissions for long term care.

- The State's goal to minimize the administrative burden on counties has created problems of accountability. With the current reporting requirements placed on the counties, the State lacks essential information about client characteristics and program operations. As a result, the State is limited in its ability to evaluate program effectiveness and efficiency.
- Our analysis indicated wide variation in the content and form of client assessments. The absence of standardized assessments and the failure of the State to gather uniform client information makes it very difficult to describe the client population or to establish the link between client needs and the services they are receiving.

B. Recommendations

- COP provides a valuable service to disabled individuals by fostering their independence and improving their quality of life. However, results of CBLTC demonstrations and our own analysis of the COP program indicate that it may be difficult to justify COP solely on the basis of its effect on nursing home use or on cost savings that may result from substituting CBLTC for institutional services. The State and the counties should acknowledge that many COP clients may not be at imminent risk of institutionalization. Once this is done and realistic goals have been established for COP, the State and counties can then begin the process of ensuring that essential services are efficiently provided to needy clients.
- COP should develop more focused program objectives which set forth funding priorities and establish goals associated with target populations. The "first come, first served" approach to resource allocation is inappropriate in times of fiscal constraint. Hospital Link is an example of a program with focused objectives and a clearly defined target population: disabled persons awaiting hospital discharge. Its objectives are to promote timely discharge from the hospital, offer alternatives to nursing home care, and improve the health and functioning of clients. To meet these objectives, the program expedites client assessment and eligibility determination and provides COP services in a timely manner. COP should consider expanding Hospital Link and should initiate other programs with similarly focused objectives. The Legislature should provide adequate resources to ensure controlled growth and regular evaluations of these targeted programs.
- Counties should be required to adopt minimum and uniform standards for care management. These standards should include a uniform assessment tool (perhaps supplemented with county-specific information), protocols for linking assessments with care planning, and procedures for monitoring client status and service utilization.

- The State should gather additional information on all COP clients and service delivery. At a minimum the State should assemble uniform information on socioeconomic, health, functional, and cognitive status of COP clients, and this information should be linked to data on service delivery and costs of care. These types of information are essential for program evaluation and are necessary if policy makers are to make informed decisions about resource allocation in the future. They also might be applied in the quality assurance process to evaluate outcomes of care. The Legislature needs to provide adequate resources to enable this to occur.
- The State should expand its evaluation and policy analysis capabilities. For example, the State should be able to systematically compare COP clients with nursing home residents, determine the costs associated with clients having different levels of disability or health status, and evaluate outcomes of care overall and for sub-groups within the COP client population. This will require a level of sophistication which is used in evaluations of the nursing home industry but which is currently absent in COP.



Issue:

Caregiver Background Checks

BACKGROUND:

Last session, the Legislature enacted 1997 Act 27 which included the requirement that, beginning October 1, 1998, all entities regulated or licensed by the Department of Health & Family Services conduct Caregiver Background Checks on all employees and contractors who might have "access" to clients of the entity. This legislation covered nearly every health and long-term care provider as well as child and day care providers.

The Caregiver Background Check statute requires that covered entities complete a Caregiver Background Check ("CBC") every four years on all employees or contractors under the entity's control who are likely to have access to clients. Several employment prohibitions and restrictions are contained in statute, and the remainder are found in Wis. Admin. Code HFS 12, which is currently promulgated as an amended emergency rule.

Under the statute, no entity may employ or contract with any person under the entity's control who has or is expected to have access to its clients if the entity has knows or should have known: (1) That the person has been convicted of a "serious crime"; (2) That the person has a pending charge for a "serious crime" against him/her; (3) That a unit of government or state agency has made a finding that the person has abused or neglected any client or misappropriated the property of any client; (4) That a determination has been made under the child abuse and neglect statutes that the person has abused or neglected a child; or (5) That, in the case of a position for which the person must be licensed or credentialed by the DRL, the person's credential is not current or is limited so as to restrict the person from providing adequate care to a client. Additionally, the statute requires DHFS to establish a list of crimes that bar employment, unless and until the individual demonstrates to a DHFS panel, by clear and convincing evidence, that they have been rehabilitated.

The legislation created five "serious crimes," a conviction of which results in a permanent ban on employment within any covered entity. The legislation also required that the DHFS promulgate rules to fully implement the legislation, including that the Department identify additional "serious crimes," "bar w/ rehab" crimes, and crimes of "lesser sanc-

tions." When the employer receives the results of the CBC, if there are any convictions, they must determine where the conviction falls on the "crimes table," an attachment to HFS 12. If the conviction is for a "serious crime" the individual is permanently banned from employment in a position having access to clients. If the conviction falls into the "bar w/ rehab" category, the individual will need to seek and receive Rehabilitation Review Approval from the DHFS, prior to being able to work in a position having access to clients. HFS 12 contains the eligibility, criteria and procedures that DHFS has established for the Rehabilitation Review. A conviction in the "lesser sanctions" category does not prohibit employment, however, the employer is expected to apply some additional level of supervision or training for such individuals.

HFS 12 has been promulgated as an emergency rule, and after a series of public hearings which generated significant opposition to its content, has been amended and was granted a 30 day extension as an amended emergency rule. HFS 12 has been opposed by WHCA and nearly every other affected group because of its breadth and expansiveness; its absence of data to support many of its employment restrictions; its cumbersome and rigid application and compliance requirements; its lack of discretion or recognition that employment decisions must be made on a case-by-case basis; and its negative impact on the ability to hire otherwise qualified individuals but for past problems. Some of the concerns raised at the public hearings have been taken into account in the amended emergency rule and the proposed permanent rule; however, significant problems persist within the rule due in part to provisions of the statute.

WHCA POSITIONS:

WHCA suggests and requests the following revisions to the Caregiver Background Check law:

1. All covered entities should be required to complete Caregiver Background Checks on all employees and all contractors with significant patient care responsibilities. This change would simplify and expand the employers' responsibilities and will require all entities to know the background of applicants and employees.

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2. Define "caregiver" as an individual who will have "significant, regular patient or client care responsibilities," and for caregivers, that there be a number of convictions which would bar employment. Specifically, any of the current statutory "serious crimes" would bar employment for any caregiver.
 3. Rehabilitation Review by DHFS would be available for caregivers convicted of the five serious crimes.
 4. For employees or contractors who are not caregivers, and for caregivers who have not been convicted of a "serious crime," the employer will exercise its fully informed judgement and discretion as to whether to hire or retain an individual. This decision will be made subject to current state and federal fair employment laws.

These suggested changes to the statute are fair and reasonable from the providers', employees' and clients' perspective. The provider will have an obligation to conduct a background check for all employees, and apply certain restrictions on those employees or contractors in a caregiving position. This obligates the employer to know the background of those they employ, but does not unnecessarily encumber the hiring process. The well intended HFS 12 requirements simply cannot replace the professional judgment necessary

for making what should be a case-by-case determination as to an individuals suitability for employment.

Employees, under the proposed changes, would still have their backgrounds checked, and certainly those individuals not suitable for employment in a caregiving environment will have to find work elsewhere. However, individuals would not automatically be barred from employment for what are often long past problems. Health care employees will essentially share the same rights as all other employees, but the requirement that employers conduct background checks will make it difficult for individuals with unsuitable backgrounds to work in caregiving positions.

Most importantly, under the proposed statutory revisions, clients will be protected because the statute would require that all covered entities know the background of the individuals they employ. To the extent that there was an alleged "crisis" in the health and child care employment area, it was due to the fact that not all employers regularly conducted background checks on the individuals caring for the clients. The proposed revisions address this and require employers to know about the backgrounds of the individuals before they are hired to care for the clients.

WHCA

Wisconsin Health Care Association

MEMO

DATE: April 7, 1999

TO: Joint Finance Committee Members-
Wisconsin State Legislature

FROM: James R. Brown, M. S.,
Associate Director of Rehabilitation.
Milwaukee Center For Independence
1339 North Milwaukee Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202

RE: Restoration of Funding Cuts of Community
Aids to Milwaukee County

My name is James R. Brown. I live at 2640 North 81st Street, Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. I am the Associate Director of Rehabilitation Services at the Milwaukee Center For Independence (MCFI). Our Mission is to assist individuals with special needs to live and work in the community. MCFI has been providing services to people with Developmental Disabilities and Mental Illness for over 60 years. I have been involved for over 25 years working directly or indirectly with the people we serve. Our job is to help people develop to their full potential in community living skills, prevocational, vocational, supported and community job placement. We also assist in supporting their independent living either in their parents' home, a group home or their own apartment living.

In order to accomplish this Mission, we rely on Community Aids Funding, which is in danger of being cut by \$2.9 million from current levels. I have brought articles from the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* here today for your review. As these articles show, these funding cuts will have an adverse affect on agencies' abilities to provide services to people with special needs. It will be more difficult and in some cases impossible to assist people to develop their full potential as tax paying citizens, living and working in the community with dignity.

Please restore the funding, so that people can continue to receive the services that allow them full citizenship with dignity, and in the long run less costly to all of us. It is the right thing to do. It is the smart thing to do.

Those who would be hurt by cuts decry governor's budget plan

By MARGO HUSTON
of the Journal Sentinel staff

One after another, ordinary people and community leaders took to the podium Wednesday to tell state lawmakers that Milwaukeeans will suffer gravely from provisions in Gov. Tommy G. Thompson's proposed 1999-2001 biennial state budget.

Yolonda Cannon, 35, a mother of two who has AIDS, spoke on behalf of herself and her sister, Cashmarie Cannon, 42, who has five children and also has AIDS. Cannon said the state's \$100 a

child caretaker supplement was not enough to provide for children.

She said she and her sister could not work and the families were ineligible for the Wisconsin Works welfare reform.

State Rep. Antonio Riley (D-Milwaukee) said that when W-2 was enacted, an amendment was defeated that would have aided people with HIV or AIDS.

"I think we'll go back and correct that," he said.

Joe Volk, head of the Task Force on Emergency Shelter and Relocation Services, said W-2 fallout had hit shelters, mainly

in two ways: families staying longer and more mothers giving up children and moving to shelters.

Volk urged the state to double its contribution to homeless programs, to \$2.2 million a year.

In response, state Rep. Robert Cowles (R-Green Bay) said that he believed increasing services for homeless people would

"fast track" renewal of their contracts, meaning they won't have to participate in open competition for the next two-year W-2 contracts, beginning Jan. 1, 2000.

The governor has named a Wisconsin Works and Alcohol and Drug Abuse Task Force, with 12 of the 20 members from Milwaukee. J. Jean Rogers, economic support administrator for the Department of Development, will lead the task force, which is the state's response to calls from community leaders for an extra \$10 million to combat abuse problems.

be an appropriate use for the state's millions of dollars of excess federal welfare money.

State Sen. Brian Burke (D-Milwaukee), Senate chairman of the Joint Committee on Finance, which sponsored the "listening session" at the Milwaukee Public Schools Administration Building, said that speakers "reflected a cross section of community dissatisfaction with the proposed budget."

In related developments:

The five W-2 agencies in Milwaukee County, along with most counties, have qualified for



Cuts will hurt Milwaukee County

It is true that Milwaukee County supervisors are frustrated with Gov. Tommy Thompson's budget. But we're not tossing "brickbats" ("Supervisors slam Thompson's state budget proposal," March 19). We're just telling it like it is.

As an administrative arm of state government, Milwaukee County provides services on the state's behalf, yet we are consistently given inadequate resources to meet demands. Needs of low-income people have not abated in our thriving economy. Yet the state insists

that we persevere with no increase in shared revenue since 1995, significant cuts in community aid and a youth aid formula that the state's own Legislative Audit Bureau says shortchanges Milwaukee County by \$13 million per year. This at a time when the state enjoys a \$500 million surplus.

The surplus, a result of our robust economy, is due in large part to Milwaukee County, the economic hub of Wisconsin. The fact that we are a large urban county means that our businesses and citizens provide a significant share of the state's revenue,

but we provide service to a disproportionate share of people in need.

Of course, tax cuts are popular, but if you use a surplus to provide minimal income tax relief, you must be honest about the consequences. In this case, the consequence will be a severe reduction in service to the most vulnerable coupled with an unfair burden on the county's property taxpayers. These cuts do not hurt county government; they hurt people.

Karen M. Ordians
Chairman
Milwaukee County Board

Officials unite to demand state aid

Budget doesn't cover
mandates on local
government, they say

BY AMY RINARD
of the Journal Sentinel staff

THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 1999 MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

Pleasant Prairie — In an unprecedented move to speak with one voice in Madison, county, city, village and town officials have banded together to oppose provisions of Gov. Tommy G. Thompson's state budget that they say short-change local governments.

The effort to organize a united front of local officials continued here Wednesday night as representatives from seven southeastern Wisconsin counties met to plot a strategy for getting more state money for local governments.

"This would be a first for us. We've never really come together before to say, 'Let's lock our arms and go to Madison together,'" Waukesha County Board Chairman Jim Dwyer said during the meeting at the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center. It was attended by county board chairmen, executives and administrators from Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Walworth, Washington and Waukesha counties.

The county officials targeted shared revenue, youth aid, community aid, transportation aid and funding for circuit courts as top priorities in their effort to obtain a larger share of state money for state-mandated programs.

Milwaukee County Executive F. Thomas Ament said that two years ago, when Thompson unveiled his last budget bill, Ament thought it was the worst state budget he'd seen in 29 years.

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Aid/Local officials want more from state

From page 1

"Sad to say, the governor's 1999-'01 budget continues that condition not only for county governments but for all local governments," he said. "It ill treats all local governments."

Dwyer said the goal of the Partners in Local Government coalition is to have county, city, village and town officials from across the state jointly argue they are getting a raw deal under Thompson's budget.

"I've not heard anyone yet from local government who thinks this is a good budget," Dwyer said.

Jean Jacobson, Racine County executive, said that local officials acting as a united force "should say something to them in Madison."

Dwyer and other county officials said that without more state aid, counties will be forced to either cut services or raise property taxes.

That's a "smoke and mirrors" tax shift by the state, Dwyer

said, noting that Thompson and most state legislators simply want to be able to tout that they cut income taxes in this budget bill.

Ken Miller, Washington County Board chairman, said on the issue of state funding for the courts that the state collects more in court fees and fines than it returns to counties to help pay for running the courts.

"Generally, we want the state to pay its fair share, which is what they've promised," he said.

Mark Bugher, Thompson's top budget adviser and the primary architect of the governor's 1999-2001 state budget bill, said in an interview Wednesday that he understood the frustration of local government officials. He attributed this year's united outcry to the cumulative effect of small increases in community and youth aid and the freeze on shared revenue in the last few years.

But he said local governments should be grateful for what they received.

"I would urge local governments to take what they got and be doggone happy they didn't get cut," he said.

The county officials said Thompson plans to cut youth aid, which helps pay for services to juvenile offenders, and community aid, which help pay for state-mandated services for abused children, the mentally ill, people with developmental disabilities and the elderly.

Bugher countered that Thompson is proposing modest increases in community aid and youth aid while the amount of state money distributed as shared revenue would remain frozen, as it has since 1994.

But, Bugher added, there will be talk during the budget debate in the Legislature about cutting shared revenue and even imposing spending caps on counties.

"I would encourage local governments to look at ways to pare back their budgets because I don't see much hope on the horizon for them to get more money," he said.

Supervisors slam Thompson's state budget proposal

Officials say plan ignores county's poor, elderly and disabled residents

By TOM HELD
of the Journal Sentinel staff

County supervisors took an hour Thursday to vent their frustrations over Gov. Tommy G. Thompson's biennial budget proposal, lobbing "verbal grenades" at everyone from the governor to the county's own lobbyists.

Also targeted were Assembly Speaker Scott Jensen (R-Town of Brookfield), other legislators and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

One supervisor called it the "blame game," sparked by a belief that the state is ignoring the needs of poor, elderly and disabled residents in Milwaukee County so it can finance property and income tax cuts.

"We ought to be a partner of the state; instead, we're an enemy," said Supervisor Roger Quindel, a frequent critic of Thompson and Jensen. "Everything being done by the state is geared to put Milwaukee County on the defensive."

The supervisors attacked a slew of provisions in Thompson's \$41 billion, two-year spending plan, including a personal property tax exemption for fax machines, cash registers, copiers and automated teller machines.

That provision will make it more difficult for the county to raise money through property taxes and will push the tax burden onto residential homeowners, the supervisors said.

"That's disgusting," Supervisor Kathleen Arciszewski said of the ATM exemption.

Supervisors also attacked the governor and state legislators for failing to increase the amount of money allocated to counties through community aid, which funds programs for elderly residents and people with disabilities or drug and alcohol problems.

The state cut the allocation late last year because of a reduction in a federal block grant, and Thompson's budget does not re-

store the funding to its previous level.

Community aid given to counties statewide has dropped since 1995 from \$331 million to \$300 million in 1998 and 1999.

Supervisor Lee Holloway said the state has shown once again that it is "insensitive to poor people." With the cuts included in the governor's budget, the county is not able to provide the "safety net" that people need, he said.

As the blame game rolled on, Supervisor Mark Borkowski questioned the effectiveness of the county's lobbyists, and Supervisor Robert Krug accused the Wisconsin Counties Association of being ineffective in lobbying for the interests of counties throughout the state.

"We've continued to take hit after hit after hit, and it's time to hold some feet to the fire," Borkowski said.

Krug called the counties association "misguided and inept" and a cheerleader for the Thompson administration.

Darla Hium, deputy director of the association, said county officials throughout the state are unhappy with Thompson's budget proposal.

The association had hoped Thompson would use a part of the \$500 million budget surplus from the previous biennium to restore some of the funding cut from community aid. Instead, Thompson proposed using that surplus to help fund an income tax cut.

Jensen said he has found little opposition to the proposals to reduce both property and income taxes in the state. And he objects to the idea that the state should make the business climate less attractive in order to fund local governments.

The assembly speaker also said he will continue to work with local officials across the state to find better ways to raise money through taxes and provide money to meet residents' needs. That type of effort is more constructive than the tossing of "brickbats" at the governor and legislators, Jensen said.

A call to Thompson's office for comment was not returned.

Disabled residents make case for return of aid money

More than 100 turn out to urge lawmakers to restore \$2.9 million for programs

By TOM HELD
of the Journal Sentinel staff

Dozens of residents with physical and mental disabilities took turns as rookie lobbyists Monday, urging legislators to restore \$2.9 million in funding for community aids programs.

Like many of the others who spoke, Michelle Malmberg struggled as she addressed the three legislators who sat in front of more than 100 people in the Washington Park Senior Center.

Finally, Malmberg got her message out: "I need the money. I need the help."

In Malmberg's case, help is a job training and placement program run by United Cerebral Palsy of Southeast Wisconsin. An official with the agency said the cut in community aids funding would keep nearly 30 people like Malmberg from getting into the program.

For those people, a job means independence and a way to stay

out of an institution.

"If you can't meet my goals, I can't meet your goals," Malmberg said. "I would rather be working than on welfare."

The public hearing Monday was sponsored by the Milwaukee Human Services Coalition and served as a pep rally and dress rehearsal for a March 18 journey to Madison, where many of the same people will lobby other legislators to restore the community aids funding.

Late last year, the state reduced its 1999 allocation to Milwaukee County by \$2.9 million, based on a cut in a federal social services block grant.

In the trickle-down path of government funding, the state passed the cut to the county and the county will pass the cut to social service agencies. It all stops, however, with people like Malmberg.

Others who will be affected by cutbacks in various programs include people with mental illnesses, drug addictions, the elderly and those with developmental disabilities.

Kathleen McGwin, executive director of KindCare, which pro-

vides services to people with developmental disabilities, said she faces the prospect of telling clients and their families that they will have to leave the program. In some cases, that means elderly parents will be burdened with the 24-hour-a-day care of autistic children with behavioral problems, she said.

State Rep. Peter Bock (D-Milwaukee) said the session helped him see the faces behind the numbers in the community aids battle. Briefing papers have listed the dollar amounts and the number of slots set to be eliminated, but they don't have the impact of someone like Malmberg, he said.

"It's real people who need real services," Bock said after the hearing. "Legislators are like anyone else; you have to make it real for them."

Rep. Spencer Coggs (D-Milwaukee) and state Sen. Richard Grobschmidt (D-South Milwaukee) also attended the public hearing. All three vowed to push the Joint Finance Committee to restore the \$2.9 million as part of the 1999-2001 biennial budget.

Agencies want funds restored

State cut \$2.9 million from
county community aids

By MARY BETH MURPHY
of the Journal Sentinel staff

A coalition of community-based agencies is calling on the state Legislature to replace the \$2.9 million cut from Milwaukee County's community aids programs.

The Milwaukee Human Services Coalition, a group of 75 agencies, also is asking the Legislature to establish a task force to develop a new state policy regarding federal cuts in the community aids program. The Milwaukee Child Welfare Partnership Council, which met Friday, adopted a resolution in support.

The coalition is inviting all state lawmakers from Milwaukee to attend a public hearing at noon March 1 at Washington Park for comment from people who will be affected by the cuts.

State officials reduced the amount of community aids based on a reduction in the amount of federal money the state receives. Other counties have protested the cuts, but Milwaukee County officials were infuriated over the method the state used to calculate its cut.

The county was to receive \$82 million in community aid for 1999, yet \$58.9 million of that already was committed for child welfare services. The state, however, calculated Milwaukee County's cut based on the full \$82 million — not the \$23.1 million that actually would have been available.

The effect in Milwaukee County is the equivalent of a cut of around 13%, Ramon Wagner, director of Community Advocates, told the Partnership Council Friday.

According to the coalition, that translates to:

- 428 people with mental health issues will not receive outpatient treatment.

- 550 people will be denied alcohol and drug abuse treatment.

- 25 developmentally disabled adults will be denied residential services.

- 92 children will not be provided day treatment services.

- 280 children will go without temporary shelter.

- 128 children in the Birth to Three program will be suspended.

- 2,080 nights at shelters for families will be eliminated.

The coalition proposed that the Legislature, through the Joint Finance Committee, use \$2.9 million in its emergency contingency fund to solve the immediate problem, effective next month, to prevent the county from cutting support and services already in place for 1999.

The Facts and the Impact of the 1999 Cut in Base Community Aids on Milwaukee County Dept. of Human Services

The Dollars

- * The Milwaukee County Department of Human Services concurs with the Legislative Fiscal Bureau's analysis of this issue in its December 9 memo to Sen. Rosenzweig, and acknowledges as correct the fact that, from the state DHFS perspective, Milwaukee County's BCA will be approximately \$42.7 million. However, when the \$20.1 million for state child welfare, which is intercepted from shared revenue payments to the County, is then deducted from the \$42.7 million of BCA, the result is an unchanged and fiscally painful bottom line impact: the Milwaukee County DHS will have available to it only \$22.6 million of Base Community Aids to address the social and mental health service needs of our clients.

Milwaukee County Calculation

- * \$81.5 million gross BCA (per DHFS - the 2.94% + 0.59% cuts were calculated on this amount, resulting in a \$2.9 million BCA reduction. Based on a recalculation, the County's original estimate of a \$3.2 million BCA has been revised. The \$2.9 million is the correct amount.)
- 3.58%
- 38.8 million BCA intercepted for state child welfare (per LFB)
\$42.7 million 1999 BCA to Milwaukee County (per LFB)
- 20.1 million shared revenue intercepted for state child welfare (per LFB)
\$22.6 million net available BCA in 1999

The Potential Human Toll

A \$2.9 million cut in our BCA produces service impacts that are stark and painful:

- * In mental health, 200 clients will go without cost-effective targeted case management; 428 will not receive outpatient treatment for mental disorders; 75 will go without services to avoid costly institutionalization; 7 community-based residential facility slots will go unfunded;
- * In juvenile justice, instead of 24 group home slots for delinquent youth, we will fund only 4, leaving 60 youths at risk of confinement in state juvenile correctional institutions at significantly greater cost to both the state and the County; similarly, 92 children will be turned away from day treatment, and most of them will be sent to those same state facilities; 280 children will go without court-ordered temporary shelter;
- * In adult services, 550 drug and alcohol-addicted adults will be left without treatment and counselling; community-based, residential services for 25 developmentally disabled adults will be discontinued; Birth-to-Three services on behalf of 128 children will be suspended; 2,080 shelter nights will not be provided for the homeless and victims of domestic violence; the list goes on.

The Bottom Line

- * A \$2.9 million cut in Milwaukee County's 1999 net BCA of \$22.6 million is unfair and harmful to the clients we are mandated to serve.

This music man makes a difference

At age 9, John Hartman's life changed forever. After months of blackouts, headaches and feeling dizzy and disoriented, John and his family had their answer. A neurologist diagnosed John with a brain tumor and surgery to treat the tumor left the little boy virtually blind.

As difficult as this might seem to tackle at age 9, John always moved forward with a positive attitude. He never attended any special schools, never felt sorry for himself, despite the fact that the eyes that had once worked perfectly now could only discern foggy shapes, as if John were looking at the world through two narrow straws.

Still, he was determined to find passion in his life, something that he truly loved. From that early age, he discovered that love in music, singing in school ensembles and national singing groups.

At Western Michigan University, John

incredible benefits it provides for people with all sorts of disabilities — mental illness, cognitive disorders, developmental disabilities or degenerative diseases or recovering from strokes or other trauma.

"I've seen some wonderful things happen," John said. "One guy never used to talk when he came here, and he talks now. This therapy changed his life."

"For other clients, it motivates them.

Some of these people just used to sit around all day. Now they've had success making music, and they'll try other things. We give people all sorts of opportunities to try new things here."

Music therapy combines the best of both worlds for many clients — it's both nonthreatening and fun.

"They develop skills and make music. We don't use tilt tables or braces around their arms. (As a result) we have people

lining up at our door at the beginning of the day. People want to be a part of this," John said.

His unique perspective as someone who also had to overcome obstacles makes him someone the clients can relate to.

"I've experienced feelings of being different, of failure, of not being able to do something," John said. "And I've also overcome those. I can use my experience to help them use their talents to overcome their disabilities to become more independent."

Very at peace with his job, John now says he's also at peace at home. He moved to Wauwatosa in the fall from Milwaukee's East Side.

"I wanted grass, a porch and to see something other than a concrete wall when I looked outside," John said. "I wanted to sit on my porch and hear the birds."

As always, John's surrounding himself with music.



John Hartman



Offitha Vieland

studied how music can help people with disabilities learn to overcome obstacles, find success in their lives and enjoy themselves while getting some therapeutic benefit. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in music and a degree in music therapy.

Today, at 25 years old, this board certified music therapist and Wauwatosa resident leads the music therapy program at the Milwaukee Center for Independence.

John built the program from the ground up, and has witnessed the

THE MORNING MAIL

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 1999

MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

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Send letters to: The Morning Mail, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, P.O. Box 371, Milwaukee, Wis. 53201-0371. Fax us at (414) 224-5175. Our e-mail address is: jsedit@jrnws.com

Support for disabled is money well-spent

I was gratified to read about President Clinton's recent request for \$2 billion to help thousands of Americans with disabilities return to work by offering tax credits to pay for health insurance, transportation and equipment.

A portion is earmarked for the development of new technologies to improve the ability of individuals with disabilities to function in the workplace.

An investment of such a source will be well-spent.

By some estimates, \$1 of reha-

ment in the disabled is both sound economically and an opportunity for someone to gain personal dignity.

Garber says:

"An investment in the disabled is both sound economically and an opportunity for someone to gain personal dignity."

Facilitating access to services and providing appropriate transportation are all cost-wise supports to people whose personal growth and independence add immeasurably to our community.

Howard L. Garber, president Milwaukee Center for Independence Milwaukee

A newsletter for and about people

On the **MOVE**

Self Advocacy means **YOU** can make things happen

You can call it determination, consumer choice, or just speaking up and taking action for what you want or believe. If you are a **self advocate**, you are a person who advocates for the things that are important to you.

Self advocacy is about making more decisions and making new and different things happen for you. Where you work and live, what friends you see, or even what to have for dinner must be personal choices, as much as it is possible.

People are getting together:

Self advocacy in Wisconsin is growing. There are many organizations around the state for self advocates to join. Some have been established for a long time and others are just getting started. The groups meet to learn about and promote the idea of self advocacy on both a personal and community level. There is a list of these organizations on the last page of this newsletter.

One of the leaders:

One of the leaders who has been very active in helping self advocacy groups around the state is **Dan Remick** of Madison. Self advocacy is nothing new to Dan. He



Dan Remick is a big promoter of self advocacy.

has lots of experience. In fact, he made his first speech about it to members of his church thirty years ago. He talked about how people with developmental disabilities need to handle their own problems and speak up for their rights.

Dan is fifty one years old and spent much of his early life in an institution. He also spent many years living in a nursing home. Since 1979 he has had his own apartment in Madison. He believes that state institutions should be closed.

Dan works for the Arc-Wisconsin and travels around the state to speak to self advocates and others about these issues and something very important to him - organizing a statewide group of self advocates.

Statewide Conference:

Dan Remick and other leaders in self advocacy hope many people will come to the **1999 Statewide Self Advocacy Conference**. It is being held **May 19 & 20, 1999**, at the **Hyatt Hotel in Milwaukee**, Wisconsin. The conference will include workshops about self advocacy, ways to get involved in a statewide organization, and a speakers bureau for people with disabilities.

There may be money available to help people attend. For more information about the conference, turn to page 4.

On the **MOVE**

"On the MOVE" is for and about people with developmental disabilities. It is intended to be read and shared by them, their families and the people involved in their lives.

"On the MOVE" is published by **Rehabilitation For Wisconsin, Inc.** and made possible through a grant from the **Wisconsin Council on Developmental Disabilities (WCDD)**. It will be published four times in 1999.

"On the MOVE" invites your comments, ideas and stories.

Write to Tammy Liddicoat at: **Rehabilitation For Wisconsin, Inc. • 4785 Hayes Rd., Second Floor, Madison, WI 53704 • 608/244-5310 voice tty • 608/244-9097**

There's never a dull moment for Cindy Bentley



Cindy Bentley keeps very, very busy. Between her job, volunteer work, sports and the work she does on two statewide boards, she is making great things happen for herself and others.

Cindy lives in her own apartment in Glendale, Wisconsin, near Milwaukee. As a child, she lived in an institution.

As a young adult she lived in various group homes. She's now very proud to say she's been in the same apartment for twelve years. She's a good neighbor. When her neighbors go on vacation she dog sits, takes in the mail and keeps an eye out for them. She gets around by bus, taxi, friends, and her bike in the summer.

Cindy works as a stocker four days a week at the Marshall Fields store in Milwaukee. She's been there just a few months and likes it very much. Her boss is understanding and very helpful. Cindy is always looking out for new opportunities for herself and others at the store.

In 1996 Cindy was appointed by Governor Thompson to serve as a member of the Wisconsin Council on Developmental Disabilities. She attends meetings in Madison several times a year. Cindy goes to the meetings to share her ideas about how to improve services for people with developmental disabilities. She has also been a speaker on that topic at several conferences, talking to service providers, consumers and others.

Cindy is also a new member of the Wisconsin Special Olympics Board. She is the first athlete to serve on the board. She has lots of experience with Special Olympics since she has in several sports for many years. She participates in basketball, volleyball and snow-shoe events in the winter. In the summer she

plays tennis, soccer and runs track. She also volunteers during the competitions where help is needed.

Volunteer work is something very important to Cindy. She donates time at the Shade Tree Family Resource Center once a week to help serve meals and play with the children. She helps out in the food pantry at Our Saviors Lutheran church, which provides food to the homeless and poor. She also volunteers at the Shores Nursing Home, spending time with the residents and playing Bingo.

Her favorite things to do are going to the movies with her friends, playing all kinds of sports, and inviting her friends over to watch TV.



Cindy, at age thirty nine, is proud to say she is in charge of what goes on in her daily life. She chooses what services she gets, who she hangs around with, and how she will spend her day.

Cindy chooses to do a lot.

Volunteering - help yourself & others

For over nine years Marianne Rozinske has donated her free time to assist elderly people in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Two days a week she volunteers at different nursing homes. At Woodstock Health and Rehabilitation Center she assists residents to and from the dining room and helps with activities. Marianne also volunteers at Brookside Nursing Home. She assists the residents get to and from the beauty shop, helps remove hair rollers and keeps residents company while they wait.

Volunteering has helped Marianne in her search for a community job. She still volunteers but is now employed in the beauty shops at Washington Manor and Sheridan Medical Complex in the Kenosha area.

Going to the doctor? Here's help getting ready

For a person going to the doctor or other health care provider, it is important that the doctor understand their sickness or health problem. For some people, a disability makes it harder to tell someone else what is going on in their body. Some people have to see a doctor because of a disability, but most of the time they go to the doctor because they are sick or need a check up. We need to find our own best ways of telling doctors these things. For many that means talking to someone who can help by asking questions, writing things down or going along to the doctor or dentist.

For this reason, the Wisconsin Council on Developmental Disabilities (WCDD) has developed the "Health Care Tool Kit". It can help a person get ready to go to the doctor by themselves or with a support person. It includes a variety of forms to be used by the

person going to the doctor or dentist, their support people, and the doctor or dentist involved. Being ready will make it easier for both the doctor or dentist and the patient.

Remember -- all people have health problems. People with disabilities need the same care as other people, but some doctors don't always understand that. The "Health Care Tool Kit" can help.



You can get one free copy of the "Health Care Tool Kit". Call WCDD at 608-266-7826 or write WCDD, P.O. Box 7851, Madison, WI 53707.

Thinking about buying a house? Think about this first

Owning a house is a dream that many people have. It is an exciting idea, but it is a **BIG** decision to make. The buying process can be long and complex. Also, owning a home means many new, long term responsibilities. There are many things you need to consider.

Every person who thinks about buying a house needs assistance from many people. They can include: 1.) **People in your life** who help you on a daily basis; 2.) **Housing specialists** who work at various organizations that know about the process and programs associated with buying a home; 3.) **Bankers, real estate brokers, attorneys, accountants, inspectors, and other advisors** who must help in the stages of buying a house.

Buying a house takes money. There are many programs available to people with low incomes to make owning a home more affordable.

Buying a house takes time. It takes at least three months and sometimes up to a year or more.

There is a new guide about buying a house available through the Wisconsin Council on Developmental Disabilities. It's called "**Threshold: A House Buying Guide for People with Disabilities**". The cost is **\$4.00**. The guide can help you answer some of the questions and help describe the many details involved in buying a house. It can tell you where to start and things to think about along the way. It is intended for adults with disabilities, their families, and parents who have children with disabilities. Call WCDD at 608-266-7826 or write WCDD, P.O. Box 7851, Madison, WI 53707.

HOUSING QUESTIONS:

Why do you want to own a house?

Are there problems with your current housing situation?

Is moving the best way to solve those problems?

Will you live in the same area for a long period of time?

What can you afford every month?

Where would the down payment come from?

Do you have experience handling money and monthly bills?

How would the house be maintained?

Are you ready for the long and complex process of finding a house, getting the right price, getting a loan, and moving?

Who would help you through the process?

Come to the 1999 Self Advocacy Conference

For Who? Self Advocates **What is it?** 1999 Statewide Self Advocacy Conference **When is it?** May 19-20, 1999
Where is it? Hyatt Hotel, Milwaukee, Wisconsin **How do I get involved?** Get a brochure to register by calling Lisa Mills at 608/242-8484 or Arc Wisconsin at 608/251-9272.

Don't miss the Evening Kick-Off May 19th with a concert by special guest **CHRIS BURKE**, star of the popular TV series "Life Goes On". Chris and his band will entertain with their act "Anyone Can Be in the Band".

Get involved in your local area!

There are organizations for self advocates located all over Wisconsin. Many of these have been together for a long time. Some are just getting started. The person's name listed for each organization is either an advisor or consumer leader.

Arc Consumer Council

Daire Keane
7816 W. Waterford #4
Milwaukee, WI 53220

Everyone Counts

Terri Friederich
4214 Sheridan Road
Racine, WI 53403

People First Beaver Dam

Kathy Clark
Green Valley
1223 Madison St.
Beaver Dam, WI 53916

People First

Outagamie Co.
Scott Peeples
633 W. Wisconsin Ave.
Appleton, WI 54911

The Partners Advocacy

Donna Watters
2841 Hwy 81 West
Platteville, WI 53818

Chippers

Shirley Ulberg
828 Veronica
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

People First Dane County

Dan Remick
1907 Sherman Ave. #19
Madison, WI 53704

Carolyn Bailey
565 Waxwing Lane
Madison, WI 53704

Marinette Area

Cindy Dierks
1545 Ludington Ave.
#314
Marinette, WI 54143

Opportunity League

Judy Behlen
1012 Riverbend Dr. # 103
Hartford, WI 53027

CARE Committee

Mary Beth Popchock
1225 14th St.
Racine, WI 53403

F.A.C.E.

Leo Nikson
190 East Follett St.
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

Consumer Advisory Committee

Kirstie Keene
115 5th Ave. S, Suite 200
LaCrosse, WI 54601

People First Winnebago Co.

Jeanne Langlitz
201 Ceape
Oshkosh, WI 54901

People First Richland County

Jim Quist
23150 McDougal Lane
Richland Center, WI
53581

Stepping Stones

Wanda Viellicux
444 W. 5th St. #205
New Richmond, WI
54017

Arc Consumer Council

Perry Mueller
6055 North 91st St.
PO Box 25919
Milwaukee, WI 53225

Eau Claire People First

Chris Stelzer
901 South Farwell St.
Eau Claire, WI 54701

Client Employee Council

Tom Schroeder
Hodan Center
941 West fountain St.
Mineral Point, WI 53565

West Bend Area

Tom Haeferer
1901 Annette Ct.
West Bend, WI 53095

Barrier Busters

Jason Endres
2611 Boardwalk Cir. #1
Eau Claire, WI 54701

Fond du Lac Area

Patrick Schuppe
112 N. Butler St.
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

East Shore Industries

Center Council
Julie Reinhold
813 Rabas St.
Algoma, WI 54201

NEW Curative Advisory Committee

John Bloor
P.O. Box 8027
Green Bay, WI 54303

FROM: JEAN McGRAW
5827 Cambridge Circle
Racine 53406
414-786-0610

from The Green

Three items: 1. Commuter Rail 2. Rivers and Streams Protection Grants (Shibelski-Cowles Amendment. 3. Stewardship Fund Land Acquisitions

1. Commuter rail : Please free up the money for commuter rail so this program can go forward with no more delays. All the concerned communities want commuter rail and have made their financial commitment. We need mass transit which will cut down on highway congestion and maintenance, reduce air pollution, and link our communities effectively for both business and recreation. Spend the money on commuter rail, not on more highways which deface our countryside and encourage urban sprawl.

2. Rivers and Streams Protection Grants: an excellent, much needed program. Please support the Shibelski-Cowles Amendment which will authorize a small pool of funds for local river and watershed groups to reach their goals. Local organizations are striving to change the Root River from a liability to an asset. (OBO, the Sierra Club, Hoy Nature Club, Sustainable Racine, and the Kenosha/Racine Land Trust.

We also are trying to protect the Des Plaines River basin which still has working wetlands and excellent habitat for many species. This riverine system should be preserved unspoiled.

3. Stewardship Fund: I have no quarrel with the amount of the fund. I object to the way the funds are allocated for the Land Acquisition. They are allocated over a ten-year period. During the first five years the allocations are meager, gradually increasing until the tenth year. The first year allocation is not even sufficient to fund already planned purchases. At the very least the fund should be evenly allocated through the ten years. Better, the most money should be spent the first five years because the precious lands now available for preservation are being snapped up by developers at record rate. These lands will disappear before the end of the decade. We need to acquire these lands NOW.

Also the DNR is required to award grants equal to 50% of ASSESSED VALUATION. Land assessments are often not realistic. A property may be assessed at \$5000, but the selling price may be \$40,000. Grants should equal one-half the PURCHASE price.

Conservation Reserve: The \$40 million provided in this category should be eliminated and the money transferred to other categories, i.e. Land Acquisition. The CRE program provides payments to farmers to enter 15-year contracts to set aside a portion of their land for habitat improvement. The land still belongs to the farmer. The Stewardship Fund's mission is to buy land to give it permanent protection, not to pay farmers to implement short-term conservation easements. This program should be financed elsewhere.

①

Statement from Wendy McCalvey, President of the
Caledonia Conservancy Land Trust, 5400 Six Mile Rd.
Racine, Wis. 53402 414-639-5749 on April 8, 1999.

I strongly object to the proposal for changes in the Stewardship Fund in the years 2000-2010. I believe money that has been used and intended to preserve open spaces permanently for future ^{generations} recreational use is being siphoned off from that purpose to fill out other purposes not related to that goal. \$40 million to fund the "Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program" or set aside programs for agriculture should come from Department of Agriculture allotments because they are not really ~~conserved~~ aimed at conservation, allowing public use; they are to prevent overproduction. The provision that \$1 million of around \$1.3 - 2.3 million of available new funds be related to brownfields will drastically curtail money available for pristine, unruined areas available in rural areas and small towns. It puts a serious urban bias into the Funds and should be included in urban renewal legislation.

I'm very disturbed about this gutting of the original purpose of the Stewardship Program which is a landmark in the country. At the national land trust conference last fall in Madison I heard many times about Wisconsin's Stewardship program as a very positive and

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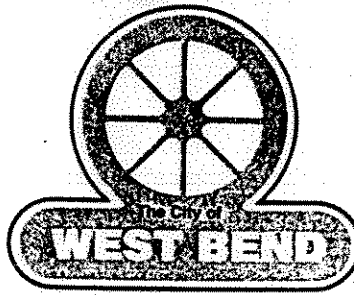
wonderful resource for land protection. The Ice Age Trail is discussed nationally and praised for its scope and contribution to natural preservation of areas for people to learn from and enjoy long into the future. My land trust has been studying how to preserve a stretch along the Root River that is, so far, unspoiled. We believed we could count on Stewardship Funds to be there ^{to help} when we negotiate an agreement for land surrounding a subdivision which we are afraid ~~the~~ one divider will want subdivision lot prices for even though it is an old-brain right of way - perfect for a trail but dubious for building. This leads me to my final concern that changing the amount available to organizations from appraised values to a three year average of property assessments further restricts the opportunity for help. It can make it too hard for a land trust or small town to raise the money that a landowner who feels he has development land worth development prices wants. A quick example is ~~my~~ my former land is assessed at agricultural values - about \$3,000 an acre. My neighbors sold their barn and building and are now asked \$10,000 an acre for their hay field with no sewer and water. An ~~area~~ ^{agricultural field} further from sewer just sold for over \$8,000 an acre. It has frontage close to the Root River. My land trust would have liked to acquire these properties but we would need substantial help.

Our DNR programs today are nationally revered and have done great good. Please don't gut them by making them pay for programs of other departments. Sincerely,
W. J. McCalum

Statement from Wendy McCaughey, President of the Caledonia Conservancy Land Trust, 5400 Six Mile Rd. Racine, Wis. 53402. 414-639-5749 on April 8, 1999.

I am voicing support for the study of the commuter train proposed to travel between Kenosha, Racine, and Milwaukee. I believe this provision was taken out of the present state bill or it is not being recommended. As a resident of a rural community which ~~hopes to~~ has elected in its town plan to preserve the central portion for agriculture and open space, I am concerned about the mounting traffic going through this area to get to the interstate to commute to Milwaukee or Illinois. Commuter rail will save the state money of widening as many roads and allow an alternative to commuters. It is silly to refuse funds for a study of benefits that are possible.

Sincerely,
Wendy Lee McCaughey



Good Afternoon

I am Michael Miller, the Mayor of West Bend, a position I have held for the past 12 years. I am past president of the League of Wisconsin Municipalities, a board member of the Alliance of Cities, a member of the steering committee of SEME, which is an organization of all the cities and villages in Milwaukee, Waukesha, Ozaukee and Washington Counties. I am sorry for the long list of affiliations, but I wanted you to be aware that I have many opportunities to talk to elected officials throughout the state and the general theme of those talks has been about how our legislators in Madison have forgotten about local units of government.

I am pleased to be here with members of the Town's association, the county association and fellow mayors and village presidents with a united message that the State of Wisconsin must stop dumping on local units of government. We are the units of government that have taken the risks to create industrial parks, office parks and shopping centers to provide more and better employment for our citizens and also places for them to shop. We, quite frankly, are the reason that the state's economy is where it is today. But we need the state's help to maintain the level of services we provide to our taxpayers and to continue to provide economic development that will keep our state strong.

Our message is really simple, the State of Wisconsin should return more of the state's revenues that we create back to the local taxpayers, the mom and pop home owners and our businesses. We are asking the state to do that in 5 ways:

1. Increase the amount of money for shared revenues and change the formulas so that all recipients remain whole and have at least a cost of living increase. Had the City of West Bend continued to receive the amount of shared revenue that we received the year I was elected mayor we could have reduced our property tax levies by almost \$3,800,000 (\$3,794,429) over that time period. This is without an inflation factor. (Please see my handout for details).
2. Provide real property tax relief by increasing segregated funding for local transportation aids and assistance programs by 6% in each year of the biennium and also exempt all local jurisdictions from the state tax on motor fuel. (Also see handout for details).

3. Increase the youth aids appropriation and I again have a handout to provide the specifics.
4. Increase the community aids in each year of the biennium. I have a handout for their proposal.
5. Provide property tax relief by allowing county governments to retain court fees, placing additional money for circuit court supports and others as outlined in the last of my handouts.

If these 5 areas of concern were addressed the citizens of Wisconsin would see true tax relief. Under the current budget proposals our City of West Bend taxpayers will see a tax shift from a reduction in income tax to an increase in property tax.

In conclusion I am not opposed to taking the blame for property tax increases that I am responsible for, but I am tired of taking the blame for state imposed property tax increases.

Thank you for your time.

Michael R. Miller
Mayor, City of West Bend

Partners in Local Government

SHARED REVENUE

Recommendations:

State government should maintain the historic partnership between levels of government in providing services to Wisconsin citizens by:

- Providing, at a minimum, inflationary increases to counties and municipalities for shared revenue, expenditure restraint, county mandate relief and the small municipalities' shared revenue programs.
- Creating incentives for counties to control spending along the lines of the expenditure restraint program.

Background

Shared revenue — the only county and municipal program that bases its distribution on equalization — has only twice since 1985 received a funding increase at or above the rate of inflation. The last time was in 1990 with the introduction of the expenditure restraint program. Further, the Legislature and the governor have created a tight fiscal situation for the state by approving increased corrections spending and adopting a policy of funding K-12 education at two-thirds of costs.

In the beginning of the shared revenue program, the state kept 10% of the revenue it raised and returned 90% to local governments, a total that included slightly more than 25% of the income tax, a good portion of the corporate income tax and between 11% and 20% of vehicle registration fees.

But by 1988-89, shared revenue accounted for only 14.5% of general fund expenditures, according to the Legislative Fiscal Bureau. A decade later, the program's share of GPR had shrunk to 10%.

In the same period, K-12 education increased from 27.4% of the general fund budget to 39.5%, and corrections increased 160.1%, to a \$378.2 million draw on state tax dollars.

If shared revenue had increased at the rate of inflation over the past decade it would be an \$85.1 million larger program. Had it maintained its 1988-1989 share of the state budget, it would be \$447.9 million larger.

The effects of this shift in state priorities are felt in county and municipal budgets every year. The number of municipalities subject to the shared revenue formula's 5% "hold harmless" in 1999 is 699, and the number of counties that have been told they will be hit by the hold harmless is 43. Similarly, 491 municipalities and 17 counties have had their shared revenue payments capped — at a 2.9% increase for municipalities and a 3.6% increase for counties.

In all, 64% of municipalities and 83% of counties are affected by hold harmless and caps. The longer shared revenue funding is frozen, the more equalization is hampered by the hold-harmless provision.

The governor's budget

Gov. Tommy Thompson's proposed 1999-2001 state budget would not provide any increases in shared revenue, expenditure restraint, county mandate relief, small municipalities shared revenue or payments for municipal services.

The budget would, however, provide a new exemption from local property taxes for fax machines, copiers, cash registers and automated teller machines, effective Jan. 1, 2000. That would remove an estimated \$490 million worth of property from local tax rolls, and shift an estimated \$12 million in property taxes to other taxpayers. ■

TRANSPORTATION AID

Recommendations

The Legislature and Governor should provide property tax relief to communities for transportation-related infrastructure improvements by increasing transportation aids to local governments.

- **Increase segregated funding for local transportation aid and assistance programs¹ by 6% in each year of the biennium. Distribute the additional funding to these programs in the same proportions as the current state budget - 74% for local transportation aid programs, 6% for local transportation project assistance, and 20% for local transit aids.**
- **Exempt all local jurisdictions from the state tax on motor vehicle fuel.**
- **Eliminate the proposed DOT budget provision which would charge local governments a processing fee for each court ordered drivers license suspension for failure to pay a forfeiture that was imposed for violating an ordinance unrelated to the operation of a motor vehicle.**
- **Provide a hold-harmless for municipalities that would lose aid under the proposed limit for traffic police costs.**
- **Continue to apply federal maintenance aid as operating assistance for mass transit assistance.**

Background

Travel on local roads currently accounts for nearly half of all vehicle miles traveled. At present local jurisdictions receive only 29% of segregated transportation fund revenues for general transportation aid and 7.5% for mass transit operating assistance.

As reported by the Legislative Audit Bureau, state aid payments as a percent of local transportation costs have fallen gradually since 1989 as local costs outpaced both aid appropriations and inflation. Local aid as a percentage of the state Transportation Fund has declined from 41.2% in 1997 to 40.8% in 2000, under the 1997-99 budget act.

Mass transit federal shares have been cut significantly. Despite the dramatic growth in the size of urban service areas, mass transit has not received the funding it needs to increase levels of service. This has made it difficult for workers without cars to reach jobs. The need for improved transit has grown under Governor Thompson's W-2 welfare-to-work program.

Governor's budget proposal

Would increase general transportation aids and mass transit assistance by 3% in calendar year 2000 and 0% in 2001. Would limit aid for traffic police costs based on a percentage of total eligible police costs as determined by the department with county and municipal input. Would provide that no municipality may receive a decrease in aid in excess of 2% of its previous year amount. Would charge local governments a processing fee for court-ordered drivers-license suspension for violating municipal ordinances.

■

¹Note - Local Transportation Aids include: General Transportation Aid, Connecting Highway Aid, Flood Damage Aid, Lift Bridge Aid, County Forest Road Aid, Expressway Policing Aid, Demand Management & Ridesharing. Local Transportation Assistance includes: Highway & Local Bridge Improvement, Local Road Improvement. Local Transit Aids include: Mass Transit Operating Assistance, Elderly & Disabled County Aid, Elderly & Disabled Capital Aid.

YOUTH AIDS

Recommendations:

Short-Term

- Increase the Youth Aids appropriation over the 98-99 base by 5% in each year of the biennium;
- “re-link” in the statutes juvenile corrections rate increases with the requirement that the state increase the Youth Aids appropriation to cover the rate increases; and
- update the current formula and hold harmless counties who lose funding under the update.

Long-Term

- Require DOC to convene a committee of legislators, county representatives and DOC staff to develop a recommendation for a new Youth Aids funding formula and require that the new formula be used to distribute Youth Aids funding in CY 2001 and
- require as part of that group’s work to include the creation of an “education credit” for counties that would be created by a transfer of funds from Department of Public Instruction to DOC that would be sufficient to cover instructional costs for the juvenile corrections populations. That credit would be provided to counties based on their annual JCI census.

Background:

The Youth Aids audit, released this year by the Legislative Audit Bureau, showed that in 1982 the Youth Aids appropriation funded 92% of all county costs for serving juvenile offenders.

By 1997, it paid for only 45% of the costs. Counties were contributing \$100 million, primarily from property taxes, to fund 55% of the state-mandated program.

In the same year, the state Youth Aids appropriation to counties was \$82.3 million.

Youth Aids provides counties with funding to partially pay for mandated services under Chapter 938 to juvenile offenders and their families. Services are almost exclusively court-ordered and are intended to rehabilitate the juvenile offender, address the concerns of victims and protect the community.

Between 1988 and 1997, local costs for the program grew rapidly due to a 55% increase in juvenile offenses statewide, stagnating Youth Aids increases and increased costs of services fed by institutional rate increases, increased populations, increased out-of-home placements and inflationary costs for services.

Governor’s budget proposal:

Base funding for Youth Aids for 1998-99 is \$82.2 million. The governor’s budget would increase the appropriation by 2% in each year of the biennium, with a total GPR increase of \$6 million. JCI rates increase from \$159.46 to \$159.62 over the biennium. No formula changes are proposed.



COMMUNITY AIDS

Recommendations:

- **Increase the Community Aids appropriation by at least 3% in each year of the biennium;**
- **Delete the statutory requirement for performance measures under Community Aids and the reference to withholding \$9 million over the biennium;**
- **Delete the DHFS authority to transfer Community Aids into Family Care, instead require DHFS to negotiate with individual pilots to determine the amount to be transferred in contract; and**
- **Delete the statutory requirement to reduce a county's Community Aids if a former recipient of services funded by the allocation is a participant in the MA purchase plan, which would be created in the governor's budget bill.**

Background:

Community Aids provides counties with funding to partially pay for mandated services to abused and neglected children and their families, adults with serious and persistent mental illness, older adults, adults and children with developmental disabilities, and older adults.

The primary funding under Community Aids is the Basic County Allocation which is made up of four different sources of federal revenue (Social Service Block Grant, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, Title IV-E reimbursement for foster care and Medical Assistance targeted case management funding) and state general purpose revenue (GPR). Counties are required to provide 9.89% local match for Community Aids.

Community Aids funding has either been frozen or decreased over the past two budget biennia. This and local funding pressures, including increasing client populations and increased costs for services, have pressured counties to "overmatch" Community Aids substantially, with a total of \$252.6 million of county tax dollars going to match and overmatch Community Aids by 1997. That amount is greater than the \$175 million in GPR in Community Aids for the same year.

Governor's budget proposal:

Base funding for Community Aids for 1998-99 is \$305.4 million. Funding under the governor's budget would be \$294.2 million and \$289 million, respectively in each year of the budget biennium, representing a 2.5% and a 1.8% reduction.

The budget also would transfer \$14.3 million over the biennium into Family Care. Further, it proposes **withholding \$9 million over the biennium**, distributing that amount to counties based on performance requirements.

Finally, it proposes **reducing each county's appropriation by an amount to be determined by DHFS** when a county is providing services funded by Community Aids to a consumer with a disability who will receive services under the proposed MA purchase plan.

■

STATE COURT SYSTEM

Recommendations:

- Amend state statutes to return all dollars collected by the court support filing fee to counties.
- Phase in county retention of all fees collected locally by the Clerk of Circuit Court to help finance court related expenses (this excludes the circuit court support fee and fees that must be placed in the Common School Fund).
- Place enough additional money in the Circuit Court Support Grant appropriation to make up for further shortfalls.
- Provide state public defender representation for parents in CHIPS cases (removed in the 1995-97 state biennial budget).
- Provide state public defender representation for all persons found to be indigent.

Background:

The state court system continues to be one of the largest unfunded mandates placed on county government. According to annual reports filed with the Director of State Courts office, counties spent almost \$90 million in calendar year 1997 on items eligible for reimbursement under the Circuit Court Support Grant appropriation.

Counties also spend additional dollars on items not recognized by the Circuit Court Support Grant program including courtroom

security, rent, maintenance, utilities and indigent defense.

During the 1993-95 state biennial budget, the circuit court support grant program was created as the first step in the state assuming responsibility for financing the state court system. The state funded the program with a \$20 court filing fee. The state, once again, took additional responsibility for financing the court system by increasing the fee to \$40 (\$30 for small claims and \$100 for large claims) during the 1995-97 biennial budget deliberations and increasing the amount distributed to counties under the program to \$16,489,600. In the 1997-99 state biennial budget bill, the state failed to keep its commitment to incrementally pick up court costs by freezing the circuit court support grant appropriation.

During calendar year 1998, counties turned over to the state \$25,481,400 in court support services fees. However, only \$16,489,600 was distributed to counties to offset county costs associated with the operation of the state court system under the circuit court support grant program and \$4,738,500 was distributed to counties to offset costs associated with guardians ad litem. The remaining \$4,253,300 lapsed to the general fund.

Governor's Budget Proposal:

The governor's budget freezes the amount distributed to counties under the circuit court support grant program at \$16,489,600 and \$4,738,500 for guardian ad litem reimbursements.

■

Loss of Shared Revenues from the 1987 Base When I was Elected Mayor

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>SHARED REV. LOSS</u>	<u>EXPENDITURE RESTRAINT</u>	<u>TOTAL LOSS</u>
1988	105,936		105,936
1989	141,375		141,375
1990	160,070		160,070
1991	159,553	304,031	(144,478)
1992	656,259	285,237	371,022
1993	625,955	316,806	309,149
1994	670,726	453,319	217,407
1995	787,994	497,606	290,388
1996	913,892	511,058	402,834
1997	1,033,464	505,893	527,571
1997	1,147,057	491,409	655,648
1998	1,254,970	497,463 estimated	757,507
	7,657,251	3,862,822	3,794,429

ERIC A. RUNAAS
ROCK COUNTY SHERIFF

JEFFREY S. TELLEFSON
CHIEF DEPUTY

April 1, 1999

Mr. Casey Perry, President
Wisconsin Troopers Association
P. O. Box 769
East Troy, WI 53120

Dear Mr. Perry:

I am in receipt of your letter of March 30, 1999 regarding increasing the number of troopers in Wisconsin.

As Sheriff of Rock County Wisconsin and as a citizen of Wisconsin who likes to travel this state on my off-duty time, I totally support your position of adding more troopers and to pay for them with a \$5.00 increase in registration fees.

Your charts and graphs are vivid reminders of what has been going on with the growth of the driving public, the miles and miles of new and better roadways, and of the stagnant growth or should I say, non-growth of the State Patrol to enforce the expanding workload.

Here in Rock County your troopers are a tremendous help and we are constantly calling on your inspectors for our large truck accidents. We have never been refused and for that I am eternally grateful.

Our office is open to your troopers for meetings or anything they need. Feel free to use my name and position if need be to support your cause.

Sincerely,


Eric A. Runaas,

Sheriff

EAR/jc

cc: David Schumacher, Administrator
Wisconsin State Patrol

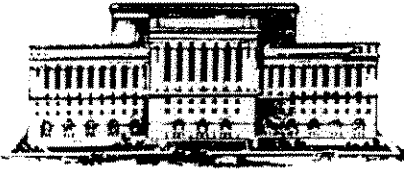
200 EAST U. S. HIGHWAY 14
JANESVILLE, WISCONSIN 53545-9601
PHONE: (608)757-8000 FAX: (608)757-7997

Wisconsin residents interviewed have generally strong feelings about other matters related to the support of the poor:

- More than eight-in-ten Wisconsin residents interviewed advocate equal access to public assistance for all legal immigrants.
- Two-thirds believe that single mothers should work even if they have children or other dependents to care for.
- Wisconsin residents who advocate providing additional assistance for employable persons who are unable to support themselves outnumber those who oppose such assistance, but by a relatively small margin.
- However, the overwhelming majority would be willing to pay a little more in taxes to be sure that children, the elderly, and the disabled who are unable to support themselves are properly cared for.
- Two-thirds of Wisconsin residents interviewed believe there are enough jobs in their communities that enable the support of families for everyone seeking work.
- * • Wisconsin residents overwhelmingly support public assistance that will make it possible for persons making the transition from welfare to achieve permanent financial independence, whether this assistance takes the form of child care assistance, education, housing assistance or health insurance coverage.

Wisconsin poll participants perceive there to be different roles for different levels of government when it comes to caring for the poor:

- Almost two-thirds believe that states or localities are best suited to set standards for the care of the poor. Only about 1-in-10 believe the federal government is best suited to set standards for the care of the poor.
- Equal proportions of Wisconsin residents believe that either the state or the federal governments should be ultimately responsible for paying for the care of the poor. Only about 1-in-10 believe that localities should bear this financial responsibility.
- The overwhelming majority of Wisconsin residents believe that there would be more than enough money to take care of the nation's poor if only the federal government managed its resources more wisely.



Daniel J. Diliberti

Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors Eighth District

First Vice-Chairman, County Board

Vice Chairman:

Finance & Audit Committee

Member:

County Finance Committee
County Parks Committee
County Board Committee
County Board Association, Education and Finance Committee
Greater Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

March 24, 1999

Governor Tommy Thompson
State Capitol
Madison Wisconsin

Dear Governor Thompson:

I am writing to express my outrage and sense of betrayal in regard to the proposal in your 1999-2001 State Budget that would increase the administrative fee charged to counties for the collection of county sales and use taxes. Not only does this proposal directly contradict a promise that you made to Milwaukee County in 1992, but it also threatens to generate new and unneeded controversy for the Miller Park construction project.

On March 18, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors approved a report that outlines several major areas in which the County would be adversely affected by your proposed State Budget. While the sales tax administrative fee increase admittedly is by comparison only a minor item on that list, I believe that it merits your immediate re-consideration in light of the circumstances surrounding this issue.

As you will recall, several years ago you promised to help Milwaukee County find a way to fund its portion of the infrastructure costs for a new baseball stadium. In 1992, you lived up to that promise by agreeing to reduce for all counties the administrative fee that the State charges to administer the county sales tax from 3% to 1.5%. You recognized, when you took this action, that the existing 3% administrative fee was excessive. In fact, because an administrative structure already is in place to collect the state sales tax, many states charge counties nothing to perform this service. However, you stated that the primary impetus for the fee reduction was to help provide Milwaukee County with a means of funding stadium infrastructure costs. It also helped reimburse Milwaukee County for the millions of dollars in land that the County eventually transferred for the stadium project.

Based on this promise, I helped make that land transfer possible as then Chair of the Milwaukee County Parks Committee. And now, as Chair of the County's Finance and Audit Committee, I have stood by the County's promise to provide \$18 million in stadium infrastructure funding with the knowledge that the sales tax administrative fee had been reduced to help Milwaukee County meet its commitment.

Governor Tommy Thompson
March 24, 1999
Page 2


That is why I was so deeply disappointed when I learned of the provision in your 1999-2001 Budget that would reverse your promise by increasing the administrative fee to 1.75%. This 17% increase will cost Milwaukee County approximately \$145,000 in 2000, and more than \$2.5 million over the 15-year term of the County Stadium Bonds. It also will adversely impact Milwaukee County's ability to finance other capital projects at a time when we already are exceeding the state-imposed cap on capital spending.

I find it extremely disconcerting that the State would lure Milwaukee County into funding stadium infrastructure costs with a pledge to reduce the sales tax administrative fees and then, once the County made good on its commitment by issuing long-term bonds for the project, reverse this pledge and create another hole in the County budget. It is equally disconcerting to note the bitter irony in your decision to exempt the Southeastern Wisconsin Professional Baseball Park District from the administrative fee increase.

I can only hope that this relatively obscure budget provision was an oversight and that your personal promise and integrity will motivate you to rectify this problem now that it has been brought to your attention. With the City of Milwaukee's stadium funding dilemma finally resolved, and with Miller Park more than half completed, this is not the time for the State to revisit the stadium funding question, once again, by reversing a long-standing commitment. It would be particularly foolish to re-open this issue for the sake of a budget provision that would add a few million dollars to an existing State surplus that exceeds \$400 million.

I respectfully urge you to take swift action to remedy this error.

Sincerely,



Daniel J. Diliberti

c.c. Robert Trunzo, Chairman, Southeastern Wisconsin Professional Baseball Park District
Senator Brian Burke
County Executive F. Thomas Ament
Members, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

Finance Committee combines key step with removal of \$4 million in infrastructure funding

BY GRETCHEN SCHULTZ
AND CRAIG GILBERT
of the Journal Sentinel staff

The County Board's Finance Committee Tuesday recommended transferring

land needed for a new Milwaukee Brewers stadium, a key decision that state and Brewers officials say would allow the project to move forward.

In the same action, however,

er, the committee rejected a plan to spend the first installment on the county's \$18 million portion of infrastructure improvements needed for the stadium, amid talks with state officials on that issue.

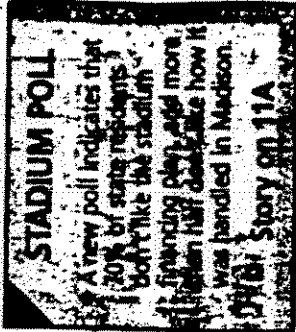
A spokesman for Gov. Tommy Thompson hailed the land transfer decision, while downplaying the move to

strike the funding for stadium infrastructure work.

"The important thing was that they transfer the land. That was the crucial element to moving forward on this project," said Kevin Keane.

The stadium land transfer

Please see STADIUM page 10



Stadium/Panel OKs land transfer

From page 1

will be considered Thursday by the full County Board, but final action may be delayed until Monday. The board on Monday is scheduled to adopt the 1996 budget, at which time the committee's decision on the stadium issues will be considered.

County Board Chairman Robert Jackson said he did not think the full board would reverse the committee's financing recommendation.

Some supervisors have argued the county is in no financial condition to contribute millions of dollars for the benefit of a private business. Even without the infrastructure financing issue, the board is having great difficulty developing a 1996 budget that meets the needs of county residents.

In the Finance Committee's budget deliberations, which concluded Tuesday, the panel recommended the county adopt a 1996 budget that calls for a property tax levy of \$170.1 million, an increase of 8.8% from the levy for this year.

And the outlook for 1997, supervisors say, is even worse.

Ament had included \$4 million of the total \$18 million in infrastructure spending in his 1996 budget. The Finance Committee recommended deleting those funds.

The committee also recommended that land for the new stadium be conveyed to the state "in lieu of any county cost commitment for infrastructure improvements related to the construction of a new stadium."

Ament said after the meeting he was hopeful supervisors eventually would approve the infrastructure spending.

Ament said his office had been in touch with state Secretary of Administration James Klauser, the governor's top aide and a key figure in stadium ne-

gotiations.

"I've not been told . . . (the funding) is unimportant or forget it," Ament said.

Klauser said the land had to be conveyed to the state, so the state could lease it to the new five-county stadium authority, and the authority then could begin work on financing and building the ballpark.

Both he and Keane suggested the issue of the county's infrastructure contribution was something that could be worked out later.

Klauser said he had "positive conversations" with county officials Tuesday on the infrastructure issue. But he added: "We can't solve every problem in one day."

Laurel Prieb, a spokesman for the Brewers said, said of the land transfer move, "From a timing standpoint, it was just very important . . . The infrastructure, of course, needs to be dealt with and it will be."

Jackson, a Finance Committee member, said the state had potential revenue sources, including Indian gaming or the Canadian Football League, to pay the \$18 million.

Supervisor Lynne DeBruin, who represents the area surrounding the stadium, said after the Finance Committee meeting that she was concerned the committee's action could prompt the Milwaukee Common Council to put on hold its agreement to fund \$18 million in infrastructure costs. That could put the entire stadium deal in jeopardy, she said.

However, she said, the proposed land transfer would have failed Tuesday in the Committee on Parks, Recreation and Culture had the financing commitment not been dropped.

The Parks Committee recommended approval of the transfer on a 4-3 vote. The resolution approved by the committee calls for the state to pay for any environmental cleanup needed at the site. The Finance Committee included in its resolution the wording endorsed by the Parks Committee.

Finance Committee Chairman Richard Nvklewicz Jr. said the land transfer would allow the Brewers and the Wisconsin Professional Baseball District to begin site work for the new stadium.

Jackson said some supervisors had asked state officials for help on the infrastructure funding.

"The assurances are they will be working with us," Jackson said, adding there has been no firm commitment from the state on the funding issue.

In August, Klauser said the county should not look to the state for help in paying the infrastructure costs.

More than three years ago, the state reduced administrative fees for handling the county's sales tax. The reduction, which would have saved \$800,000 to \$850,000 in sales tax revenue, was aimed at helping the county avoid levying property taxes for infrastructure costs related to the stadium, he said.

In 1991, the County Board agreed to pay for \$17 million in site and road construction work. However the plan at the time called for the Brewers to pay for the stadium, with \$33.6 million in other infrastructure costs provided by the state and a \$35 million state loan to the Brewers to help finance the construction.

Joe Williams of the Journal Sentinel staff contributed to this report.



James
Klauser:

"We can't solve every problem in one day."

April 8, 1999

TO: Members of the WI Legislature Joint Finance Committee - *Sen. Kevin Plache*

FROM: Jean Verber, Coordinator of Milwaukee Women and Poverty Public Education Initiative (WPPEI)

RE: Urgent Budget Adjustments

This past year the Milwaukee WPPEI staff personally interviewed several *hundred* W-2 women struggling to become 'self sufficient' with a job and off of public assistance. On behalf of the women whose stories we heard, we **urge** you to consider the following urgent budget adjustments-----using TANF monies which the Governor has diverted to other areas such as the Brownfields project-----and return these funds to needed services for which they were intended and for which tax payers expect they are being used. (Enclosed please note the study that supports WI tax payers willingness to have these funds used for real needs of the poor rather than a few dollars returned in tax returns.)

Low income families need:

1. Emergency Rent Assistance - due to sanctions, error, misinformation, loss of jobs, insufficient income, many families face eviction from their homes. Shelters, court costs, other services are costly. Temporary emergency rent assistance could keep families in their own homes until they can be stabilized. For this reason WPPEI sees funds better expended on emergency rent than on the suggested doubling of shelter allocations. Keep the children secure in their own homes and work with mothers.
2. AODA Funding - WPPEI interviews in the W-2 population reveals substance abuse does not even qualify mothers for work or W-2. They need intervention by caring competent professionals. This requires funding and meeting needs according to each person's needs. WPPEI supports the Consortium's position for \$10 million for AODA treatment of uninsured persons.
3. Funds for short term/job related Education and Training - expanded time is needed beyond getting a GED so W-2 persons can be prepared for real jobs. Temp jobs are not/cannot continue to be the solution to reduce caseloads. Funds should be ear-marked for existing short term training for real available jobs, e.g. Esperanza Unida, MATC. These programs have a cost and W-2 participants do not have the resources to access needed training to secure permanent, decent paying jobs. We are assured there is plenty of TANF money to make this possible.
4. Expanded Transportation Access - transportation is among the top barriers women identify

to job acquisition and retention. Bus hopping to child care sites, schools, to work and return is costly and time consuming. We recommend that bus passes be expanded, that there be opportunity for women to get their driver's licenses, and loans to get reliable cars.

5. Guarantee of job subsidies for part time work when full time or reduced hours exist. This was practice, many thought, but many families subsist on 20, 25, 30 hour wages because hours are reduced or only part time work is available. Many of the above recommendations can also help to remedy this, eg. training for full time jobs, better transportation access to better jobs.

After the past year's experience and the State's own Leaver's Study where 38% of those interviewed did not have a job, it is clear that W-2 is in GREAT need of attention. Even though the numbers are down, the conditions of homelessness, joblessness or inadequate income, large use of food pantries ALL OVER THE STATE direct us as citizens and policy makers to respond to the human misery that persists. We here in Milwaukee can document these conditions by the many diverse groups who have done studies. The reports all indicate that INTERVENTION in areas named above are among the most in need of response.

We ask that you be courageous and give high priority to funding these programs.

We thank you for your careful consideration of these urgent budget recommendations.

\$10 Million Needed in State Budget for AODA Treatment for Uninsured Individuals

We are a consortium of community, business, social service and religious organizations. We call upon the State of Wisconsin to include at least \$10 million in the annual budget for AODA (Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse) treatment for uninsured people. Ten million dollars is needed in Milwaukee County alone to restore funding to the 1993 level.

The tragedy of drug and alcohol addiction is taking a devastating toll on individuals, families, communities, and our society as a whole. Untreated addiction can only end in crime, death and further overcrowding in our prisons. This human catastrophe does not need to be as severe as it is: waiting lists for treatment centers continue to grow. Hundreds of people are ready and willing to enter treatment programs, but are turned away for lack of funding.

The magnitude of the addiction crisis is staggering. Governor Thompson has estimated that 66% of the remaining W-2 participants suffer from drug or alcohol addiction. Even more have dropped out of W-2. Conservative estimates are that 85% of Wisconsin's prison inmates are in need of AODA treatment. It would be far more cost-effective for Wisconsin to offer treatment before people have committed serious crimes and have been sent to jail.

Serious treatment options are needed to deal with serious addiction problems. Many underfunded programs have failed because they have not offered enough time. Short-term programs and outpatient services tend to become a "revolving door". Long-term treatment does work. We need to make a serious investment in people if we expect positive results. This is not inexpensive, but the alternative is far more costly. We cannot afford more prisons, and we cannot afford to have a large sector of the population rendered incapable of making a contribution. And, we cannot afford more crime and more broken families in our community.

Therefore, we urge Governor Thompson and the state legislature to include AODA funding for uninsured people in Wisconsin's budget. At least \$10 million of that funding is needed in Milwaukee County. This initiative should include a serious study of the effectiveness of various treatment options. In the end, this money will save Wisconsin's taxpayers many more millions, as we add people to the ranks of the self-sufficient rather than to the rolls of W-2 or of our prisons.

Regarding Welfare:

The poll finds that the overwhelming majority of Wisconsin residents interviewed favor welfare reform. Like their peers in other states, they believe there are many important goals for welfare reform. However, they attach the highest level of importance to goals that eliminate welfare fraud and abuse, goals that make certain the delivery of help to poor children, and goals that increase the likelihood of a successful, long-term transition off of welfare.

Overall, poll participants say they have noticed changes in welfare policy:

- More than three-quarters of Wisconsin residents interviewed believe the state of Wisconsin has already made changes in policy related to welfare reform.
- Persons who believe Wisconsin's welfare case loads have decreased compared to two years ago outnumber those who believe case loads have increased by a factor of more than 12-to-1.
- The governor is perceived by more Wisconsin residents than any other person or group to be the most influential party in shaping welfare policy.
- A quarter of Wisconsin poll participants say that they or someone they know has been affected by welfare reform changes.

✱ Wisconsin poll participants attach great importance to a number of forms of assistance for persons making the transition out of welfare, including:

- Health insurance for workers and families who cannot afford health insurance or whose employers do not provide health insurance.
- Help in paying for child care.
- Continuing support to persons who are completing their basic education, including the attainment of a GED.
- Help paying for housing.
- Help paying for work-related transportation.

Good afternoon

Thank you for allowing me to address you today.

I am Mary Roach, a CPA from Waubesa County. I am here as the Treas. of AWSC to address a critical issue. The appropriation of GPR funds for law enforcement, safety education and administration is necessary to maintain and strengthen the entire snowmobile program here in Wisconsin.

Local law enforcement agencies are being reimbursed by the trail program on a prorated basis. DNR wardens are currently allotted only 8 hours to the snowmobile program for the entire season.

We need the mandatory safety education for all snowmobilers, not just the 12-14 year olds. Those classes will be taught by over 2000 volunteer instructors who have been doing so for over 27 years. But more funds are needed to complete this.

Snowmobilers pump an estimated 16¹⁸ billion \$
into the economy of Wis each year, we need \$1 mill.
more each year than currently proposed to \$1.8 mill.
to accomplish our goals.

The work of developing and maintaining this fantastic trail program is done by volunteers. Over 30,000 of them are members of 600+ clubs in all 72 counties.

There are currently over 211,000 registered snowmobiles in Wisconsin & the program needs your help to fund the additional law enforcement, safety education and administration costs by increasing the current ^{proposed} \$775,000 to \$1.8 million.

Thank You for your consideration

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Treasurer, Assn. of Wis. Snowmobile Clubs