

2 **RESOLUTION: Support Legislative Changes So As to Reduce the Number of Non-Violent**
3 **Offenders Sentenced to Jail or Prison for Alcohol and/or Other Drug**
4 **Issues**

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6 **TO THE WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

7 **WHEREAS**, a year-long study conducted by Human Impact Partners, from October 2011 through October
8 2012, has shown that treatment instead of incarceration for non-violent offenders who suffer from alcohol and other
9 drug-related issues, as well as those who suffer from mental health issues, is much more effective and is four times
10 more cost effective; and

11 **WHEREAS**, mental illness and substance abuse are public health issues that are not best solved through
12 incarceration; and

13 **WHEREAS**, it is in the best interests of the citizens of Winnebago County and the State of Wisconsin that a
14 justice system be designed that does not simply punish and diminish individuals with alcohol, drug, and mental health
15 issues, but restores the offenders to a productive role in our society while providing wholeness to victims of their
16 crimes; and

17 **WHEREAS**, Treatment Alternative Diversion programs (TAD), which are already in place in Winnebago and
18 other counties in Wisconsin, have proven effective in reducing recidivism rates and in restoring the offender to health,
19 thus resulting in a savings of tax dollars and conserving resources for other vital needs in challenging economic
20 times; and

21 **WHEREAS**, the incarceration rate in costs of corrections in Wisconsin has risen from less than 2 million
22 dollars per year in 1990, to more than 1.3 billion dollars per year in 2011. A reduction in the rate of the number of
23 individuals incarcerated in the Wisconsin Prison System to 11,000 inmates, which was the number incarcerated in
24 1995, would yield substantial cost savings and would place the per capita rate of incarceration in Wisconsin similar to
25 neighboring states.

26 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that it hereby
27 requests local state officials, legislators, and the governor to reexamine the policies which have led to historically
28 high incarceration rates in the State of Wisconsin and to amend State laws so as to result in a substantial reduction
29 in the number of low-risk, non-violent offenders in Wisconsin jails and prisons.

30 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that these changes should
31 include significant financial incentives for fewer individuals to be incarcerated in state prisons and a substantial
32 increase in dedicated funding from the State to counties to enable significant growth and cost-effective, innovative,
33 and proven local alternatives for non-violent and low-risk offenders.

34 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that the Winnebago County
35 Clerk transmit a copy of this Resolution to all legislators representing constituents in Winnebago County, the Wisconsin
36 Counties Association, the Office of Governor Scott Walker, and all county boards within the State of Wisconsin.

37 Respectfully submitted by:

38 **LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

39 Committee Vote: **14-0**

40 Vote Required for Passage: **Majority of Quorum**

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Approved by the Winnebago County Executive this ____ day of _____, 2013.

Mark L Harris
Winnebago County Executive