

***RESOLUTION NO.: 36—2016-17***

TO THE HONORABLE, THE OUTAGAMIE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

***MAJORITY***

1 For the past 7 years, Homeless Connections (formerly the Emergency Shelter of the Fox  
2 Valley, Inc.) received funding to assist county residents that are homeless to apply for  
3 expedited Social Security benefits. Staff from Homeless Connections has been trained in  
4 the “Social Security Outreach, Access and Recovery (SOAR)” program which allows  
5 them to assist disabled homeless individuals get expedited social security benefits. By  
6 using the “SOAR” process, an eligible individual receives benefits in only 3-4 weeks  
7 instead of the 4-6 months it takes when normal application processes are followed. The  
8 “SOAR” program is extremely beneficial to the county in that it helps eligible homeless  
9 county residents obtain social security cash benefits and Medicaid coverage much faster  
10 than normal application processes, ultimately reducing the need for county tax dollars to  
11 be spent on short-term housing, outpatient and inpatient mental health services, and for  
12 costly medications.

13  
14 In addition, “SOAR” program services offered by Homeless Connections help reduce the  
15 number of county residents needing to access the Aging and Disability Resource Center  
16 (ADRC) and Disability Benefit Specialist (DBS) services. For federal fiscal year 2017,  
17 Homeless Connections will have to reapply for Community Development Block Grant  
18 funds to continue to operate this program. Community Development Block Grants  
19 continue to require that a government entity be the applicant and fiscal agent for all  
20 funds. Administrative funding of up to 10% of the grant amount, \$1,650 on a \$16,500  
21 grant, is available to cover administrative and fiscal responsibilities for the county.

22  
23 Realizing that there continues to be a financial benefit to both Outagamie County and  
24 Homeless Connections in continuing the SOAR program, this resolution continues the  
25 formal partnership between Homeless Connections and the Outagamie County  
26 Department of Health and Human Services for the purpose of applying for a Community  
27 Development Block Grant to allow for the continuation of a Social Security Outreach,  
28 Access and Recovery (SOAR) Program that will serve at least 20 county residents during  
29 federal fiscal year 2017. The resolution seeks approval to continue to act as applicant and  
30 fiscal agency for the block grant. There is no fiscal impact because appropriate  
31 expenditures and revenues are included in the 2017 budget pending County Board  
32 approval in November 2016.

33  
34 NOW THEREFORE, the undersigned members of the Health and Human Services Committee  
35 recommend adoption of the following resolution.

36 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Outagamie County Board of Supervisors does authorize the  
37 Outagamie County Department of Health and Human Services to enter into a written cooperative  
38 agreement with Homeless Connections for the purpose of applying for a \$18,150 Community

1 Development Block Grant to allow for the continuation of a Social Security Outreach, Access and  
2 Recovery (SOAR) Program that will serve at least 20 county residents during federal fiscal year 2016,  
3 and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the \$18,150 grant is awarded, that the Outagamie County  
5 Health and Human Services Department will be eligible for up to \$1,650, 10% of the grant awarded, of  
6 administrative funding to defray application, implementation and administration expenses of the grant  
7 and to assure compliance with all applicable laws and program regulations of the work that will be  
8 performed under this grant, and

9 BE IT STILL FURTHER RESOLVED, that it is understood that the Department of Housing and  
10 Urban Development and the Wisconsin Division of Housing and Community Development have access  
11 to all participants' grant records and authority to monitor all activities, and that pursuant to Wisconsin  
12 State Statute 66.0301, the Outagamie County Department of Health and Human Services and Homeless  
13 Connections agree to cooperate in the submission of a Community Development Block Grant  
14 application for the purpose of continuing a Social Security Outreach, Access and Recovery (SOAR)  
15 Program, and if awarded the grant agree to cooperate in the continuation of this program as approved by  
16 the Department of Commerce and the Wisconsin Division of Housing and Community Development,  
17 and

18 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Outagamie County Clerk be directed to forward a copy  
19 of this resolution to the Outagamie County Health and Human Services Director, the Outagamie County  
20 Finance Director, and the Executive Director of Homeless Connections.

21

22 Dated this \_\_\_\_ day of August, 2016

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24  
25  
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27

Respectfully Submitted,

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

\_\_\_\_\_  
Barney Lemanski

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patrick Meyer

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Dan Gabrielson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cathy Thompson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Christine Lamers

Duly and officially adopted by the County Board on: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Clerk

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Vetoed: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed:

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Executive