

RESOLUTION
ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
INITIATED BY

Public Safety & Justice Committee
SUBMITTED BY



Elizabeth Pohlman McQuillen
DRAFTED BY

October 18, 2011
DATE DRAFTED

SUPPORTING A WISCONSIN COMMUNITY JUSTICE REINVESTMENT ACT

1 **WHEREAS**, the State of Wisconsin will spend over a billion dollars on inmates sentenced to prison
2 terms in 2011; and,
3

4 **WHEREAS**, one approach to decrease the prison population and save money is through a community
5 reinvestment program through which judges could have more options in sentencing defendants to local
6 treatment, thereby reducing the prison population and Department of Corrections costs and having
7 counties share equally in savings to the state; and,
8

9 **WHEREAS**, in early 2011, the Milwaukee District Attorney proposed a Wisconsin Community Justice
10 Reinvestment Act in which the state would reimburse counties \$15,000 for every offender not committed
11 to prison, which costs the state approximately \$30,000 per person per year; and,
12

13 **WHEREAS**, the Dane County Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution Supporting A Wisconsin
14 Community Justice Reinvestment Act on May 19, 2011 and was subsequently approved by the County
15 Executive on June 1, 2011; and,
16

17 **WHEREAS**, such an Act benefits the State by lessening the number of people sent to prison and the
18 costs associated therein, permits counties to have more effective local treatment options and increased
19 public safety, and allows offenders to have a greater opportunity for success in reentering their local
20 communities; and,
21

22 **WHEREAS**, the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council is recommending that Rock County endorse a
23 Wisconsin Community Justice Reinvestment Act.
24

25 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled
26 this 17th day of November, 2011 does hereby endorse a Wisconsin Community Justice
27 Reinvestment Act to provide judges with more effective local treatment options for offenders and to
28 reduce the prison population.
29

30 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the County Clerk be directed to send a copy of this Resolution to
31 the Governor, Rock County's Legislative Delegation, the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of
32 Corrections, and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

Respectfully submitted,

PUBLIC SAFETY & JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Ivan Collins
Ivan Collins, Chair

Brian Knudson
Brian Knudson

Larry Wiedenfeld
Larry Wiedenfeld, Vice Chair

Henry Brill
Henry Brill

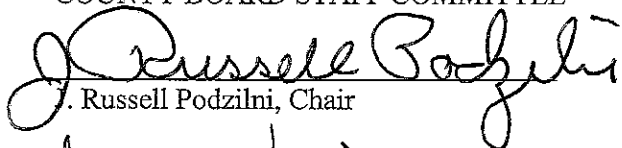
Mary Beaver
Mary Beaver

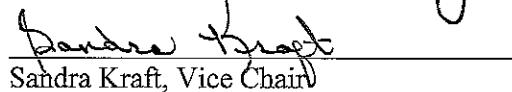
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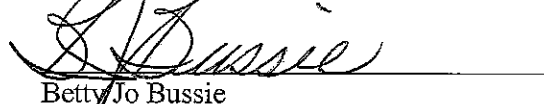
COUNTY BOARD STAFF COMMITTEE

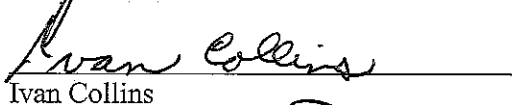

J. Russell Podzilni, Chair

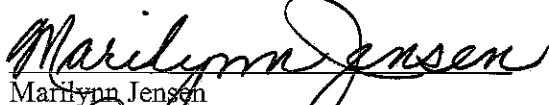

Sandra Kraft, Vice Chair

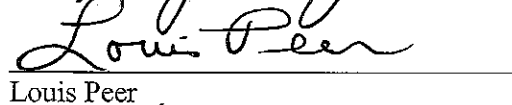

Eva Arnold

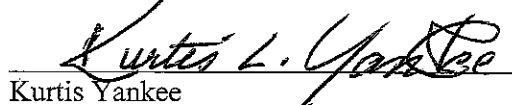

Hank Bill


Betty Jo Bussie


Ivan Collins



Marilyn Jensen


Louis Peer


Kurtis Yankee

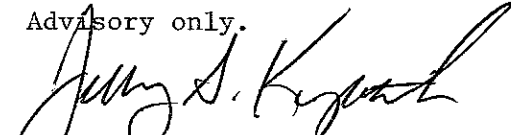
FISCAL NOTE:

This resolution addresses a legislative policy issue and has no direct fiscal impact on Rock County operations in and by itself.


Jeffrey A. Smith
Finance Director

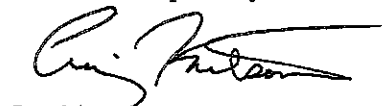
LEGAL NOTE:

Advisory only.


Jeffrey S. Kuglitsch
Corporation Counsel

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

Matter of policy.


Craig Knutson
County Administrator

Executive Summary

SUPPORTING A WISCONSIN COMMUNITY JUSTICE REINVESTMENT ACT

The State of Wisconsin will spend approximately \$1.2 billion this year on about 23,000 inmates sentenced to prison terms. Early 2011, the Milwaukee County District Attorney backed “a new partnership between the state and counties to finance evidence-based community services that reduce reliance upon state correctional facilities” through a proposed Community Justice Reinvestment Act. Under such an approach, judges would have more options in sentencing defendants to local treatment, thereby reducing the prison population and Department of Corrections costs and having counties share equally in savings to the state. The District Attorney proposed that under such an Act, the state would reimburse counties \$15,000 for every offender not committed to prison, which costs the state approximately \$30,000 per person per year. Such an Act benefits the State by lessening the number of people sent to prison and the costs associated therein, permits counties to have more effective local treatment options and increased public safety, and allows offenders to have a greater opportunity for success in reentering their local communities.

The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council is recommending that Rock County endorse a Wisconsin Community Justice Reinvestment Act and encourage the State Legislature and Governor to enact the legislation and adequately fund initiatives under such an Act.