

Human Services Board Agenda - Jefferson County
Jefferson County Workforce Development Center 874 Collins Rd, Room 103
Jefferson, WI 53549

Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2026, **Time:** 8:30 a.m.

Topic: Human Services Board Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85198617061?pwd=kTvqb0liKTuoc3zQjzfgC1dvCXLLC.1>

Meeting ID: 851 9861 7061

Passcode: 135889

+13126266799 US (Chicago)

Committee Members:

Lund, Kirk (Chair)

Callan, Joan (Vice Chair)

Wineke, Michael

Racanelli, Gino

Ganser, Steve

Abrahamsen, Pam

Braugher, James

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call (Establish a Quorum)
3. Certification of Compliance with the Open Meetings Law
4. Review May 12, 2026, Agenda
5. Elections of Board Officers - Chair and Vice Chair
6. Public Comment (*Members of the public who wish to address the Board on specific agenda items must register their request at this time.*)
7. Approval of April 14, 2026, Board Minutes
8. Communications
9. Review of the March 2026 Financial Statement
10. Discuss and Approve April 2026 Vouchers
11. Discussion and Possible Action on Proclamation Recognizing May as Older Americans Month
12. Discussion and Possible Action on Proclamation Recognizing May as Foster Care Month
13. Discussion and Possible Action on New 2026 Professional Service Contracts (*CCS Regional Service Array, Crisis Stabilization, and Lawn Care & Plowing*)
14. Questions and Answers on the Human Services 2025 Annual Report
15. Discuss Potential Agenda items for the June Board Meeting and Public Hearing
16. Director's Report
17. Adjourn

Next Scheduled Meetings:

Tuesday, June 9, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday July 14, 2026 at 8:30 a.m.

A quorum of any Jefferson County Committee, Board, Commission, or other body, including the Jefferson County Board of Supervisors, may be present at this meeting.

A quorum of the Human Resources Committee is expected to be present at this meeting due to overlapping committee memberships. The Human Resources Committee will not take any official action at this meeting. However, committee members may listen to discussion, gather information, and participate in discussion regarding Human Services Board agenda items that may relate to their responsibilities on the Human Resources Committee

Special Needs Request - Individuals requiring special accommodations for attendance at the meeting should contact the County Administrator at 920-674-7101 at least 24 hours prior to the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

County Board Supervisors attending meetings remotely have the same rights and privileges as when attending in person. The official meeting will be convened at the physical location listed on the agenda. If appearing remotely, it is the responsibility of the member to maintain audio and video connectivity with the official meeting site. If connectivity is lost, but the physical location of the meeting maintains a quorum, the meeting may continue at the discretion of the chair. Members attending remotely must be able to be heard, and when video is available to the member attending remotely, seen by Committee members and the public who are present at the physical location of the meeting. Loss of connectivity will result in the member being considered absent from that portion of the meeting after connectivity is lost.

JEFFERSON COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES
BOARD MINUTES
April 14, 2026

Board Members Present in Person: Joan Callan, Michael Wineke, Gino Racanelli, Steven Ganser, Pamela Abrahamsen, and James Braugher

Present by Zoom: Kirk Lund, Assistant Finance Director Tammy Worzalla, and Watertown Daily Times Reporter James Kuckkan

Others Present: Director Brent Ruehlow; Administrative Services Division Manager Brian Bellford, County Administrator Michael Luckey, Child and Family Division Manager Laura Wagner, Social Worker Jenny Witt, Social Worker Maggie Messler, and Officer Manager Kelly Witucki

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
Mr. Lund called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.
- 2. ROLL CALL/ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM**
All present/Quorum was established.
- 3. CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN MEETINGS LAW**
Mr. Ruehlow certified that we are in compliance.
- 4. REVIEW OF APRIL 14, 2026, AGENDA**
- 5. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
No Comments
- 6. APPROVAL OF MARCH 10, 2026, BOARD MINUTES**
Ms. Callan made a motion to approve March 10, 2026, board minutes.
Mr. Ganser seconded.
Motion passed unanimously.
- 7. COMMUNICATIONS**
No Communications
- 8. REVIEW OF THE FEBRUARY 2026 FINANCIAL STATEMENT**
Mr. Bellford reviewed the February financial statement (attached) and reported that we are projecting year-end fund balance of \$60,504. This balance includes our carryover from 2025, including \$650,000 from our reserve carryover. We are, at this point, \$589,496 unfavorable to the budget when the reserve is excluded.
- 9. DISCUSS AND APPROVE MARCH 2026 VOUCHERS**
Mr. Bellford reviewed the summary sheet of vouchers totaling \$933,274.72 (attached).
Mr. Braugher made a motion to approve the March 2026 vouchers totaling \$933,274.72.
Mr. Racanelli seconded.
Motion passed unanimously.
- 10. PRESENTATION ON CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION (CAP) MONTH AWARENESS ACTIVITIES**
Child and Family Division Manager Laura Wagner introduced Child Protective Services (CPS) Case Managers Jenny Witt and Maggie Messler, who provided an overview of alternate care and Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Month activities.
Ms. Witt reported that at the end of 2025, CPS had approximately 45 open cases, with 28 children achieving permanency. Permanency outcomes included reunification with a parent, guardianship, or termination of parental rights (TPR) with adoption. Of those children, 10 were reunified with a

parent, 8 achieved permanency through guardianship, and 10 through termination and adoption. Ms. Witt also highlighted increased collaboration with both internal and community partners, including Parents Supporting Parents, Family Teaming, Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) Department, Birth to Three, Children's Long Term Waiver (CLTS), local schools, and other community resources.

Ms. Messler shared updates on CAP Month awareness efforts. Pinwheel gardens have been displayed throughout Jefferson County, including at the courthouse, Fair Park, the Collective in Watertown, and the Fort Atkinson Library. Community members were also invited to purchase their own pinwheel gardens this year, with 20 gardens sold to date. Additional fundraising efforts include the sale of Child Abuse Prevention clothing and additional internal activities.

Funds raised support children and families by providing items such as sports equipment, bedding, as well as gas cards to assist with transportation to visitations and medical appointments. Ms. Messler also noted efforts to strengthen partnerships with medical providers. A presentation by the CPS team is scheduled for next Tuesday to address questions related to documentation, confidentiality, and consent requirements when working with children in care along the medical continuum. This initiative aims to reduce barriers, particularly in ensuring children receive timely well-child visits, immunizations, and dental care when biological parents are not always available to attend those appointments.

CAP funds have also supported the purchase of technology to facilitate hybrid Family Teaming meetings and virtual visitation when in-person visits are not possible.

11. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON NEW 2026 PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT (CCS REGIONAL SERVICE ARRAY, INPATIENT SERVICES AND ADULT ALT CARE)

Mr. Ruehlow reported that we have six new service providers. (attached)

Mr. Lund made the motion to approve the professional service contracts listed.

Mr. Ganser seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

12. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON KINDNESS AND CARING ACTION AWARD

Mr. Ruehlow reported that there were five nominations for the Kindness and Caring in Action Award. This award recognizes an employee who has gone above and beyond in demonstrating kindness, caring, and compassion to the people of Jefferson County. Each year, two recipients are selected to receive a plaque and a \$500 award.

The recipients are as follows:

- Alysha Kratochwill, CLTS Support & Services Coordinator
- Ashley Torres, HSP Professional
- Jennifer Wendt, Psychotherapist
- Lori Brummond, HSP Professional
- Elizabeth Shropshire, Parent Coach

Mr. Lund made a motion to approve the recipients: Jennifer Wendt, and Elizabeth Shropshire to receive the Kindness and Caring in Action Award.

Ms. Callan seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

13. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Ruehlow reported on the following items:

- Mr. Ruehlow congratulated the County Board Supervisors on their re-election.
- Mr. Ruehlow shared that the County Board approved the hiring of a full-time Medical Director as an official Human Services employee last month. Previously, this position had been

contracted. He reported that one reference check has been completed and a second is pending. He anticipates being able to announce the selected candidate at next month's meeting.

- Mr. Ruehlow gave an update on space needs within Human Services. While the remodeling plans that were shared last year were not approved, space continues to be a challenge. County Administrator Michael Luckey has set aside funding for a space study to review the main building, Lueder House, and the Community Support Program (CSP) building and look at what adjustments can be made both now and as the department continues to grow.
- Mr. Ruehlow noted that last month it was reported there were zero errors in the Economic Support area, meaning there was no fiscal impact. Supervisor Callan asked which quarter that applied to, and Mr. Ruehlow confirmed it was for the last quarter of 2025 (October–December).
- Mr. Ruehlow shared a letter from DCF included in the board packet. He noted that over the years, several Jefferson County staff have been recognized through nominations for the Secretary's Putting Families First Awards. This year, Andrea Szwec, Supervisor of Parents Supporting Parents and Family Teaming, was nominated by one of her staff and was selected to receive the 2026 award. She will be honored at a ceremony on Monday, April 27.
- Mr. Ruehlow invited board members to attend the Employee Luncheon that will be held on May 20th at 11:30 a.m. at the Fair Park Activity Center.

14. ADJOURN

Mr. Ganser made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Ms. Abrahamsen seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:41 a.m.

Minutes prepared by:

Kelly Witucki
Office Manager
Human Services

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at 8:30 a.m.

Jefferson County Workforce Development Center

874 Collins Road, Room 103

Financial Statement Summary March, 2026

We are projecting a positive year-end fund balance of \$53,758. This balance includes our carryover from 2025, including \$650,000 from our reserve carryover. We are, at this point, \$596,242 unfavorable to the budget when the reserve is excluded. This is consistent with last month.

Summary of Variances:

- **Hospitalizations are projected to be over budget (unfavorable) by \$663,498 (Net basis).** This compares to (\$494,948) last month, because of the March State Institute bill.

	Budget	Actual	Projection
Revenue	\$315,000	\$81,292	\$325,170
Expenditures	\$991,111	\$422,995	\$1,664,779
Net	\$(676,111)	\$(341,703)	\$(1,339,609)

The January 2026 State Institute bill was \$112,875. The February 2026 State Institute bill was \$82,301. The March 2026 State Institute bill was \$130,723. We anticipate the April bill will be lower, because of fewer hospitalizations, MA payments for previous hospitalizations, and potential MCO payments.

A comparison of actual results for the past few years is below.

Account	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
State Revenue	318,370	306,270	551,193	277,216	280,165
State Inpatient	942,688	996,829	1,117,510	710,220	1,326,029
Private Inpatient	271,068	188,231	250,997	231,568	101,488
	(895,386)	(878,791)	(817,314)	(664,573)	(1,147,352)

- **Children Alternate Care expenses are projected to be over budget by \$364,047.** This projection includes Shelter and Detention costs and excludes kinship care. Kinship is included in the alternate care summary (attached), and it will be fully funded by DCF. The last few years of alternate care budgets are shown below.

2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
2,074,575	1,827,923	1,532,875	1,048,075	940,720	891,715

The projected costs are \$1,255,762 for 2026. We do have a few high-cost placements currently. We have one Level 5 foster home, which is high-cost, but also funded, in part, by CLTS. We do expect another Level 5 foster home shortly. We also have a group home and RCC. The RCC has ended in April; however, we do not have a long-term solution for that child at the moment.

- CCS continues to be understaffed compared to the budget, so staff costs are underbudget and contractor costs are overbudget. **We are projecting \$6,580,873 in total CCS expenses, compared to a budget of over \$8 million.** We have billed two months of 2026 so far, and the revenue is in-line with 2025 revenue, which is good news, because the costs are down. This creates a positive CCS balance of \$353,065
- CLTS projections are weighted heavily toward 2025 actual results. **Revenue is projected to be under budget by \$820,307. CLTS expenses are projected to be under budget by \$817,917.**
- **The Nutrition Programs are projected to have a combined \$13,670 unfavorable balance.** This is the result of meal and route consolidation, along with increased budgeted costs. We did also receive an additional award from GWAAR to help expand some routes.
- **Birth to 3 is projected to have a net positive variance of \$193,037.** This is because expenses are under budget for two reasons. First, we have had a vacant position for a good portion of the year. Secondly, contractor costs are coming in well under budget. The 2026 monthly average (through March) is \$21,584. Through August 2025, the monthly average was \$25,363, and we anticipated increased costs when we set our budget.
- **Operating Reserve:** We are projecting a year-end balance of \$650,000 in the operating reserve this year. It is looking very likely that we will have to make a budget amendment for 2026 to use some or most of this reserve.

BEHAVIOR HEALTH DIVISION: Projected unfavorable balance of \$461,723 because of increasing hospitalization costs and decreasing Clinic revenue.

CHILDREN & FAMILY DIVISION: Projected unfavorable balance of \$107,542, because of the alternate care costs. This offset, in part, by Birth to 3 and other vacant positions.

ECONOMIC SUPPORT DIVISION: Projected favorable balance of \$31,398. These programs are right in-line with the budget currently.

AGING & ADRC DIVISION: Projected unfavorable balance of \$98,775. These programs are right in-line with the budget currently.

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION: Projected favorable balance of \$40,400.

OPERATING RESERVE: Projected favorable balance of \$650,000.

Statements are unaudited.

JEFFERSON COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT
STATEMENT OF REVENUES & EXPENDITURES
 Projections Based on March 2026 - Financial Statements

SUMMARY

	Y-T-D @ Ledgers	Adjust -ments	Y-T-D Projection	Prior Y-T-D Projection	Prorated Budget	Year End Projection	2024 Budget	Year End Variance
Federal/State Operating Revenues	744,962	3,956,568	4,701,530	27,536,623	7,590,487	28,038,810	30,361,947	(2,323,136)
County Funding for Operations (tax levy & transfer in)	2,399,721	0	2,399,721	9,593,510	2,422,018	9,598,885	9,688,073	(89,188)
Total Resources Available	3,144,683	3,956,568	7,101,252	37,130,133	10,012,505	37,637,695	40,050,019	(2,412,324)
Total Adjusted Expenditures	9,791,689	(162,711)	9,628,978	37,665,543	10,087,903	38,356,135	40,822,216	2,466,082
OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	(6,647,006)	4,119,279	(2,527,727)	(535,410)	(75,399)	(718,440)	(772,197)	53,758
Balance Forward from 2024-Balance Sheet Operating Reserve	772,197		772,197	1,166,829		772,197	772,197	0
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	(5,874,809)	4,119,279	(1,755,530)	631,419	(75,399)	53,757	(0)	53,758

REVENUES

STATE & FEDERAL FUNDING

MH & AODA Basic County Allocation	0	490,390	490,390	1,961,559	488,504	1,961,559	1,954,014	7,545
Children's Basic County Allocation	0	345,560	345,560	1,382,238	345,560	1,382,238	1,382,238	0
Children's L/T Support Waivers	0	64,790	64,790	864,982	263,042	792,180	1,052,169	(259,989)
Behavioral Health Programs	10,893	59,956	70,849	1,872,030	302,678	1,912,416	1,210,712	701,704
Community Options Program	0	51,305	51,305	202,776	54,530	205,219	218,118	(12,899)
Aging & Disability Res Center	0	328,090	328,090	1,278,651	344,928	1,312,361	1,379,711	(67,350)
Aging/Transportation Programs	225,261	5,447	230,708	973,509	223,321	884,806	893,285	(8,479)
Youth Aids	0	174,478	174,478	786,049	178,039	725,280	712,158	13,122
IV-E Legal and Legal Rep	0	16,797	16,797	80,563	18,418	67,188	73,672	(6,484)
Children & Families	0	53,715	53,715	568,746	77,326	402,419	309,302	93,117
I.M. & W-2 Programs	(2,268)	36,516	34,248	1,824,061	468,561	1,885,063	1,874,246	10,818
Client Assistance Payments	0	55,952	55,952	220,344	60,000	223,809	240,000	(16,191)
Early Intervention	0	49,267	49,267	189,284	47,321	197,069	189,284	7,785
Total State & Federal Funding	233,886	1,732,263	1,966,149	12,204,793	2,872,227	11,951,607	11,488,908	454,914

COLLECTIONS & OTHER REVENUE

Provided Services	328,008	1,731,931	2,059,939	12,285,846	3,741,707	12,833,795	14,966,829	(2,133,034)
Child Alternate Care	16,609	15,161	31,770	131,452	29,809	127,079	119,237	7,842
Adult Alternate Care	9,543	0	9,543	57,115	28,284	38,174	113,135	(74,961)
Children's L/T Support	13,487	472,181	485,669	2,024,226	696,014	2,223,739	2,784,058	(560,318)
1915i Program	0	0	0	260,193	66,250	262,932	265,000	(2,068)
Donations	24,878	0	24,878	143,790	38,399	110,885	153,595	(42,710)
Cost Reimbursements	27,328	5,032	32,360	129,515	33,296	126,047	133,185	(7,137)
Other Revenues	91,223	0	91,223	299,693	84,500	364,551	338,000	26,551
Total Collections & Other	511,076	2,224,305	2,735,381	15,331,830	4,718,260	16,087,203	18,873,038	(2,785,835)

TOTAL REVENUES

744,962	3,956,568	4,701,530	27,536,623	7,590,487	28,038,810	30,361,947	(2,330,921)
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EXPENDITURES

	Y-T-D @ Ledgers	Adjust -ments	Y-T-D Projection	Prior Y-T-D Projection	Prorated Budget	Year End Projection	2024 Budget	Year End Variance
WAGES								
Behavioral Health	872,585	0	872,585	3,291,287	905,672	3,438,721	3,717,939	(279,219)
Children's & Families	589,783	0	589,783	2,310,972	603,615	2,359,131	2,627,137	(268,006)
Community Support	340,592	0	340,592	1,300,158	398,174	1,362,366	1,592,697	(230,330)
Comp Comm Services	659,050	0	659,050	2,675,996	949,828	2,636,199	3,871,849	(1,235,650)
Economic Support	376,076	0	376,076	1,505,241	410,837	1,504,302	1,643,350	(139,048)
Aging & Disability Res Center	171,276	0	171,276	729,201	188,105	685,104	752,420	(67,316)
Aging/Transportation Programs	183,629	0	183,629	745,432	169,894	734,516	679,577	54,938
Childrens L/T Support	387,431	0	387,431	1,538,379	506,185	1,549,411	2,024,741	(475,330)
Early Intervention	92,916	0	92,916	403,671	107,082	371,662	428,330	(56,667)
Management/Overhead	394,781	0	394,781	1,661,648	414,125	1,579,125	1,656,500	(77,375)
Lueder Haus	92,622	0	92,622	373,554	101,241	370,489	404,962	(34,473)
Safe & Stable Families	29,060	0	29,060	113,118	27,154	116,241	108,617	7,623
Total Wages	4,189,800	0	4,189,800	16,648,658	4,781,913	16,707,266	19,508,119	(2,800,853)
FRINGE BENEFITS								
Social Security	305,247	0	305,247	1,207,031	345,654	1,220,987	1,382,616	(161,629)
Retirement	289,886	0	289,886	1,114,099	340,165	1,159,544	1,360,660	(201,116)
Health Insurance	833,987	0	833,987	2,773,468	969,304	3,335,947	3,877,216	(541,269)
Other Fringe Benefits	20,735	0	20,735	91,116	52,547	72,814	281,402	(208,588)
Total Fringe Benefits	1,449,855	0	1,449,855	5,185,715	1,707,671	5,789,292	6,901,894	(1,112,602)
OPERATING COSTS								
Staff Training	24,081	(0)	24,081	87,691	19,083	77,288	81,880	(4,592)
Space Costs	130,893	0	130,893	480,545	112,487	511,339	449,948	61,390
Supplies & Services	756,936	7,069	764,005	2,353,474	614,226	2,583,902	2,460,205	123,697
Program Expenses	288,170	313,381	601,551	2,797,238	480,794	2,406,202	1,923,175	483,027
Employee Travel	26,109	0	26,109	110,981	58,170	104,434	236,679	(132,244)
Staff Psychiatrists & Nurse	98,010	0	98,010	644,029	78,255	392,040	313,020	79,020
Birth to 3 Program Costs	66,801	0	66,801	295,098	86,997	267,203	347,989	(80,786)
Busy Bees Preschool	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Operating Costs	7,796	0	7,796	15,933	1,420	31,184	5,680	25,504
Year End Allocations	(65,159)	(35,000)	(100,159)	(290,591)	(39,390)	(145,635)	(153,484)	7,850
Capital Outlay	20,351	0	20,351	153,015	13,750	20,351	55,000	(34,649)
Total Operating Costs	1,353,987	285,450	1,639,437	6,647,412	1,425,791	6,248,307	5,720,091	528,217
BOARD MEMBERS								
Per Diems	1,170	0	1,170	4,615	1,121	4,680	4,485	195
Travel	0	0	0	821	188	0	750	(750)
Training	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Board Members	1,170	0	1,170	5,436	1,309	4,680	5,235	(555)

	Y-T-D @ Ledgers	Adjust -ments	Y-T-D Projection	Prior Y-T-D Projection	Prorated Budget	Year End Projection	2024 Budget	Year End Variance
<u>CLIENT ASSISTANCE</u>								
Donation Expenses	3,118	0	3,118	10,508	14,677	12,471	58,709	(46,238)
Kinship & Other Client Assistance	46,231	0	46,231	178,281	48,875	184,925	195,500	(10,575)
Total Client Assistance	49,349	0	49,349	188,790	63,552	197,396	254,209	(56,813)
<u>MEDICAL ASSISTANCE WAIVERS</u>								
Childrens LTS	34,861	0	34,861	161,688	63,592	139,442	254,370	(114,927)
Total Medical Assistance Waivers	34,861	0	34,861	161,688	63,592	139,442	254,370	(114,927)
<u>COMMUNITY CARE</u>								
Supportive Home Care	18,702	0	18,702	62,984	12,490	74,808	51,959	22,850
Guardianship Services	10,028	0	10,028	38,455	12,137	40,112	48,549	(8,437)
People Ag. Domestic Abuse	0	0	0	30,000	7,500	30,000	30,000	0
Transportation Services	28,399	0	28,399	71,341	35,000	113,594	140,000	(26,406)
Other Community Care	167,372	0	167,372	1,016,423	150,555	880,706	602,219	278,487
Elderly Nutrition - Congregate	11,645	0	11,645	51,664	15,709	46,580	62,835	(16,255)
Elderly Nutrition - Home Delivered	62,123	0	62,123	296,933	86,736	256,477	346,946	(90,468)
Elderly Nutrition - Other Costs	376	0	376	3,578	1,050	1,505	4,200	(2,695)
Total Community Care	298,645	0	298,645	1,571,378	321,177	1,443,784	1,286,708	157,077
<u>CHILD ALTERNATE CARE</u>								
Foster Care & Treatment Foster	161,905	0	161,905	454,495	75,000	647,619	300,000	347,619
Group Home & Placing Agency	67,342	0	67,342	277,262	76,250	269,369	305,000	(35,631)
Child Caring Institutions	56,192	0	56,192	201,225	50,279	224,766	201,115	23,651
Detention Centers	0	0	0	4,500	2,500	0	10,000	(10,000)
Correctional Facilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shelter & Other Care	28,502	0	28,502	119,759	18,900	114,008	75,600	38,408
Total Child Alternate Care	313,940	0	313,940	1,057,239	222,929	1,255,762	891,715	364,047
<u>HOSPITALS</u>								
Detoxification Services	0	0	0	11,594	3,750	0	15,000	(15,000)
Mental Health Institutes	422,995	0	422,995	1,427,517	244,028	1,664,779	976,111	688,668
Other Inpatient Care	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Hospitals	422,995	0	422,995	1,439,111	247,778	1,664,779	991,111	673,668
<u>HS RESERVE FUND</u>								
Operating Reserve	0	0	0	0	162,500	0	650,000	(650,000)

OTHER CONTRACTED
 Adult Alternate Care (Non-MAW)
 Family Care County Contribution
 1915i Program
 IV-E TPR
 Emergency Mental Health
 Financial Empowerment
 Ancillary Medical Costs
 Miscellaneous Services
 Prior Year Costs
 Clearview Commission
Total Other Contracted

Y-T-D @ Ledgers	Adjust -ments	Y-T-D Projection	Prior Y-T-D Projection	Prorated Budget	Year End Projection	2024 Budget	Year End Variance
22,433	0	22,433	208,597	25,120	79,440	100,480	(21,040)
625,097	(468,823)	156,275	625,097	156,274	625,099	625,097	2
47,279	0	47,279	208,709	51,250	214,279	205,000	9,279
58,808	0	58,808	222,254	56,543	235,232	226,174	9,059
19,038	0	19,038	1,819	21,102	76,150	84,408	(8,258)
0	0	0	100,879	12,500	0	50,000	(50,000)
49,614	0	49,614	248,229	51,539	198,458	206,156	(7,698)
846,550	20,662	867,212	3,132,291	714,943	3,467,626	2,859,772	607,854
8,269	0	8,269	12,241	0	9,142	0	9,142
0	0	0	0	420	0	1,679	(1,679)
1,677,088	(448,161)	1,228,927	4,760,117	1,089,691	4,905,426	4,358,766	546,660
TOTAL EXPENDITURES							
9,791,689	(162,711)	9,628,978	37,665,543	10,087,903	38,356,135	40,822,216	(2,466,082)

JEFFERSON COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Projection Based on MARCH 2026 Revenue & Expenditures Financial Statement

Summary Sheet

() Unfavorable

Program	Annual Projection			Budget			
	Revenue	Expenditure	Tax Levy	Revenue	Expenditure	Tax Levy	Variance
Behavior Health							
65000 BASIC ALLOCATION	4,761,408	6,383,741	1,622,333	4,831,984	6,002,788	1,170,805	(451,528)
65003 LUEDER HAUS	205,600	707,654	502,054	206,000	737,699	531,699	29,645
65004 UWW QTT	50,750	0	(50,750)	5,000	5,000	0	50,750
65007 EMERGENCY MENTAL HEALTH	155,000	1,615,391	1,460,391	155,000	1,511,501	1,356,501	(103,890)
63008 YCSF - MATZ	3,013,148	3,013,148	(0)	2,515,415	2,515,415	0	0
65011 MENTAL HEALTH BLOCK	13,998	13,998	0	26,128	26,128	0	(0)
65025 COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAM	678,523	2,382,861	1,704,338	953,300	2,435,155	1,481,854	(222,484)
65027 COMP COMM SERVICE	7,575,604	6,580,873	(994,731)	8,692,732	8,051,058	(641,675)	353,056
63027 FAMILY CENTERED THERAPY	0	3,002	3,002	0	91,062	91,062	88,060
65030 ROOM AND BOARD FOR OUD	26,013	73,225	47,212	0	0	0	(47,212)
65031 AODA BLOCK GRANT	109,299	109,299	(0)	109,299	109,299	0	0
65032 OPIOID GRANT	104,974	129,645	24,672	182,376	164,282	(18,094)	(42,765)
65037 TAD GRANT	0	1,428	1,428	0	0	0	(1,428)
65038 OPIOID SETTLEMENT	207,000	197,288	(9,713)	436,640	400,453	(36,187)	(26,475)
65043 COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH	0	0	0	97,609	0	(97,609)	(97,609)
65044 CCISY CRISIS GRANT	0	0	0	1,000	1,000	0	0
65063 1915i PROGRAM (CRS)	262,932	269,731	6,799	265,000	247,097	(17,903)	(24,701)
65158 ELDER ABUSE	23,818	228,269	204,451	23,748	228,528	204,780	329
65077 ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES	68,801	60,174	(8,627)	68,373	82,109	13,736	22,363
65162 APS SUPPLEMENT COVID-19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65034 WATERTOWN FOUNDATION TIC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
66000 DONATIONS	434	495	60	0	12,227	12,227	12,167
Total Behavioral Health	17,257,302	21,770,222	4,512,920	18,569,605	22,620,802	4,051,197	(461,723)

JEFFERSON COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Projection Based on MARCH 2026 Revenue & Expenditures Financial Statement

Summary Sheet

() Unfavorable

Program	Annual Projection			Budget			
	Revenue	Expenditure	Tax Levy	Revenue	Expenditure	Tax Levy	Variance
Children & Families							
65001 CHILDREN'S BASIC ALLOCATION	1,690,575	3,167,873	1,477,298	1,591,347	2,995,946	1,404,599	(72,699)
65002 KINSHIP CARE	163,809	163,809	0	180,000	180,000	0	0
65005 YOUTH AIDS	691,702	1,006,015	314,313	688,351	829,103	140,752	(173,561)
65006 YOUTH AIDS - STATE CHARGES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
63105 DOJ: DIVERSIONARY PROGRAMMING	27,367	31,550	4,183	21,361	21,361	0	(4,183)
63109 YOUTH JUSTICE INNOVATION	13,769	13,769	0	15,000	15,000	0	0
60683 CITIZEN'S REVIEW PANEL	4,208	4,208	0	10,000	10,000	0	0
63612 IN HOME SAFETY SERVICES	85,177	294,460	209,283	86,858	110,333	23,475	(185,809)
63112 PARENTS SUPPORTING PARENTS	63,628	308,510	244,882	68,136	320,355	252,219	7,337
63113 RELATIVE CAREGIVER SUPPORT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
63114 FAMILY FIRST	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65009 YA EARLY & INTENSIVE INT	60,792	225,140	164,348	52,446	249,141	196,695	32,348
65121 CHILDREN'S COP	205,219	204,303	(916)	218,118	218,118	0	916
65020 DOMESTIC ABUSE	0	30,000	30,000	0	30,000	30,000	0
65021 SAFE & STABLE FAMILIES	68,703	205,356	136,653	73,586	185,977	112,391	(24,262)
65036 WISACWIS - IT	48	170	121	2,643	16,284	13,641	13,520
65041 WISACWIS - CW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65040 CHILDRENS LTS WAIV-DD	3,015,919	2,811,120	(204,799)	3,836,226	3,629,037	(207,189)	(2,390)
65067 COMMUNITY RESPONSE GRANT	0	197,494	197,494	0	199,366	199,366	1,873
63111 FOSTER PARENT RETENTION	277	277	0	15,250	15,250	0	0
65068 FOSTER PARENT TRAINING	3,589	9,699	6,110	3,229	8,279	5,050	(1,060)
65060 IV-E CHIPS LEGAL	32,170	147,689	115,519	31,195	119,982	88,786	(26,733)
65070 IV-E TPR	35,018	87,543	52,526	42,477	106,192	63,715	11,189
65080 YOUTH DELINQUENCY INTAKE	0	935,375	935,375	0	1,049,400	1,049,400	114,026
63301 WILEARN	0	20,181	20,181	0	0	0	(20,181)
65175 EARLY INTERVENTION (BIRTH TO 3)	245,067	861,757	616,689	245,986	1,055,712	809,726	193,037
65105 KINSHIP ASSESSMENTS	4,808	4,808	0	3,830	3,830	0	0
65120 COORDINATED SERVICE TEAM	60,000	141,444	81,444	60,000	131,235	71,235	(10,208)
63120 CST SUPPLEMENT	84	84	0	0	0	0	0
65189 INCREDIBLE YEARS	0	60,524	60,524	1,200	65,845	64,645	4,121
66000 DONATIONS	2,961	11,737	8,776	0	43,955	43,955	35,179
Total	6,474,891	10,944,895	4,470,005	7,247,239	11,609,702	4,362,463	(107,542)

JEFFERSON COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Projection Based on MARCH 2026 Revenue & Expenditures Financial Statement

Summary Sheet

() Unfavorable

Program	Annual Projection			Budget			Variance
	Revenue	Expenditure	Tax Levy	Revenue	Expenditure	Tax Levy	
Economic Support Division							
65051 INCOME MAINTENANCE	1,734,073	2,411,165	677,093	1,725,515	2,483,620	758,105	81,012
65052 FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT CENTER	0	67,509	67,509	55,428	95,872	40,444	(27,065)
65053 CHILD DAY CARE ADMIN	141,257	5,753	(135,504)	138,275	5,047	(133,228)	2,276
65050 HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT	44,803	81,928	37,125	96,074	96,074	0	(37,125)
65073 FSET	4,925	0	(4,925)	6,625	0	(6,625)	(1,700)
65100 CLIENT ASSISTANCE	24,000	0	(24,000)	10,000	0	(10,000)	14,000
Total	1,949,057	2,566,355	617,298	2,031,918	2,680,613	648,695	31,398
Aging Division & ADRC							
65012 ALZHEIMERS FAM SUPP	54,220	54,220	0	32,955	32,955	(0)	(0)
65046 ADRC - DBS	0	251,788	251,788	0	249,138	249,138	(2,650)
65048 AGING/DISABIL RESOURCE	1,312,361	987,466	(324,895)	1,379,711	1,049,166	(330,545)	(5,650)
65075 GUARDIANSHIP PROGRAM	0	27,028	27,028	0	21,650	21,650	(5,378)
65076 STATE BENEFIT SERVICES	43,975	122,210	78,235	43,975	118,479	74,504	(3,731)
65078 NSIP	13,688	0	(13,688)	13,688	13,688	0	13,688
65151 TRANSPORTATION	271,989	473,599	201,610	298,713	438,941	140,228	(61,382)
65152 IN-HOME SERVICE III-D	4,903	4,326	(577)	4,000	4,444	444	1,021
65154 SITE MEALS	124,589	147,691	23,102	132,607	160,612	28,006	4,904
65155 DELIVERED MEALS	218,069	514,722	296,653	268,627	546,706	278,079	(18,574)
65157 SENIOR COMMUNITY SERVICES	7,986	7,986	0	7,986	7,986	0	0
65159 III-B SUPPORTIVE SERVICE	68,131	83,336	15,205	74,416	82,072	7,656	(7,549)
65163 TITLE III-E (FAMLY CAREGIVER SUPPORT)	31,367	42,192	10,825	37,816	53,520	15,704	4,879
65195 VEHICLE ESCROW ACCOUNT	0	20,351	20,351	0	0	0	(20,351)
63010 MOBILITY MANAGER	93,051	150,556	57,505	90,203	147,419	57,216	(290)
66000 DONATIONS	-	239	239	0	2,527	2,527	2,288
Total	2,244,330	2,887,711	643,381	2,384,697	2,929,302	544,605	(98,775)

JEFFERSON COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Projection Based on MARCH 2026 Revenue & Expenditures Financial Statement

Summary Sheet

() Unfavorable

	Program	Annual Projection			Budget			Variance	
		Revenue	Expenditure	Tax Levy	Revenue	Expenditure	Tax Levy		
Administrative Services Division									
	65187	UNFUNDED SERVICES	0	30,010	30,010	0	50,634	50,634	20,624
	63101	COUNTY OWNED HOUSING	15,200	18,826	3,626	13,000	13,000	0	(3,626)
	65190	MANAGEMENT	0	(0)	(0)	0	(0)	(0)	0
	65200	OVERHEAD AND TAX LEVY	9,696,915	138,116	(9,558,799)	9,788,561	198,164	(9,590,397)	(31,598)
	65210	CAPITAL OUTLAY	0	0	0	0	55,000	55,000	55,000
		Balance Sheet Non Lapsing Funds	772,197	0	(772,197)	772,197	0	(772,197)	0
Total		Administrative Services Division	10,484,312	186,952	(10,297,360)	10,573,758	316,797	(10,256,960)	40,400
Human Services Reserve Fund									
	63001	Operating Reserve	0	0	0	0	650,000	650,000	650,000
		Reserve Fund	0	0	0	0	650,000	650,000	650,000
GRAND Total			38,409,892	38,356,135	(53,757)	40,807,216	40,807,216	0	53,758

Note: Variance includes Non-Lapsing from Balance Sheet

Children - Alternate Care Costs

Type of Placement	# of Children	# of Days	Cost	Cost per Day	Cost Per Child
January-26					
Foster Care	35	1,018	\$ 40,091	\$ 39	\$ 1,145
Foster Care - Level 5	1	31	\$ 15,236	\$ 491	\$ 15,236
Group Home	1	31	\$ 23,217	\$ 749	\$ 23,217
Kinship Care	34	1,079	\$ 13,359	\$ 12	\$ 393
Subsidized Guardianship	12	372	\$ 9,099	\$ 24	\$ 758
Supervised Independ Living	-	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Detention	-	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Shelter Care	-	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
RCC's	1	31	\$ 19,355	\$ 624	\$ 19,355
RCC's - Out of State	-	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total January 2026	84	2,562	\$ 120,356	\$ 47	\$ 1,433
		2026 YTD Avg. per Month	\$120,356		
		2025 YTD Avg. per Month (thru January 2025)	\$89,806		
February-26					
Foster Care	34	907	\$ 40,038	\$ 44	\$ 1,178
Foster Care - Level 5	1	28	\$ 14,798	\$ 528	\$ 14,798
Group Home	1	28	\$ 20,908	\$ 747	\$ 20,908
Kinship Care	36	999	\$ 13,701	\$ 14	\$ 381
Subsidized Guardianship	13	367	\$ 9,700	\$ 26	\$ 746
Supervised Independ Living	-	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Detention	-	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Shelter Care	-	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
RCC's	1	28	\$ 17,482	\$ 624	\$ 17,482
RCC's - Out of State	-	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total February 2026	86	2,357	\$ 116,626	\$ 49	\$ 1,356
		2026 YTD Avg. per Month	\$118,491		
		2025 YTD Avg. per Month (thru February 2025)	\$93,463		

Children - Alternate Care Costs

Type of Placement	# of Children	# of Days	Cost	Cost per Day	Cost Per Child
March-26					
Foster Care	34	1,040	\$ 41,723	\$ 40	\$ 1,227
Foster Care - Level 5	1	31	\$ 15,236	\$ 491	\$ 15,236
Group Home	1	31	\$ 23,217	\$ 749	\$ 23,217
Kinship Care	38	1,183	\$ 14,691	\$ 12	\$ 387
Subsidized Guardianship	13	403	\$ 9,703	\$ 24	\$ 746
Supervised Independ Living	-	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Detention	-	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Shelter Care	-	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
RCC's	1	31	\$ 19,355	\$ 624	\$ 19,355
RCC's - Out of State	-	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total March 2026	88	2719	\$123,925	\$46	\$1,408
		2026 YTD Avg. per Month	\$120,302		
		2025 YTD Avg. per Month (thru March 2025)	\$93,739		
		Projected 2026 Cost	\$1,487,098		
		2026 Budget	\$1,149,715		

**Detox/AODA CBRF
Jefferson County - HSD**

Detox Facility	Clients *	Comments	Billed YTD **	Days **
Arbor House	0	March 2026	\$0	0
Blandine House	1	March 2026	\$3,600	60
Catholic Charities	2	March 2026	\$3,198	26
Core Treatment Services	2	March 2026	\$1,945	29
Dane County Care Center	0	March 2026	\$0	0
Denoon	0	March 2026	\$0	0
Exodus House	2	March 2026	\$7,203	147
Friends of Women	4	March 2026	\$7,938	108
Life Worth Living	0	March 2026	\$0	0
Lutheran Social Services	1	March 2026	\$2,655	45
Mahala's Hope	0	March 2026	\$0	0
Mooring House	0	March 2026	\$0	0
Nova House	2	March 2026	\$3,131	60
Oxford House	0	March 2026	\$0	0
Pathways	1	March 2026	\$1,755	13
Tellurian Community	0	March 2026	\$0	0
WisHope	0	March 2026	\$0	0
All - March 2026	15	2026 total through March	\$31,425	488
All - March 2025	18	2025 total through March	\$30,249	435

* Count is based on Unduplicated Clients.

** Count is based on bills paid to-date with a service date in Comments column.

Costs by Month

Month	Detox	AODA
January	\$0	\$10,679
February	\$0	\$12,029
March	\$0	\$8,717
April		
May		
June		
July		
August		
September		
October		
November		
December		

STATE of WISCONSIN



OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

Proclamation

WHEREAS; aging and older adults across Wisconsin have shared their time, talent, and life experiences for the betterment of their communities and society; and

WHEREAS; whether by serving as caregivers for family and community members in need, volunteering in their local communities, or providing leadership and knowledge to future generations, older adults make countless contributions to the state; and

WHEREAS; the state of Wisconsin strives to build strong and vibrant communities that encourage, engage, and support aging and older Wisconsinites in pursuing personal interests and social activities that promote vitality, independence, and the opportunity to age with dignity, choice, and respect; and

WHEREAS; the state of Wisconsin remains committed to helping all individuals live healthier, longer lives in the communities of their choice for as long as possible while dismantling systems and barriers that create a disproportionately poorer quality of life for historically underserved populations; and

WHEREAS; all Wisconsinites benefit from working to eliminate harmful age-related stereotypes and rather focus on emphasizing the many positive aspects of aging while leading with the Wisconsin values of kindness, empathy, compassion, and respect; and

WHEREAS; the theme of this year's Older Americans Month, "Champion Your Health," focuses on well-being throughout the spectrum of life and encourages the creation of age-friendly systems that promote an individual's ability to access preventative care and make informed decisions to effectively advocate for themselves and others; and

WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin celebrates all aging and older Wisconsinites for their wisdom, advocacy, hard work, and volunteerism, and reaffirms its commitment to assisting them in caring for their health by supporting them and those who care for them;

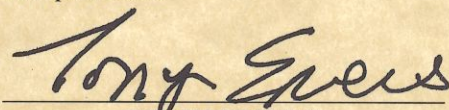
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim May 2026 as

OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

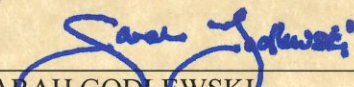
throughout the State of Wisconsin, and I commend this observance
to all our state's residents.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have
hereunto set my hand and caused the
Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin
to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in
the City of Madison this 24th day
of April 2026.


TONY EVERS
GOVERNOR

By the Governor:


SARAH GODLEWSKI
Secretary of State

STATE of WISCONSIN



OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the state of Wisconsin recognizes that what's best for kids is what's best for the state, and the vision of the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF) is that all kids and youth are safe and loved members of thriving families and communities; and

WHEREAS, families come in all shapes and sizes, and foster families provide kids who are unable to remain in their homes with security and stability, a safe, temporary living environment, and the opportunity for lifelong connection; and

WHEREAS, the majority of kids in foster care in Wisconsin are in family settings within their communities, with more than 2,400 kids placed with relatives; and

WHEREAS, kids do best when they can be with those they already know and love, and the state of Wisconsin recognizes the importance of like-kin as relatives to kids, so those individuals can receive the support needed to foster when necessary; and

WHEREAS, all Wisconsinites have a responsibility to create communities where every kid can grow up safely and to support the best care and environment possible when kids cannot safely remain in their own homes; and

WHEREAS, each day, thousands of professionals in public, private, and Tribal agencies work together to support Wisconsin's kids and families with the resources, support, and warmth they both need and deserve; and

WHEREAS, this month, the state of Wisconsin joins DCF and all those involved with foster care in recognizing their loyal and steadfast devotion to the safety, stability, and well-being of Wisconsin's kids and families;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim May 2026 as

FOSTER CARE MONTH

this month of the State of Wisconsin, and I commend this observance to all our state's residents.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 30th day of April 2026.

Tony Evers
TONY EVERS
GOVERNOR

By the Governor:

Sarah Godlewski
SARAH GODLEWSKI
Secretary of State

Andrea Szvec receives Putting Families First Award from Governor Evers

May 3, 2026



Pictured from left to right: Wisconsin Department of Children and Families Secretary-designee Jeff Pertl, Jefferson County Human Services employee Andrea Szvec and Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers.

Ryan Roecker/Office of the Jefferson County Administrator

Jefferson County's Andrea Szvec and other human services employees from across the state accepted 2026 Secretary's Putting Families First Awards from Governor Tony Evers and Department of Children and Families Secretary-designee Jeff Pertl at a ceremony in Madison on April 27.

Presented by the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families, Szvec is one of five Wisconsin child-welfare professionals to receive the honor. The award recognizes innovative approaches to reducing barriers to safely keep families together and connected to their communities and culture.

“Strong families are critical to our state’s success, and they’re built every day through intentional effort, open communication and unwavering commitment to supporting kids. Honoring Family Strengthening Month during the Year of the Neighbor serves as a powerful reminder that this vital work is a responsibility we collectively share, and it’s work we have to keep doing together,” said Gov. Evers. “In order for us to meet families where they are at, we must collaborate and walk alongside families as they navigate life’s challenges.

Putting Family First awards are given to folks who embody what it means to help families find and build upon their strengths so they can safely stay together, and we’re grateful to be able to celebrate their partnership and efforts.”

In Jefferson County, Szwec oversees the Parents Supporting Parents and Family Teaming programs.

Parents Supporting Parents utilizes Parent Partners who have previously experienced the child-welfare system and wish to support parents newly involved with the system. The goal of the programming is to engage parents more fully in case planning, provide information and support parents in working to reunify with their children.

Family Teaming unites parents, caregivers, children, natural supports, staff working with the family, and service providers to build a customized plan for each child’s safety, well-being, and permanency. The scope of this program is to bring everyone who plays an important role in the child’s life together to plan for safety, well-being and permanency.

The program is a structured meeting facilitated by a Family Teaming Facilitator that involves the parents or caregivers, children or youth, natural supports, the staff working with the family and service providers. It is intended to involve the family’s voice in decision-making, build a support network around the child, and identify strengths, resources and unmet needs.

“Andrea invests in her Parent Partners,” said Szwec’s Jefferson County team member Samantha DeBias. “Her management style honors the individual, the team, the program, and the parents being served here. Andrea’s patience, knowledge, and sincere care for this work should be the standard for anyone working with children and families.”

The full list of awardees include:

- **Parents with Lived Experience** — Elyse Harvey of Eau Claire County and Brontae Hibbler of Rock County received recognition for serving as a support to other families navigating, or involved with, the child welfare system.
- **Community Partners** — Power of Paths Youth Action Board of Milwaukee, Walker’s Point Youth and Family Center of Milwaukee, and Washington County Foster Closet received recognition for their strong collaboration with their local child welfare agencies and other community partners to keep families safely together and in their homes.
- **Child Welfare Professionals** — Coralie Burrows of Juneau County; Andrea Szwec of Jefferson County; and Alexis Burich, Kelly Lewens and Alyssa Reske of Door County all received recognition for their passion for innovative approaches to reducing

barriers to safely keep families together and connected to their communities and culture.

“The individuals celebrated today are doing critical, meaningful work to support children, youth and families in their communities. Each of their unique sets of expertise, compassion and advocacy help children feel safe, parents feel supported, and communities grow stronger. This award recognizes what their daily work already proves: they are essential to helping families connect and thrive,” Pertl said.

Andrea Szwec sees bright, expansive future for County programs

Wednesday, May 6, 2026

[JAMES KUCKKAN james@wdtimes.com](mailto:james@wdtimes.com)



JEFFERSON — For Jefferson County Human Services employee Andrea Szwec, receiving a [2026 Secretary’s Putting Families First Award](#) from Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers and the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families was “both humbling and meaningful.”

She said that the fact it came from fellow professionals in her field who are “doing the day-to-day work” made it special.

“Over the past 24 years, I’ve dedicated my work to supporting families and protecting children,” said Szwec. “In my current role, I have the privilege of learning from and elevating the voices of parents with lived experience. Their insight is essential in shaping a child welfare system that better services families, and I’m grateful to play a part in helping ensure that their voices are heard.

“What makes this award especially meaningful to me is that the nominations came from them, the ones who are doing the day-to-day work of supporting and advocating for families and being the voice for change. That makes this award truly special.”

Szwec oversees the Parents Supporting Parents and Family Teaming programs for Jefferson County, where she helps families in the community build strong support systems.

“Through Parents Supporting Parents, we connect parents with trained mentors who provide guidance, encouragement and advocacy at every stage, while also helping them access needed community resources,” she said. “Through Family Teaming, I (also) support the facilitation process that brings families together with their informal supports, service

providers, agency staff and other key partners. These collaborative meetings are designed to identify strengths, address concerns, and develop meaningful, goal-oriented plans that help families move forward successfully.”

Szwec does not intend to rest on her laurels — she described a bright and expansive future for the programs she manages, and the child welfare system in Jefferson County as a whole.

“The future of Parents Supporting Parents is to continue to walk alongside parents as they navigate the challenges of the child welfare system,” said Szwec. “By listening to and learning from their lived experiences, we can help shape more responsive practices in our agency and influence how our broader community supports families and children. I also hope to see the program expand across Wisconsin and welcome the opportunity to support new sites as they implement the model and support the parent mentors who make this work possible.

“For Family Teaming, the goal is to continue demonstrating the power of partnership, showing how collaboration between families and their support systems can be truly transformational as they work through life’s challenges.”