

**BARRON COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2024 -3**

**Resolution To Request Hospital Sisters Health System (HSHS) and Prevea Health to Work Collaboratively with Partners for Continuation of Care and Services**

**TO THE BARRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

1           **WHEREAS**, Hospital Sisters Health System (HSHS) and Prevea Health have been  
2 integral to the local health system in providing quality healthcare and services to the  
3 residents of the Chippewa Valley and beyond; and  
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5           **WHEREAS**, HSHS in the Chippewa Valley maintains 140 hospital beds with  
6 HSHS and Prevea serving 900 expectant mothers, 100 cancer patients, and 50 dialysis  
7 patients annually in addition to providing healthcare services and care in areas such as  
8 wound care, psychiatric and AODA treatment, and hospice as well as many other services;  
9 and  
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11           **WHEREAS**, Prevea Health and HSHS account for approximately 13% of the GDP  
12 in the local community, while employing approximately 1,400 individuals in the Chippewa  
13 Valley; and  
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15           **WHEREAS**, Barron County expresses its deepest appreciation to HSHS and  
16 Prevea Health for the steadfast commitment to local healthcare and years of dedicated  
17 service to the community; and  
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19           **WHEREAS**, the impending closures of HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital in Eau Claire,  
20 HSHS St. Joseph’s Hospital in Chippewa Falls, Prevea Health locations in the Chippewa  
21 Valley, and other facilities that are part of the HSHS network (i.e. L.E. Phillips-Libertus  
22 Treatment Center), will have profound impacts on patients, employees, the public,  
23 healthcare, and the local economy; and  
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25           **WHEREAS**, there are community efforts currently underway to try to address the  
26 impacts of these planned closures, however time is of the essence; and  
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28           **WHEREAS**, the Chippewa Valley community would greatly benefit from HSHS  
29 and Prevea Health delaying the planned closures and working collaboratively with the  
30 medical community and other local stakeholders to ensure quality healthcare and services  
31 continue to be available in the Chippewa Valley; and  
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33           **WHEREAS**, attached to this resolution as further documentation and explanation  
34 is the entire text of a similar resolution passed by Chippewa County on February 8, 2024;  
35 and  
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37           **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin Senate Bill 1014 is being considered by the Wisconsin  
38 State Senate, text attached; and  
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40           **WHEREAS**, the Barron County Board of Supervisors supports Senate Bill 1014;  
41 and

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**WHEREAS**, on Saturday, February 10, 2024, Scott Allen, Executive Director of West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission emailed Chair Okey regarding the task force being formed in the Chippewa Valley to address the closing of HSHS and Prevea; and

**WHEREAS**, the Barron County Board of Supervisors is supportive of this task force and the work of West Central Regional Planning Commission in this event; and

**WHEREAS**, currently it is difficult for Barron County staff to fully determine the costs to be absorbed by future Barron County budgets as a result of this “tax-shift. However, these estimated costs may range from \$300K to as much as \$1M.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Barron County Board of Supervisors requests HSHS and Prevea Health to utilize the entire transition timeline to allow community stakeholders including, but not limited to, the medical community and local municipalities, to work collaboratively to ensure a continuity of service within the community for the health and well-being of residents; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the chief executive officers of HSHS and Prevea Health, as well as the Governor and all state legislators that represent area affected by the HSHS and Prevea Health closures; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that publication of this resolution may occur through posting in accordance with Section 985.02 of the Wisconsin Statutes.

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**OFFERED THIS 19<sup>th</sup> day of February 2024**

<p>Number of readings required: One ( <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ) Two ( <input type="checkbox"/> )</p> <p>Vote required for passage: Majority ( <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ) 2/3 Entire Board (20) ( <input type="checkbox"/> )</p> <p>Source of funding: Budgeted ( <input type="checkbox"/> ) General Fund ( <input type="checkbox"/> ) Grant ( <input type="checkbox"/> ) Contingency ( <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ) Other ( <input type="checkbox"/> )</p> <p>Fiscal impact: - Current year total amount: \$ Unknown - Future years total amount: \$ Unknown - Effect on tax levy – current year - \$ Unknown - Effect on tax levy – future years - \$ Unknown</p> <p>Fiscal impact reviewed by County Finance Department</p> <p>_____ Jodi Busch, Finance Director</p> <p>Approved as to form by:</p> <p>_____ Jeffrey French, Administrator</p> <p>_____ John Muench, Corporation Counsel</p>	<p>_____ Louie Okey, Chair Executive Committee</p> <p>_____ Karolyn Bartlett, Chair Health &amp; Human Services</p> <p>(The Committee Chair signature verifies the action taken by the Committee.)</p> <p>Board Action: Adopted ( <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ) Failed ( <input type="checkbox"/> ) Tabled ( <input type="checkbox"/> )</p> <p><b>Motion: (Rogers/Thompson)</b> to approve. Chair Okey gave an explanation of the current concerns with the closure of Sacred Heart Hospital, St. Joseph’s Hospital and the area Prevea Clinics. Carried with 27 Yes, 1 No (Langman) and 1 Absent (Effertz).</p>
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