

TO THE HONORABLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN:
Your County Administration Committee respectfully recommends the adoption of the following

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, on June 15, 2022, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) issued a Memorandum inviting our Court to apply for a renewal of the Title IV-E Child and Parent Legal Representation Grant that will allow the department to pass through Title IV-E administrative dollars to support high quality child and parent legal representation in child protective proceedings; and

WHEREAS, the Berrien County Trial Court applied for the grant via Resolution #A2208322 and Berrien County subsequently accepted a grant award of approximately \$80,000 via Resolution #A2210361; and

WHEREAS, on October 20, 2022, the MDHHS issued a Memorandum requesting that our Court amend our application as additional funding had become available for this grant; and

WHEREAS, we are eligible for an additional \$41,000 in funding under this grant amendment; and

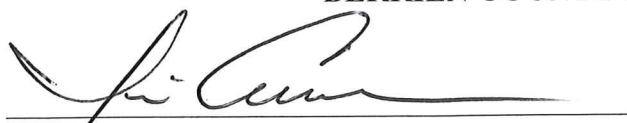
WHEREAS, this grant opportunity is intended to continue additional support of high quality child and legal representation in child protective proceedings; and

WHEREAS, the Berrien County Trial Court/Family Division is requesting authorization to submit an amendment to our grant application to 1) contract with a provider to implement a Parents as Partners program; 2) contract with a Social Worker to work with the attorneys who represent parents in child protective proceedings; 3) pay for ancillary legal services to expedite closure of child dependency proceedings and 4) implement quality trainings for attorneys providing legal representation in child dependency proceedings, and 5) pay for pre-petition legal services in order to receive an additional \$41,000 for this project; and

WHEREAS, the grant is effective from October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023 and there is no cash match requirement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Berrien County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Family Division to submit an amendment to the grant application to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services for additional funds under the Title IV-E Child and Parent Legal Representation Grant.


RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED
BERRIEN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE




Jim Curran, Chairperson




David Vollrath, Vice Chairperson



James R. Martin



Julie Wuerfel

RESOLUTION APPROVED AS		Julie Wuerfel
Administrator		Date 10-24
Comments Attached		
Corporate Counsel	TW	Date 10/23/22