

CO-SPONSORSHIP MEMORANDUM

TO: Legislative Colleagues

FROM: Sen. Jesse James

Rep. Clint Moses

DATE: May 27th, 2025

RE: Co-Sponsorship of LRB-3328/ LRB-3361, relating to: a grant to assist in the renovation of an existing facility in the city of Chippewa Falls to provide a 50-bed treatment center to men with substance use disorders and making an appropriation.

SHORT DEADLINE: May 29 at 4:00 p.m.

To be added as a co-sponsor, please reply to this e-mail or contact Sen. James' or Rep. Moses' office by May 29 at 4:00 p.m.

Last year, western Wisconsin experienced unprecedented healthcare closures when HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital in Eau Claire, St. Joseph's Hospital in Chippewa Falls, and Prevea Health pulled out of the region. Simultaneously, without notice or public explanation, the Libertas Treatment Center closed its doors after providing substance use treatment services in Chippewa Falls since 1977. Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan (LSS) recently acquired the former Libertas Treatment Center.

Through the purchase and renovation of this facility, LSS plans to open a 50-bed medically monitored and transitional residential treatment center that will serve adult men (ages 18-65+) who self-refer or are referred by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) County unit or a correctional facility. Chippewa Valley residents will be given priority for

services, but referrals from across state would be accepted. Women will continue to receive services through a well-established LSS program located in Eau Claire, WI.

The new treatment center will offer daily, evidence-based treatment methods. Clients will participate in a variety of group activities and therapy sessions designed to inform, educate and motivate them as they heal, recover, and prepare for their transition home and within the community. Clients may also engage in educational and employment opportunities (e.g., GED/HSED virtually, employment outside of the facility, etc.). The typical stay for medically monitored clients will be four to six weeks. For transitional, residential clients, the average stay will range from 30 to 120+ days. Upon discharge, clients will be referred to a continuing care option, such as an outpatient clinic and/or recovery coaching from LSS, as needed.

LSS plans to upgrade the former Libertas Center facility, ensuring that clients experience spaces that are welcoming and safe to assist the healing and recovery process for these patients.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill requires the Department of Administration to award a grant in the amount of \$1,000,000 to Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, Inc., to assist in the purchase and renovation of the Libertas Treatment Center in the city of Chippewa Falls to provide a 50-bed treatment center to men with substance use disorders who are in need of recovery services. For further information see the state fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.