



*Office of County Administrator  
County of La Crosse, Wisconsin*

County Administrative Center  
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**Memo To: La Crosse County Board of Supervisors**  
**From: Steve O'Malley, County Administrator**  
**Date: November 1, 2010**

**Re: November Monthly Report to the County Board**

Attached is the November Monthly Report to the County Board, providing monitoring information about department activities to the full County Board instead of reporting only to governing committees.

**REMINDER** **Monthly Reporting by roughly half the organization every other month.** While you will receive this report each month, the reports do not cover every department each time.

February, April, June, August, Oct. & Dec.

Planning, Resources & Development  
Public Works & Infrastructure  
Judiciary & Law Enforcement  
Corp Counsel & Child Support

January, March, May, July, September, November

Health & Human Services  
Aging & Long Term Care  
County Clerk, Finance, IT,  
Printing, Personnel, Treasurer

**“OF INTEREST”**

**Budget Public Hearing Monday November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010 and Annual Meeting Tuesday November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

This week's Policy Planning meeting will consider several budget related resolutions, including calling for the sale of several debt issues that will save County tax levy in 2011. Next week the full County Board will hold the annual budget public hearing, followed by a debate and deliberation on any particular items that the board directs. *If you have individual motions that you would like staff to prepare, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can be prepared.*

**New Human Services Director begins this week**

Jason Witt our new Human Services Director begins this week. We are all looking forward to welcoming Jason to La Crosse County and helping us to meet future challenges.

*If you have any questions, feel free to contact me by phone or e-mail.  
County Administrator direct line: 785-9789, cell phone 608-385-3316  
or e-mail [steve.omalley@co.la-crosse.wi.us](mailto:steve.omalley@co.la-crosse.wi.us)*

# MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

## Aging & Long Term Care November 2010

### Lakeview Health Center

#### CELEBRATING 5 YEARS

On October 31, 2010 we will be celebrating five years in the assisted living business. On Halloween Day 2005, Lakeview opened its first Adult Family Home in West Salem. MacIntosh Manor opened its doors to four former Lakeview residents with developmental disabilities. Today the same four individuals still call MacIntosh Manor home.

Fast forward to 2010 and how we have grown in the community! Today we have another four bed Adult Family Home for people with developmental disabilities (Regent Manor) and a 14 bed community based residential facility (Maplewood) for individuals with mental health needs. We provide care at an adjacent elderly housing complex and we also have opened our workshop to community workers.

In 2011 we are exploring the possibility of opening another Adult Family Home for persons with AODA and/or mental health issues.

As a county entity we continue to strive to meet the needs of La Crosse County residents and the trend continues to be in the community, so we too will follow that direction.

*Pam Semb*

### La Crosse County Aging Unit

- Joins us for our *Holiday Open House* at Gifted Hands, a senior consignment shop in Old Towne North, 1200 Caledonia.  
Friday, November 12<sup>th</sup> from 9:30AM – 5:00PM  
Saturday, November 13<sup>th</sup> from 9:30AM – 4:00PM  
Refreshments served throughout both days!  
**Get a head start on your holiday shopping.**
- The Senior Nutrition Program is currently evaluating an RFP to provide meals to the city of La Crosse Senior Meal Sites.
- Stepping On, a falls prevention class for those 65 and older, is currently being offered in Mindoro.
- A "Train the Trainer" class for Stepping On has resulted in 15 new trainers who will be giving classes to older people to help them prevent falls. In addition, two people attended from Utah so they can begin a Falls Prevention Program there.

- "Powerful Tools for Caregiving: *Taking Care of You*" a class to teach family caregivers how to better take care of themselves was just completed at the First Congregational Church where 16 caregivers attended. The church and the Aging Unit jointly sponsored the event.
- Forest Park Senior Mealsite is enjoying a newly remodeled dining room. The new round tables look wonderful and are enjoyed by the participants. The new chairs should be delivered next week.
- Dawn Jorstad, Nutrition Program Coordinator, is now the Vice-President of the Wisconsin Association of Nutrition Directors.

*NoREEN Kuroski*

## **Veterans Service Office**

### VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE ALC REPORT

- **FINAL GULF WAR PRESUMPTIVE ILLNESS REPORT:** The following conditions have been linked to service in Southwest Asia during and after the Gulf War in 1990-1991:
  - Brucellosis
  - Campylobacter jejuni
  - Coxiella burnetti
  - Malaria
  - Mycobacterium tuberculosis
  - Nontyphoid Salmonella
  - Shigella
  - Visceral leishmaniasis
  - West Nile virus
  - Chronic fatigue syndrome
  - Irritable bowel syndrome
  - Fibromyalgia

Any Gulf War veteran diagnosed with any of the above conditions *at any time* after service in Southwest Asia is "presumed" to have gotten the disease while stationed there. The presumption clause makes disability claims much simpler for the veteran.

- **2010 LA CROSSE STAND DOWN, OCTOBER 21, 2010:** The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual La Crosse Veterans Stand Down went very successfully, with 370 veterans in attendance throughout the day. Special thanks to the Veterans Assistance Foundation and Danielle Olson, Tomah VA Medical Center's Stand Down Coordinator for assistance with this event.
- **2010 VETERANS DAY ACTIVITIES/VETERANS COURT ACTIVATION CEREMONY:**

November 11, 2010 Veterans Day Schedule

**8:00 AM: La Crosse Area Veterans Court Activation Ceremony,**  
Courthouse, Branch 3 Courtroom

**10:00 AM:** Nondenominational service at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 6<sup>th</sup> and Division Streets.

**10:40-11:00 AM:** Veterans Day Ceremony at American Legion Post 52, 711 S. 6<sup>th</sup> St., La Crosse.

**Please check with your local American Legion or VFW post for Veterans Day ceremony information in outlying communities.**

Jim Gausmann, CVSO

## **Hillview Health Care Center**

After several years of hard work by staff and county board members the Hillview Health Care Center campus will soon become home to a new certified assisted living facility. On Friday October 29, 2010 Hillview Health Care Center held a groundbreaking ceremony for our assisted living facility set to open in fall of 2011, this new complex will have 30 apartments on two stories, to help preserve the natural beauty of the area. We are truly excited to bring this new and distinctive assisted living facility. We look forward to continue to provide high quality health care services to the seniors and families of this great community for many years to come."

The assisted living completes the continuum of care at Hillview. Currently Hillview offers 57 independent living senior apartments and 199 bed nursing home on the campus. The assisted living will allow the campus to offer all three levels of care to seniors. A waiting list has already been established for the assisted living apartments. Along with choosing private apartment accommodations, seniors will be able to select from a variety of services.

The concept of the individualized service plan along with the beauty of the facility will be a wonderful asset for this community and the campus. We view this as a natural extension of our mission to improve the quality of life and health for all those we serve. Hillview will offer a homelike environment designed to allow seniors to feel comfortable and safe. The building will have numerous amenities while having peace of mind in knowing that immediate assistance is available 24 hours a day. Some of the services that contribute to that peace of mind that tenants could choose include: assistance with activities of daily living, medication management, and three daily meals. We are excited to such a positive and beautifully-designed residence and to continue our mission in serving a growing senior adult population utilizing our caring staff.

*Pete Eide, Administrator  
Hillview Health Care Center*

# MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

## Health & Human Services November 2010

### Human Services Department

#### **CHEMICAL HEALTH & JUSTICE SANCTIONS**

##### Transition from Jail to Community (TJC) Initiative

The TJC Initiative has been providing technical assistance to La Crosse County regarding people in the criminal justice system. They have been instrumental in obtaining the "Thinking for a Change" training, which will be implemented in the jail, in the community, and at the Women's Community Based Program within a couple of months. They are promoting a change within CH&JS to put more resources toward higher needs/higher risk clients and decrease the resources for lower risk/lower needs clients. Staff members are working to reorganize staff to implement this change, along with providing more services in the jail and the community. Services being reviewed are housing, employment, education, family, cognitive behavioral groups, and substance abuse.

##### Women's Community Based Program

Open house is scheduled for December 16<sup>th</sup>.

#### **MENTAL HEALTH RECOVERY SERVICES**

La Crosse County is one of eight counties working with the state to try and reduce the readmission rate for the local hospital through implementing new ideas. We are collaborating with Gundersen in our local project. The project began in April and ends in October. Data to this point suggests that interventions such as the CARE Center and other smaller steps appear to have cut the rate of readmission to the inpatient unit at Gundersen to half the state average.

#### **FAMILY & CHILDREN'S**

##### Alternative Response

The Department hosted a community meeting to inform and educate our community partners more specifically about our new Alternative Response process for Child Protective Services. Dan Comer and Catherine Williamson Hardy from North Carolina presented to schools, law enforcement, private agency providers and other community partners the experiences of Alternative Response in other states, where we are at in WI, and what are the next steps. For more information contact Mary Ellen Prinsen.

##### Changes in Foster Care

There are many changes coming from the state regarding child foster care in 2011. The year 2011 will begin the rollout of all the level systems 3, 4, and 5. Each of the level systems will have different requirements about training and funding. Some of our specialized homes will most likely qualify for level 3 or 4. With the new level system, children will need to be placed in a home that meets requirements according to the CANS (child abuse and neglect) assessment. To be able to place a child in a lower level home, a support plan will need to be in place that demonstrates the foster parents' ability to meet the child's needs. The frequency of contact with the foster home also changes with level 3

and 4 placements. Social workers would need two contacts per month as opposed to the one they are currently doing.

Changes in the foster care code for 2011 also include increased training responsibilities for foster parents. Each foster parent will be required to have 10 hours per year for level 2 homes, level 3 homes need 18 hours, and level 4 homes will need 24 hours of training per year.

**ECONOMIC SUPPORT**

The agency’s W-2 caseload continues to increase, as even those individuals prepared for immediate employment experience prolonged unemployment. In response to the need for enhanced services to assist W-2 participants with employment search, the agency has contracted with GeminiCares to provide job development and to provide one on one employment services to W-2 participants.

*Dean Ruppert*  
*Interim Human Services Director*

**Health Department**

The Mission of the Health Department is “Improve the quality of life and health of all people in La Crosse County”. The Health Department’s long term plan has 5 goals with related objectives to help focus its activities as it works to accomplish this mission. Below is the report of progress in accomplishing these objectives in the third quarter of 2010.

**LA CROSSE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
 2010 Goals & Objectives**

<b><u>GOALS/OBJECTIVE</u></b>	<b><u>3rd Quarter</u></b>
<b>GOAL #1 Provide public health services to meet changing needs.</b>	
1.a. Maintain La Crosse County Annual Years of Potential Life Lost among the lowest third in the state.	Objective met
1.b. By Dec. 2010, conduct at least 100 consultations, inspections or orders for homes suspected to have radon, lead or mold exposure.	Radiation – 30 Lead – 24 Radon - 36
1.c. By Dec. 2010, complete over 700 communicable disease follow-ups on 83 reportable diseases or conditions.	ED-132, VC-59, PHN 22
1.d. By Dec. 2010, provide home health nursing and Personal Care services to 75% of referral received.	At 75%
1.e. By Dec. 2010, there will be a 3% increase from 2009 rates of infants residing in La Crosse County who turn 24 months of age during the contract year will have received the primary series of immunizations.	76% in 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter
1.f. By Dec. 2010, have the monthly testing of 10 area municipal drinking water systems show the systems to be safe.	100%
1.g. By Dec. 31, 2010 more than 70% of infants whose mothers were enrolled in the La Crosse WIC Program prenatally will be breastfed	66.4%

<b>GOALS/OBJECTIVE</b>	<b>3rd Quarter</b>
1.h. By Dec. 31, 2010, 5 schools in the County will have implemented Safe Routes to School Programs	13 schools
1.i. By Dec. 31, 2010, assist 100 uninsured individuals enroll in the Badger Care Plus Program.	100
1.j. By Dec. 2010, provide employee wellness services to 25% of all La Crosse County employees.	ED- tobacco cessation to 14 employees, Nutr-24.3% of employees have received an individual contact from the Occ. Health Nutritionist, PHN=111 received Health Risk Appraisals through Healics
1.k. By Dec. 2010, less than 3 reported cases of mosquito-borne West Nile or La Crosse Encephalitis.	No mosquito-borne disease cases clinically identified
1.l. By Dec. 2010 meeting the 2010 budget goals for the dept.	Budget met except for Home Health
1.m. For the year ending Dec. 2010 in an effort to receive 95% of signed doctor's orders within the 20 calendar day limit, clerical staff will attempt three contacts with physicians' offices to request return of the orders to the Health Department.	Data not collected
<b>GOAL #2 Utilize technology to improve public health services.</b>	
2.a. By Dec. 2010, establish an electronic reportable disease-case report system.	Wisconsin Electronic Data Statistical System operating
2.b. March and April thru November Surveillance, trapping, and control activities for disease carrying mosquitoes and ticks.	Goal continues to be met
2.c. By Dec. 2010, the Business Continuity Plan will be tested	No action in quarter
2.d. By Dec. 2010, complete initial planning for a department-wide electronic health record system.	Delayed until 2011/other priorities in Info. Tech. Dept.
<b>GOAL #3 Maintain the current State of Wisconsin designation as the highest-level public health agency.</b>	
3.a. Report each quarter on the range of high priority services needed to maintain status of Level III HD.	Designation received
<b>GOAL #4 Expand partnerships to develop public health services in high priority areas.</b>	
4.a. By Dec. 2010, expand the current partnership with dentists to increase persons covered by MA that receive dental care to over 25%.	Latest Report 23%
4.b. By Dec 2010 HD employees will participate in the following partnerships:	
Western Regional Partnership for Public Health Preparedness"	On-going
Staff 7 C's coalition which includes La Crosse, Monroe, Jackson, Buffalo, Vernon, Crawford, Trempealeau and Jackson counties.	1 quarterly meeting
WI Public Health Laboratory Network	No meetings held in quarter
Coulee Region Childhood Obesity Coalition	9 meetings held
Safe Route to School Task Force - SRTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City of La Crosse</li> <li>• La Crosse County</li> </ul>	No meetings held this quarter
La Crosse Area Immunization Coalition	8/25/10 meeting focused on seasonal influenza planning &

<b>GOALS/OBJECTIVE</b>	<b>3rd Quarter</b>
	upcoming Immunization Symposium
La Crosse Area Communicable Disease Coalition	ED & PHN – 1 meeting,
La Crosse Long Term Care Coordinating Committee	Did not meet this quarter
ECO-County Plan for Sustainability	Did not participate this quarter
<b>GOAL #5 Hire and retain high quality staff by providing a positive work environment.</b>	
5.a. By Dec 2010, all staff will have had a performance review.	90% completed
5.b. By Dec 2010, all staff will have the opportunity to meet with mgmt at least quarterly.	On-going
5.c. By Dec 2010 all staff will have the opportunity to attend 30 hours of continuing ed.	On-going
5.d. By August 2010, all staff will have an opportunity to offer suggestions for the 2010 budget that could improve the potential to reach the HD Mission.	Budget meetings held with all Home Care staff with opportunity to offer suggestions. VC, ENV-done
5.e. By Dec 2010, assure that all staff meets basic licensing certification and accreditation requirements.	ENV, HC, PHN LAB – current, NUTR 6 of 7 Nutritionists registered & certified

The following table provides information on the number of persons in La Crosse County that are utilizing the NACo Prescription Drug Discount Program since it started in January 2010.

Total Prescriptions	1,553
Total Users	797
Total Savings	\$18,302.68
Average Saving Per Prescription	\$11.79

*Doug Mormann*  
*Health Director*

# MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

## Internal Departments November 2010

### Treasurer's Office

The delinquent notices were sent out in September and we have had a good response on them. Some people are surprised to get a notice and they find out their mortgage company had not paid their taxes. It is a good way to get things paid. Lottery letters have been sent out to the property owners and they have started coming back and we will apply them to the tax system before the tax bills are run.

#### DELINQUENT – MONTHLY COLLECTIONS

MONTH/YEAR	TAX	INTEREST	SPECIALS	INTEREST	TOTAL
Jan-10	173,562.28	41,674.77	4,273.05	508.96	220,019.06
Feb-10	119,236.44	32,610.71	3,974.88	505.63	156,327.66
March-10	106,538.46	36,944.27	1,619.04	224.77	145,326.54
April-10	223,519.31	66,012.07	1,754.66	262.83	291,548.87
May-10	112,192.80	34,474.23	3,324.79	499.23	150,491.05
June-10	79,299.88	24,518.30	1,746.90	292.69	105,857.77
July-10	74,040.60	25,686.09	1,333.09	239.49	101,299.27
Aug-10	89,647.08	38,315.73	496.90	90.99	128,550.70
Sept-10	535,584.04	80,402.47	9,933.91	874.63	626,795.05

#### CURRENT YEAR – MONTHLY COLLECTIONS

MONTH/YEAR	TAX	INTEREST	SPECIALS	INTEREST	TOTAL
Feb-10	381,348.29	2,463.89			383,812.18
March-10	483,352.42	9,688.47			493,040.89
April-10	266,612.01	5,715.62			272,327.63
May-10	205,661.35	4,061.85			209,723.20
June-10	1,186,218.39	4,375.27			1,190,593.66
July-10	12,458,108.27	9,669.16	40,752.85	950.27	12,509,480.55
Aug-10	4,206,789.54	31,429.13	6,623.70	424.76	4,245,267.13

Reported by Donna Hanson, County Treasurer

### County Clerk's Office

#### Elections

##### November 2, 2010 Partisan Election:

- Ballots: Thanks to a dedicated printer, we received the absentee ballots on October 1<sup>st</sup> so the municipal clerks could mail the military absentees by the 10/1 deadline mandated by the Federal Government. Unfortunately that mandate added about \$300 to our delivery costs. We also supplied the clerks with ballots in adobe document format

before that, which was an acceptable alternative for any clerk that couldn't get to La Crosse to pick up the absentee ballots that day. Since then, all of the ballots, test ballots and election day supplies have been picked up by the municipalities.

- o 64,100 ballots were ordered. This includes 1,565 test ballots and 185 sample ballots, which leaves 62,350 for the electorate, or 85% of active registered voters. We weighed anticipated voter interest with past turnout and the projections of the municipal clerks ... the usual guessing game ... and now can only hope we don't run out nor have too many left unused. They are 1 sided, 3 column, 15". Note that we could have had a 14" ballot if there had been no County referendum question. According to the printer, that would have been about \$2,300, less.

### **Dog Licenses**

To date we have sold 728 late dog tags for \$11,648 in revenue for my department which, unfortunately, is \$352 short of budgeted income for that line item. We ordered 17,000 single tags for 2011 and distributed all but about 1,000 of them (which we keep here for late sales) at the annual treasurer's meeting.

### **Marriage Licenses and Domestic Partnership Certifications**

We issued 78 marriage licenses in September and 55 so far for October for a grand total of 133, so you can see they are down some from the 2 previous months. That is typical for this time of year. Marriages are down some nationally as well, but we may still reach our projected revenue for 2010. We issued 3 Domestic Partnership Certificates since the last report. The market for this new option is apparently much less than anticipated statewide, which will result in that revenue being considerably less than budgeted for.

### **DNR**

We recently took on a new service for the DNR. We are processing ATV, boat and snowmobile registrations and transfers. To date we have received \$297.50 in revenue.

### **County Board**

Redistricting: I have been making contact with various county clerks, administrators and executives around the state who are or have dealt with downsizing their county board size, as directed by the Redistricting Committee. The positive opinions slightly outnumber the negative, with the most negative comments coming from those who downsized 60% or more, and by a mandatory citizen referendum. Next I will be researching MN & IA Counties of similar size.

Respectfully Submitted, Linda Stone, County Clerk