



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

County Administrative Center  
400 4th Street North • Room 3300 • La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601-3200  
(608) 785-9700 • Fax (608) 789-4821  
[www.co.la-crosse.wi.us](http://www.co.la-crosse.wi.us)

**Memo To: La Crosse County Board of Supervisors**  
**From: Steve O'Malley, County Administrator**  
**Date: July 7, 2011**

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

Attached is the July 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”**

14<sup>th</sup> annual ride for Habitat for Humanity

Just a reminder that I will be out to town on vacation next week to ride in the Habitat 500 bike ride to benefit the work of Habitat for Humanity, so I will not be attending any of the committee meetings or Monday's Policy Planning meeting. Thank you to everyone for their support of me in this event.

Policy Planning Agenda for Monday July 11, 2011

The agenda includes several interesting items that should interest the entire County Board.

- Report of the Assessment reform committee include input from towns on improvements to the process
- Xcel Energy Annual report on the operations of the French Island facility
- Brief overview on the comparison of La Crosse County tipping fees with other facilities and the successful response to area haulers in better utilization of the rebate program to provide incentives that significantly increase the volume of local waste brought to our system.

Vets Park Pond

Recently there were some questions raised about the negative impact of the Beaver population on this amenity in the park. Later in this report, the Parks & Facilities department has provided an update on this issue even though their usual reporting month is in August.

*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 July 2011

### Lakeview Health Center

#### MISSISSIPPI VALLEY HEALTH SERVICES COMMISSION "BIRTHDAY" OR HOW I SPENT MY SUMMER IN 2006

It is hard to believe but five years ago this summer our Mississippi Valley Health Services commission was on its way to becoming a reality. 2006 was the summer of the "road show" for La Crosse County employees. County Administrator Steve O'Malley, Corporation Counsel Bill Shepherd, Former Human Services Director Jerry Huber, and Lakeview Administrator Pam Semb traveled around the state with several La Crosse County Board Supervisors to Human Services Boards, Finance Committees and finally full County Boards where ordinances were passed allowing their county to join Mississippi Valley Health Services.

A simple but precise directive from Steve O'Malley has resulted in more financial stability for Lakeview HC. We have continued to grow in member counties (we are now at 13) and we have allowed MCOs to admit to the facility as well. As of the end of May in 2011 alone, Mississippi Valley Health Services has billed member counties and MCO's over one million dollars for Lakeview's services. Here's to the continued success of MVHS in 2011 and beyond.

*Pam Semb, Administrator  
Lakeview Health Center*

### Aging Unit

#### Continuing Concern for Aging Programs

- **Minibus and Volunteer Driver Programs** in the Aging Unit provide 25,000 rides annually, may be facing a 10% cut in 2012. Collective bargaining has been retained for the MTU (City Bus in La Crosse), saving us from drastic cuts in service. Seniors who want to remain in their own homes would be isolated without transportation. Retaining transportation options is a benefit for everyone who wants to remain in their own home as they age. Prevents premature entry to assisted living or nursing home at great cost to seniors & to taxpayers. Nursing home costs \$60,000 - \$70,000 a year for one person or \$6 to \$7 million for 100 people.
- **Homestead Tax Credit** frozen. Helps keep seniors in their own homes. No COLA increase in Social Security payments for two years but increased costs in food, gas, heating, etc., hit seniors on fixed incomes hard. This tax credit helps them adjust for inflation & pay their property taxes.

- Both **home-delivered meals & congregate meals** program are funded through the state, federal and county governments. Served 130,000 meals to 2000 people in 2010, many recuperating at home following surgery or illness. Aging programs help older people delay and/or avoid expensive assisted living & nursing home care. 300 volunteers work at meal sites & delivery to homebound. Contributions from participants pay for 18% of the cost.
- **Elderly Benefit Specialist Program** helps seniors with Medicare, Medicare Part D, supplemental insurance, SeniorCare, Social Security, consumer & other problems. Saves county seniors \$800,000-900,000 annually. Their services are important! Cuts to Shared Revenues put all county funded programs at risk.
- Other concerns include: Reduction in **Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)** (federal) may eliminate funding for HJ Olson & Southside Senior Centers, city funded. Reduction in federal **Energy Assistance** means those who qualified this year won't next year with \$600 per month income difference.
- **Short term savings that create long term care cost increases do not save money.**
- The "**AgeWave** " is coming. The population of those 60 years old or older will double within 20 years. The La Crosse County Aging Unit is already experiencing increased demands for our services. The number of family caregivers in need of support will also increase dramatically.

*Noreen Kuroski*  
*Aging Director*

# MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

## Health & Human Services July 2011

### Health Department

Health Department Mission:

Protect, Promote and Improve the Health of All People in the County

Selected activities undertaken to meet 2011 Health Department goals include:

Goal #1 – Provide high priority public health services

- Health Department staff responded to the La Crosse tornado primarily for home assessment. Fortunately, more extensive services to support community members at shelters, respond to contaminated food or water supplies or other public health emergency response was not needed.
- Mosquito control activities are at a high level, as would be expected in the spring. Fortunately, no mosquito-borne disease cases have been identified in the County to date, although, there are incidents in the region.
- TB control and immunization activities in the Public Health Nursing Division are being delivered at the rate expected for this time of the year.
- Promotions this spring to encourage the public to conduct a radon test in their homes resulted in the highest number of test kits sold in any year to date.
- Reductions in Home Health Nursing time while maintaining anticipated levels of visits is enabling the Home Care Program to remain close to its planned budget for 2011.
- Home health care service delivery stabilized.

Goal #2 - Achieve and maintain designation as the highest level public health agency

- The Department received an \$11,000 contract to be used to assist the Health Department with the preparations needed to make an application for national accreditation in 2013.

Goal #3 – Promote and utilize partnerships to develop public health services

- Public health organizations and communities around the state and nation are seeking information on the successes here in the County to protect the health of the public through the use of the Communities Putting Prevention to Work (CPPW) Program. This federally financed contract involves coordination of nutrition, exercise, employee wellness, health education and other services with over 25 organizations

and groups in La Crosse County. Staff has been requested to give presentations about this program at several conferences as part of the CPPW contract.

- La Crosse County continues to remain in the top quartile of counties with the highest health status in the state as reported by a study conducted by the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health.
- Good progress is being made to complete a community health needs assessment in conjunction with Great Rivers United Way, area health care systems and numerous other groups. The assessment will be completed in late 2011. It will be used as a guide for United Way, Gundersen Lutheran Health System, Mayo Clinic Health System Franciscan Healthcare, the Health Department and others to focus resources on high priority public health needs.

The Health and Human Services Board accepted the 2010 Health Department Annual Report which is available electronically at [http://www.co.la-crosse.wi.us/Health/pdf/Annual\\_Report/2010.pdf](http://www.co.la-crosse.wi.us/Health/pdf/Annual_Report/2010.pdf).

- Selected high points of the report include:
  - The 2011-2015 Strategic Plan was approved
  - The 2010 Health Department goals identified 35 objectives, of which 30 were met, 4 were not met and 1 could not be determined for lack of data.
  - The Health Department met the 2010 budget goals.
  - Over 100 persons from the community are involved in Department Advisory Committees.
  - The Department staff turnover rate was below 5% for permanent staff.
  - Over 800 reportable diseases were investigated; up about 10 % from 2009.
  - Establishments licensed by the Environmental Health Division remained the same, around 900, while sanitary permits continued to decline about 5% and Lab services remained approximately the same.
  - Program success in public awareness and action to reduce illness associated with tobacco and alcohol use continued.
  - Home care clients remained constant while the number of visits declined about 9%.
  - Nutrition services expanded with the approval of the two-year Communities Putting Prevention to Work contact, and WIC client services remained constant.
  - Public Health Nursing saw a decline in TB case work, an increase in Well Women services and a reduction in total immunizations compared to 2009; the latter reflecting the end of the H1N1 influenza outbreak.
  - Vector Control services were increased to other counties under contract.

*Doug Mormann, Health Director*

## **Human Services Department**

### **ECONOMIC SUPPORT**

#### **Economic Support (ES) Change Center**

In a recent comparison of larger ES Change Centers across Wisconsin, La Crosse County's ES regional Change Center was highlighted for their excellent performance in handling customer's calls. Using call data between mid-March and mid-May 2011, 96.03% of all calls to the Change Center were answered. The average speed of answer was 23 seconds.

#### **Food Share Accuracy Rate**

The Department of Health Services (DHS) released the final FFY 2010 Food Share Accuracy rates for each Wisconsin county. La Crosse County maintained a 100% Food Share accuracy rate for the fiscal year.

### **MENTAL HEALTH RECOVERY SERVICES**

#### **Integrated Dual Diagnosis Treatment (IDDT)**

The state of Wisconsin has allocated \$10,000 for La Crosse County to implement a local project to integrate the Evidence Based IDDT approach into our adult mental health case management programs. This model is considered the most successful approach to utilize for successful consumer outcomes when programs are working with individuals who have co-occurring mental health and substance abuse challenges. We are at the later stages of contract details and anticipate the local project will begin with a community "kick-off" event in August of 2011.

#### **Additional Western Region Crisis Grant Awards**

La Crosse County facilitated a total of three applications to the Western Region Crisis Grant 2011 Request for Proposal process. Our three applications were the only ones selected for funding. The three applications were for:

- \$25,000 that Monroe and Jackson County will access to purchase CARE Center Services.
- \$2,600 that will offset the cost of Crisis Intervention Team training for law enforcement. These funds will help cover the cost of law enforcement personnel from other counties in our region.
- \$15,000 that will be utilized to continue a local project that brings a trained consumer (Peer Specialist) into Gundersen's inpatient psychiatric unit 20 hours per week. Gundersen has begun the process of finding ways to fund this after grant funds are exhausted as they feel it is a significant enhancement to their service. About \$2500 of the funds will be used to train additional consumers from La Crosse and surrounding counties to become Peer Specialists.

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

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

La Crosse County is in the middle of the final stages of the two year technical assistance project. The TJC technical assistance team will be in La Crosse for its final visit June 28-29, 2011. An agenda will be distributed shortly for those who may wish to attend. Due to the assistance of the TJC Initiative, Couleecap has been working with CHJS to provide some housing for those who have a mental illness and are being released from jail. La Crosse County has received training in cognitive behavioral therapy and offender workforce development specialist training.

Representatives from NAMI and the La Crosse Community Foundation are looking at ways to

make the waiting area outside the jail and CHJS into a resource area for people leaving the jail, friends, and family members. As part of the TJC Initiative, Jane Klekamp travelled to Cincinnati to present to the American Jail Association.

*Jason Witt*

*Human Services Director*

# MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

## Internal Departments July 2011

### County Clerk Office

Our office continues to remain busy and it's looking like we will have at least two more elections this year. We had yet another record turnout at the May Special election and are looking for a similar turnout at the July Recall Primary and August Recall election. Someone once told me that odd years for the clerks are good years with only a couple small elections in February and April and then you spend the rest of the year catching up on work that has been pushed to the side. I'm beginning to think I might have heard them wrong!! There has been nothing simple about my first 4 ½ months as County Clerk. But I'm certainly enjoying the experiences with a smile on my face, well at least most of the time.

### Elections

Recount: 29,555, 29,556, 29,557!! We have finished the recount for the office of Justice of the Supreme Court in only 6 days. This shows how smoothly and efficiently we were able to keep moving through the paperwork that our municipal clerks took the time to fill out properly. A big THANK YOU to them for that. A total of 29,557 ballots were recounted. Prosser gained 11 votes and Kloppenburg gained 25 votes. Any changes made to the election totals were from improperly marked ballots or having to draw down ballots for defective absentee certificate envelopes. As time consuming as it was, it was a learning experience and we learned a lot from the recount process. The success of the recount for La Crosse County can only give more confidence in the voters on the electoral process here in La Crosse County. The total cost of the recount to the La Crosse County taxpayers is \$3,374.77. A majority of the cost came in wages for the tabulators, canvass board members and overtime pay for the Deputy County Clerk.

May 3<sup>rd</sup> Special Election: There was yet another high turnout for the May 3<sup>rd</sup> Special election with 38.74% of the registered voters coming out to vote countywide. This is unheard of with spring elections where our turnout rarely tops 20%.

July 12<sup>th</sup> Recall Primary and August 9<sup>th</sup> Recall Election: With these two elections, the total elections for La Crosse County this year is up to 5, of which only 2 have been budgeted for. We are expecting and planning for a voter turnout close to if not higher than the April and May elections for both of these elections.

### Dog Licenses

Citations were mailed at the beginning of June to the 662 dog owners who have failed to license one or more dogs this year. Since this mailing, sale of late dog tags at our counter has gone up as well as phone calls inquiring about their citations. The amount of the citation for failure to license your dog is currently \$200.50.

### Marriage Licenses:

This is the time of year where we have a revolving door of marriage couples coming in to apply for their marriage license. So far this year we have issued 274 marriage licenses for total revenue of \$12,020.

**New Employee**

Lisa Perry has been doing an excellent job in our office and is catching on fast. She has been a great asset.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ginny Dankmeyer, County Clerk

**FACILITIES DEPARTMENT**  
**JAMES M. SPEROPULOS, DIRECTOR**

# **La Crosse County, Wisconsin**

LA CROSSE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER  
400 4<sup>TH</sup> STREET NORTH • ROOM 1370 • LA CROSSE, WISCONSIN 54601-3200  
TELEPHONE (608) 785-9770 FAX (608) 785-5714



Facilities Department  
Veterans Memorial Park - Report on Pond and Beaver Issue  
July 2011

---

In June 2009, the pond level at Veterans Memorial Park became quite high. Facilities staff discovered the outlet pipe was not draining. We had Advanced Pumping come and blow out the pipe. Our plan at that time was to lower the pond level come fall and clean out the area around the pipe, replacing mud with a rock, etc. We did not know it was beaver stuffing debris into the pipe. We continued to check on the pipe to ensure it continued to drain and discovered it stopped draining the end of July. Because the pond is feed by spring water and drainage pipes from other areas, the pond needs to drain and the pipe needs to be open. Advanced Pumping blew the pipe out again and the pond was fine until fall. Come fall we lowered the pond and hired Strupp Trucking to excavate and repair/maintain the outlet pipe.

Come 2010, we discover the beaver are our nuisance animal and the cause of our pipe problems in the pond at Veterans Memorial Park. We utilized the services of the Highway Department and the Village of West Salem to keep the pipe open and drain down the pond. Staff placed some fencing material in front of the pipe in effort to discourage the beaver. Our hope was the artificial low level of the pond along with the exposure of their dens, the beaver would move on. At the same time, we obtained approval from the DNR to utilize the trapping services of American Animal. We aggressively trapped the beaver last fall and did manage to take quite a few despite problems with people stealing/vandalizing/setting off the traps. Pond levels remained low during that time as we had to repair the east side of the pond under the hill due to beaver damage (Highway did the work). Pond level was increased after the work and we continued to trap until winter.

Come spring 2011 more beaver move into the pond and plug the outlet pipe again. Facilities staff contacted the DNR and was given permission to shot the beaver using our trapper. Our trapper successfully shot more beaver (he also set out six traps.....all six traps were vandalized or set off.) After we unplugged the outlet pipe, the pond was lowered to expose the beaver dens and beaver. Highway Department also needed to review the damage to the banks caused by the beaver dens. We have two long sections to repair. Facilities park staff has made some repairs crushing down the beaver den and adding fill -- basic prep work until this fall when Highway Department will come in to complete the bank repair and place rip rap. Pond level has been increased for now but will be lowered prior to the work planned for the fall.

We are managing the beaver population in the pond. Staff keeps a close eye on the pond as does our trapper. To date, 15 beaver have been removed.