



*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: May 2, 2011

Re: May Monthly Report to the County Board

Attached is the May 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”

Joint Finance Committee begins work on State Budget

The Joint Finance Committee has begun its detail work on the Governor's Budget. While the JFC voted against the needed changes in Child Support funding promoted by Counties, they have approved the necessary funding for the additional public defenders consistent with new indigent standards for criminal defendants. We are still hopeful that the JFC will make changes in other issues that the County Board recently addressed in resolutions urging changes in: Income Maintenance, Youth Aids, recycling, transit, Senior-care, Medicaid, General Transportation Aids and Shared Revenue Cuts.

Policy Planning Meeting, Monday May 9, 2011

There will be several important issues on this agenda for consideration and action:

- Consider new loan terms by Skipperliner Acquisitions, LLC to repay the debt owed by Skipperliner Industries, Inc. (as recommended by the La Crosse County Economic Development Fund (LCEDF))
- Approval of the bid for the Gas to Energy project
- County Board redistricting plan, to be recommended by the special Redistricting Committee in preparation for the Public Hearing Monday May 16, 2011.

*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*

MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

Aging & Long Term Care May 2011

Veterans Service

- During U.S. Government Fiscal Year 2010, La Crosse had 9,443 military veterans. U.S. Department of Veterans expenditures in La Crosse County totaled **\$39.7 million** from October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010. That breaks down as follows:
 - \$21.7 million: **compensation and pension** payments directly to veterans
 - \$3.7 million: **education payments** to veterans/schools
 - \$667,000: **life insurance** payments to beneficiaries
 - \$13.5 million: **VA healthcare** for county veterans

To put this into perspective, the total VA expenditure in La Crosse County in 2004 was \$24.6 million.

- Sue Otten, Administrative Assistant in the Veterans Service Office, started work here in September of 1980. She served for 30.5 years in Veterans Service and retired 4/1/11. Her expertise and experience will be missed. We wish her a happy retirement.
- La Crosse is hosting the spring county veterans service officer conference at the Radisson Hotel from May 2-6, 2011. I am looking forward to hosting my 71 colleagues and their CVSO staff members for the week as we receive updates on state and federal veterans' programs.
- Planning is underway for Memorial Day in La Crosse County. Please plan to attend a Memorial Day ceremony in your community on May 30th.

Lakeview Health Center

COUNTY NURSING HOME ISSUES

On April 13 and April 14, 2011 the Wisconsin Association of County Nursing Homes held its annual conference and lobby day in Madison. There are four specific budgetary issues that we addressed with our legislators through issue papers drafted by WCA.

ISSUE #1 County Nursing Home Funding, Supplemental Payment Program (SP)

Under the Supplemental Payment Program, the State of Wisconsin receives federal Medicaid matching funds based on losses incurred by county nursing homes while providing care to Medicaid recipients. Current statute limits these payments to \$39.1 Million each fiscal year. We are requesting that this \$39.1 Million be the floor rather than the ceiling, as all revenue received under this program is derived from certified county nursing home losses and thus should be returned to us in full.

ISSUE #2 Certified Public Expenditure Program (CPE)

The CPE program was created in 2005 through the passage of Assembly Bill 802. This program provides for additional supplemental payments to county nursing homes. Under this program any federal revenue for supplemental payments that is over the state's budgeted amount **must** be paid to counties. Currently the state owes county homes \$9.4 Million. We are requesting to be paid in full.

ISSUE #3 Nursing Home Bed Tax

The nursing bed tax was created in 1991 as a mechanism to fund nursing home rate increases. The first bed tax was \$32.00 per **occupied** bed per month. The current tax is \$170.00 per **licensed** bed per month. In the 2009-2011 biennial state budget only 13% (\$11.8 Million) of these revenues were returned to county homes for rate increases. 87% (\$78.2 Million) were returned to the general Medicaid fund. We are asking that this "bed tax skim" ends and county homes receive all of the revenues received from our bed tax payments.

ISSUE #4 Provide Bed Tax Exemption

Currently La Crosse (Lakeview Health Center), Dodge, and Trempealeau counties operate either state-only licensed nursing homes or institutions for mental disease. These facilities do not receive Medicaid reimbursement yet they are required to pay the nursing home bed tax on these beds. We are requesting an exemption from the bed tax for these facilities.

If you have any questions on these nursing home issues feel free to contact me, Pam Semb at 608-786-1400 extension 40123.

*Pam Semb, Administrator
Lakeview Health Center*

Aging Unit

Continuing Concern for Aging Programs

- Governor Walker's major transportation changes include **Minibus and Volunteer Driver Programs**. 25,000 rides annually. Cuts to MTU (City Bus in La Crosse), due to the elimination of collective bargaining, (see next item) will certainly increase demand for Aging Unit transportation services. Seniors who want to remain in their own homes will become isolated without transportation. Forces 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.
 - Wisconsin will also lose \$46.6 million in federal transit funding due to eliminating collective bargaining. MTU in La Crosse could lose \$2 million

in federal operating assistance causing large service cuts & fare increases. Future federal capital assistance also eliminated.

- **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 May 2011

Health Department

The following is a summary of progress being made to accomplish the Health Dept. 2011 Goals and Objectives.

La Crosse County Health Department - 2011 Goals & Objectives 1st Quarter Report

Goal #1 - Provide high priority public health services. By December 2011:

ADMIN	2010 county health status indicators will show a 2% overall improvement from 2008 levels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data not available
ENV HLTH	Report progress using State software to complete inspections and store data electronically	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department training on March 29, 2011. On-going process of cleaning up files/training.
HLTH EDUC	Investigation of 100% of communicable disease cases reported in our jurisdiction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 154 case investigations completed.
HLTH EDUC	Review and apply for 75% of relevant grants to improve the health of county citizens based on priorities in Healthiest County 2015: La Crosse.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CDC infrastructure grant submitted and funded.
HLTH EDUC	Review the Healthiest Wisconsin 2020 plan to assure that Health Department programs will help the state achieve 2020 objectives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No action this quarter
HOME CARE	Maintain an annual home health nursing caseload of 75 clients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-going – 42 year to date.
HOME CARE	Assess each home care client on flu vaccine stats – provide vaccine to all who request.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Third quarter activity
LAB	The number of private water samples tested for nitrate will increase by 5% over the 2006-2010 baseline period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-going project –ahead of goal at this point in the year.
NUTR	Annual reviews will show less than 8% of infants born to pregnant women participating in the La Crosse WIC Program weigh less than 5.5 pounds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.9% (10/1/10-3/31/11)
NUTR	Annual reviews will show 70% of pregnant women participating in the La Crosse WIC Program breastfeed their new infant at birth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 65.6% (4/1/10-3/31/11)
NUTR	Annual reviews will show 55% of WIC families utilize their Farmers Market Nutrition Program checks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 45% in 2010, market checks begin to be issued in 6/11.
NUTR	Annually screen 400 children for lead poisoning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 103 screened 1/1/11-3/31/11.
NUTR	Four school districts in the County will pilot a farm to school program in at least one of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> La Crosse, Onalaska, West Salem & Holmen piloting Farm to School.

	their district's schools.	
NUTR	Two hundred low-income pregnant women enrolled in BadgerCare will participate in the prenatal care coordination program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 129 pregnant women participated between 1/1/11-3/31/11.
NUTR	Thirteen schools in the County will establish a Safe Routes to School Program at their school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13 schools currently participating in Safe Routes To School, 5 more will be added in the Fall of 2011.
PHN	The immunization program will meet goals: (1.) Increase active membership by 10% on La Crosse County Immunization Coalition. (2.) Provide at least one immunization clinic where the administration fee is waived. (3.) Promote the Every Child by Two during National Immunization Awareness Month.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Membership increased by 35% this quarter. No cost flu clinic held at Salvation Army on 1/20. No activity.
PHN	Lead case management program will meet goals: (1.) Initiate contact of 100% of referrals received for those children who had a venous blood lead level of > 10 mcg/dL. (2.) Enroll 100% of referrals into the Lead Case Management Program.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 100% of referrals received (2) for children who had an elevated blood lead level were contacted. 100% referred were enrolled into the Lead Case Management Program.
VC	A regional program for control of human disease transmitted by animals or insects with fewer reported cases of human disease than in the 2006 - 2010 baseline period.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On -going project -contracts for the 2011 season in place

Goal #2 - Achieve and maintain designation as the highest level public health agency. By December 2011

ADMIN	Documentation for 5 of 10 essential services that will meet national accreditation standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract received to assist in documentation.
ADMIN	Maintain the current Level III ranking by the State of Wisconsin.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level III maintained.
ALL	All staff will maintain appropriate certification and training annually as required by several funding sources and related regulators.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training underway. All staff certified. WIC Breastfeeding Educator obtained CLS credential. Home Care current and on-going. Lab proficiency samples submitted for DNR and DATCP certification. Health Education is up to date. Environmental Health - on-going.
ALL	Successfully complete regular state and federal audits of each of about 35 public health programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health Education successfully completed a State Tobacco contract audit. Environmental health - on-going. Fit Families Program State audit successfully completed. Home Care - on-going

Goal #3 - Promote and utilize partnerships to develop public health services. By December 2011

ADMIN	Dental services to MA covered clients will increase from 4000 people served per year to 4400 out of the estimate 20,000 eligible persons.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data not available.
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ADMIN	Participate in Western Wisconsin Health Department Committee to increase public health revenue.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Western Wisconsin group meeting.
NUTR	Partner with Gundersen Lutheran's 500 Club to increase by 25% the number of restaurants currently participating in the program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of 500 Club sites increased by 104% from 9/10-3/11.
NUTR	Partner with Viterbo and UW-La Crosse to expand the Footsteps to Health Program from 3 to 6 grocery stores in La Crosse County.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of Footsteps to Health sites expanded to six (new Festival store and 2 Trane Company sites – Quillin's was a member & closed 2 sites).
HLTH EDUC	100% of public/private health partnerships that we are involved in that are described in Healthiest County 2015: La Crosse have successfully changed one or more significant system or health priorities listed in the plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health Summit held. Progress on reaching goals being made but not reached. Healthy Living, 7 C's Tobacco Coalition, Infectious Disease all has had meetings and activity to achieve 2015 goals.
HOME CARE	Provide clinic experience for 5 Western Technical College nursing students.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 served year-to-date.
HOME CARE	Work with local home care agencies and referral sources to provide the home care needed for La Crosse County residents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-going
LAB	Relationships in place with public and private chemistry laboratories to increase the number of water samples submitted for chemical analyses by 5% over the 2006-2010 baseline.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We developed relationships with WSLH and UW Stevens Point water testing labs for Metals and Atrazine testing. Increase in number of chemical samples.
PHN	Immunization Symposium will be held annually in partnership with the La Crosse County Immunization Coalition to increase immunization rates for children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Activity –conf to be later on 2011
PHN	Immunization Symposium will be held with goals of: (1.) Promote symposium to local healthcare providers through electronic mailings, newsletters, and media to increase attendance. (2.) Evaluate success of symposium through an evaluation tool and determine if annual symposiums should continue as an effective tool to increase awareness and usage of vaccines	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> No Activity No Activity

Doug Mormann, Health Director

Human Services Department

FAMILY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES

New Section Manager

Nancy Pohlman has been selected as the next Family & Children Services (FCS) Section Manager. Nancy replaces Mary Ellen Prinsen, who retired in December. Nancy brings to the position her 20+ years of experience in social work and 10+ years of supervisory experience at La Crosse County Human Services. She has proven to be an innovative thinker, has been a leader in delivering strong services to children and families, and has ably led the FCS Section since January as its Interim Manager. Nancy was selected at the conclusion of a recruitment process that included two rounds of interviews in front of both internal panels and a community panel. Nancy began her new duties on April 18.

Family Interaction Programs

The Request for Proposals for our Family Interaction Programs was sent out to vendors on schedule. We are hoping to get a good array of vendors and proposals for effective and efficient family visitation monitoring, child safety monitoring and parent education and coaching.

MENTAL HEALTH RECOVERY SERVICES

Wisconsin Mental Health Collaborative (Quality Improvement Project)

La Crosse County is one of nine counties in Wisconsin selected to participate in a state sponsored quality improvement project to reduce psychiatric inpatient admissions. Counties that are selected design a local quality improvement project and are provided technical assistance through the University of Wisconsin. Counties are assisted in utilizing a rapid cycle approach to quality improvement (NIATx model). Last year La Crosse participated in this project and successfully collaborated with Gundersen-Lutheran to reduce readmission rates on their inpatient psychiatric unit. This year La Crosse has chosen to focus on trying to reduce the Ch. 51 Emergency Detention rate even further through trying new things as our Mobile Crisis responders become involved in each detention. The project began in March and will end in October.

ECONOMIC SUPPORT

ES Change Center

Partner counties involved in the ES Shared Services pilot responded positively to the proposal to continue the regional ES Change Reporting Center after June 2011. A cost projection for each county to pay for continued Change Center services was presented to the Human Services Directors. It appears six (Vernon, Trempealeau, Monroe, Clark, Pepin, Buffalo) of the seven current partner counties will continue participating in the change center.

Jason Witt

Human Services Director

MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

Internal Departments May 2011

Personnel Department

1. Collective Bargaining

All 8 Union Contracts have been settled for 2011, 2012 and 2013. Three year agreements are not unusual in La Crosse County or across the state. They mean that there will be labor peace and the absence of debate over contract proposals. We will also avoid the rise in grievances that we tend to see around contract negotiation time. Settled contracts mean that labor and management can focus on getting work done and substantial restructuring to respond to budget cuts.

The Union representative for SEIU – Hillview, Jean Muehlenkamp, has taken another job, so there will be a new rep for Hillview soon.

2. Employee Training

The company that produces the computer software we have been using for desk top training has closed shop. To avoid future expense, and to have a better, long lasting software product, Diana Cukla from Personnel and Jami Hundt from IT have been working to design and build replacement software for our Training Learning Center. The project is complete and now being launched. This will provide great flexibility for staff training in all departments, and we are now working with Hillview and Lakeview to use more computer based training with their busy staff.

Desktop computer based training is considered essential today according to industry experts. We are ahead of most counties in this regard.

3. Fair Labor Standards Act Review – The Personnel Department has completed a review of staff positions for confirmation or correction of Exempt/Non Exempt classification. The review for compliance purposes required detailed examination of many job descriptions, comparison of duties and pay with the requirements of the FLSA. The classification of the position now appears on the job description. Several positions were reclassified into non exempt pay schedules due to the analysis. We feel comfortable now that all positions are correctly classified.

There are constant reminders from the Federal government that they will be checking employers for correct classification of workers and the Obama administration has hired hundreds of new examiners to do the checking. We are ready to defend our classifications.

4. Wellness Programming – The Occupational Health group from Health Department and Personnel continues to expand and enhance wellness opportunities and programs. Two “Zumba” exercise classes have been filled to capacity and a third class started. This is an active exercise to music class that is done on Non Work time and led by an instructor. Active lifestyle programs also include walking route promotion, bike-to-work and other activities. We also continue to coordinate with the City of La Crosse on health promotions. Our staff have been great about getting involved in health and wellness activities, which has a positive impact on Health Insurance costs.

5. Assisting People at Work

As expected, we continue to spend a large portion of staff time working through issues with department heads, managers, and employees. Recent examples include: Department restructuring, reorganization and reduction of hours of work; WRS contribution and preparation for Budget Review Bill required changes; Family Medical Leave requests; return to work and accommodation of disability requests; disciplinary issues involving performance and substance abuse issues; and much work with department heads, managers, and Union leadership regarding all of these issues. We have several grievances continuing from last year toward arbitration and I have been working with outside counsel in preparation for hearings.

6. Replacement of positions

Through March 2011 Recruitment Coordinator, LaVonne Johansen, has recorded approximately **58** requests to fill a position. There were 23 requests in March. Most of the requests come from Hillview and Lakeview. Steve O'Malley has instituted a special review process for every position, so that the necessity and alternatives are considered before filling a position. This delays hiring sometimes 30 days or more, but requires the departments to justify a request. We have also been able to restructure some positions for better, more efficient staffing structure by this review.

Current County employment is 1381 people, full and part time, as of the end of March, spread across 30 departments, providing essential services.

Robert B. Taunt
County Personnel Director

Robert

Treasurer's Office

The February settlement with the Municipalities went well and we have sent out delinquent tax notice and are receiving payments from people that just forgot to pay the tax and some are making monthly payments. The delinquent taxes are currently \$2,791,480.34. We have started to work on the 2007 tax foreclosures.

DELINQUENT – MONTHLY COLLECTIONS

MONTH/YEAR	TAX	INTEREST	SPECIALS	INTEREST	TOTAL
Jan-11	219,668.34	51,079.33	12,537.29	1,795.68	285,080.64
Feb-11	113,918.27	34,790.87	5,730.10	950.88	155,390.12
March-11	171,262.99	50,432.69	7,415.11	1,293.45	230,404.24

CURRENT YEAR – MONTHLY COLLECTIONS

MONTH/YEAR	TAX	INTEREST	SPECIALS	INTEREST	TOTAL
Feb-11	369,189.29	2,929.02			372,118.31
March-11	596,997.72	13,155.77			610,153.49

Reported by

Donna Hanson, County Treasurer

County Clerk Office

Our office to say the least has been very busy these past few weeks and will remain busy in the upcoming months. With a record turnout at the April election, possibly two or more special elections coming up and of course we can't forget the recount.

Elections

April 5th Nonpartisan and Special Primary for Partisan Office: Turnout for the April 5th election was a record for an April election. Voter turnout countywide was 40.25%. The high tensions that are going on in Madison seemed to bring out a lot of voters. We were prepared for a high turnout but still had to print more ballots for two municipalities and two others had to use paper ballots. A couple of the hot races were the Justice of the Supreme Court and the Partisan Primary for the 94th Assembly District. Which is a very unique election to have a partisan primary on a nonpartisan April Ballot.

April 27th Recount: The recount started on Wednesday, April 27th, 2011, and is required to be complete by Monday, May 9th, 2011. The recount is for the Justice of the Supreme Court race. A big thank you goes out to Teri Lehrke, City of La Crosse Clerk and Cari Burmaster, City of Onalaska clerk who were able to recommend election inspectors to help with the recount as tabulators. They are doing an excellent job and helping the process to move quickly and smoothly. We also need to thank the Canvass Board, Joyce Lanzel and Marion Naegle who have given up there time for the next 13 days to make sure we get the recount done on time. Everyone is working as a team and I'm certain we can get the recount finished in the mandatory deadline. There will be many long days ahead of us. The recount will recess for Tuesday and Wednesday next for the May 3rd Special Election and to canvass those results. We will then resume on Thursday.

May 3rd Special Election for the 94th Assembly District: We are expecting another high turnout for this election as well and have prepared for this by printing extra ballots.

Youth & Government Day

On Tuesday, April 26th, the County hosted Youth & Government Day. High school students were given the opportunity to learn more about the County Government. Supervisor Johnson, Supervisor Billings, and Supervisor Pedretti assisted me with this day due to the fact I had to focus my attention on preparing for the recount that had to begin at 9am the next day. They gave a great presentation on county government to the students, which was something we did new this year and was accepted well by the students. Thank you to those Supervisors, the Elected Officials, the American Legion and everyone else that helped to make this year's Youth & Government Day a big success. The students were able to tour some of the elected offices, the 911 call center, the new jail, view the BearCat and observe court cases.

Dog Licenses

We have now started collecting money for late dog licenses. If you did not purchase your license by April 1st, you are the charged an additional \$25 late fee. If they do not purchase the late dog tag by June 1st, citations will be issued. The fine for failure to license dogs is \$200.50.

New Hire

I am very excited and honored to have hired Lisa Perry. She comes to us from the Health Department. She is being thrown into the fire along with my entire staff with all the unique things that are going in the County Clerk's office this year. She is catching on quickly and will be a big asset to our office.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ginny Dankmeyer, County Clerk