



*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

Memo To: La Crosse County Board of Supervisors
From: Steve O'Malley, County Administrator
Date: November 12, 2012

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”

Utility Tax Question Clarification

Last month during the report on the Lakeview Business Park, the board asked for more information about the tax exemption for the building that houses the Sprint call center in West Salem adjacent to the business park.

According to the State Department of Revenue, telephone companies are exempt from local property taxes, but instead pay property tax directly to the State General Fund. Telephone companies are treated differently than gas and electric utilities which are exempt from any property taxes but instead are taxed by the state on gross receipts. As a consequence, local governments cannot directly charge utilities for the cost of services provided to these entities. Shared revenue utility payments, however, help counties and municipalities where utility property is located to pay for services provided to tax-exempt utility property. The payments are also viewed as partial compensation for the air pollution, noise, traffic congestion, and land use limitations caused by the presence of utility property. The share that La Crosse County expects to receive in 2013 will be \$481,692, Account 45040, Org 1064 Non-Departmental p. 37 of the proposed budget.

*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 November 2012

Lakeview Health Center

STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

WIPFLI is on schedule with our strategic planning process. They are currently in the market and operational assessment phase of this project with HSR working on the site study analysis. Collaboration and frequent communication with WIPFLI staff, HSR staff and internal LaCrosse County departmental staff has helped us to stay on schedule with this project.

SURVEY ACTIVITY

State surveyors were at Lakeview in early October to complete the Facility for the Developmentally Disabled (FDD) annual survey and to review several self-reports from the nursing home - at the same time. Both survey teams were professional and were very complimentary towards our staff and the specialized care they provide.

The FDD survey resulted in two deficiencies and the nursing home resulted in one deficiency at isolated level with no substandard quality care noted.

Our staff have worked hard to correct these citations and we will continue to monitor for continued compliance.

If you have questions about any of these issues or just want to stop by, I always welcome the opportunity to talk with you.

Sincerely,

*Wanda Plachecki, Administrator
Lakeview Health Center*

MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

Health & Human Services November 2012

Human Services Department

ECONOMIC SUPPORT

Wisconsin Works (W2) Contract for 2013

The W2 contracts for 2013 have been awarded by the Department of Children and Families (DCF). Unfortunately, La Crosse County was not awarded the W2 contract for 2013. After successfully administering the W2 program since 1997, La Crosse County will not be administering the program in 2013. DCF awarded the regional W2 contract for the Western region to Workforce Connections. La Crosse County Economic Support staff will be working with Workforce Connections to ensure a successful transition of current W2 customers to the new vendor in late December.

Food Share Employment and Training (FSET) Program

In 2013, six of the eight counties that are members of the Western Region for Economic Assistance (WREA) Consortium will administer the Food Share Employment and Training (FSET) program regionally, within the consortium structure. Individuals receiving Food Share benefits are eligible to volunteer for the FSET program, which provides assistance to participants in finding employment or finding better employment. The Job Developer that La Crosse had utilized for the W2 program will transition into providing the same individualized job search assistance and position recruitment under FSET as had been so successful under the W2 program.

Badger Care

Badger Care applicants and recipients continue to experience long delays between when they send their Badger Care monthly premiums and when their premiums are credited to their account. With an increased number of applicants and recipients required to pay monthly premiums as a result of the changes implemented by the Department of Health Services (DHS) in July, the delay experienced due to the State's vendor not being able to keep up with the volume of premiums has caused significant problems with individual Badger Care applicants and recipients experiencing lapses in their health care coverage. After a review by DHS of the vendor's setup for processing Badger Care premiums, it was learned that the system was based on the volume of premiums and needed capacity from 1998. With a capacity to process only 5,000 premiums each day, the vendor was getting up to 8,000 premiums a day. Negotiations and planning is taking place between the vendor and DHS to increase the vendor's capacity to receive 10,000 premiums during peak times of the month. A solution to the premium processing delay will result in a significant decrease in work within consortia statewide who must handle calls from customers inquiring about their payments and eligibility, and having to manually run all cases that closed in error for non-payment of premium.

CHEMICAL HEALTH & JUSTICE SANCTIONS

Community Justice Reinvestment Act (CJRA)

On September 4, Jane Klekamp co-presented on WLSU with Milwaukee County District Attorney, John Chisholm, regarding the Community Justice Reinvestment Act (CJRA). The CJRA is a change in policy and funding at the state level that would reimburse counties for retaining correctional clients locally rather than utilizing the prison system. The Criminal Justice Management Council is reviewing the different aspects of the CJRA and discussing support of such a bill.

OWI Treatment Court

On September 17, Chemical Health & Justice Sanctions received notice from the Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance that CHJS had received funding for a process and outcome evaluation of the OWI Treatment Court. The method utilized to evaluate the treatment court is well known among correctional programs. It is our understanding that La Crosse County's OWI Treatment Court is the first OWI Treatment Court receiving this type of evaluation. Dr. Andrew J. Myer of Viterbo University will be conducting the evaluation.

MENTAL HEALTH RECOVERY SERVICES

Outpatient Mental Health Clinic "Triage Clinic" – First Year Data Analysis

In September of 2011 MHRS changed the manner in which new consumers access therapy and prescribing services. A new process called a "Triage Clinic" was implemented and offered a weekly walk-in format to engage with consumers and determine what might be offered by MHRS. This process was designed to promote comprehensive assessment, consumer empowerment, team-based treatment planning, and a reduction of no-show rates for initial and ongoing appointments.

Analysis of data from the first year of implementation indicates:

- Increased number of consumers served per year by 54%
- Decreased no-show rates for appointments from 50% down to 8% (30-50% national average)
- Average wait time of 7 days for prescribing/therapy (5 week national average)
- High consumer and staff satisfaction

FAMILY & CHILDREN'S

Juvenile Detention Facility

The Juvenile Detention Facility in conjunction with the La Crosse County Jail has been selected as a pilot site for our region regarding the implementation of the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA). Our site will be responsible for developing model training, policy and procedure in conjunction with the Department of Corrections (DOC).

Administration for Children and Families (ACF) – Family Connections Grant

We were notified that our proposal for a combined Family-Finding/Family Group Decision Making initiative is not being funded by the Children's Bureau. The following agencies did receive a \$500,000 award for the next three years:

- Olmsted County, Rochester, MN
- Children's Home Society of Washington, Seattle, WA
- Oregon Department of Human Services, Salem, OR
- Seneca Family of Agencies, San Leandro, CA
- Spaulding for Children, Southfield, MI

We are requesting a formal follow-up regarding the strengths and weaknesses of our proposal and will use that information to guide us in future applications and proposals.

C.O.R.E. Presentation at Wisconsin Counties Association Fall Conference

David Steinberg and Nancy Pohlman presented information on our C.O.R.E program to the Wisconsin Counties Association at their fall conference on September 24. The presentation was well received and generated several questions from participants.

Special WI Legislative Panel Participation

On September 6 Nancy Pohlman represented La Crosse County as one of three panel members speaking to a Special Legislative Committee on Mandated Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect.

Jason Witt

Human Services Director

Health Department

Mission: Protect, Promote and Improve the Health of all People in the County
Below are selected activities directed toward meeting the Health Dept 2011-2014 Strategic Plan.

Goal #1 - Provide high priority public health services.

- Seasonal influenza clinics are being offered at a variety of schools, small businesses and other locations in the County with good participation by the public.
- The seasonal increase in tick borne Lyme disease and mosquito borne West Nile virus reports are occurring as anticipated.
- Over 500 La Crosse County employees are participating in the Employee Health Appraisal process which helps people remain healthy and productive while reducing health insurance and other work loss expenses.
- Health Department staffs in the Health Education and Environmental Health divisions have been working with various festivals to assure the provision of safe food and water and to encourage appropriate safety and community education issues related to tobacco and alcohol use.
- The annual notification to about 1/3 of persons on septic systems was sent to encourage routine maintenance that helps assure the system longevity and protect the environment.
- Home Health Care services continue to be provided at the appropriate benchmark levels. We are continuing to monitor the availability of home care services in the County that may have been affected by the reduction of health dept. services in 2012.
- Environmental Health staff has developed updates of the current County ordinances. A number of other divisions will be submitting recommendations for improvements in various other ordinance sections.
- Health Department staff welcomed visits by the staff of US Senators Kohl and Johnson along with Representative Kind to discuss the implications of the proposed sequestration of public health funding proposed to begin in 2013. The County could see an 8% reduction in the number persons being receiving immunizations, radon information, maternal and child health care, WIC nutrition and other services through this proposed change.
- Dr. Robin Borge, MD has begun orientation as the County Medical Advisor. This part-time consultant position provides guidance to Health Department staff in establishing medical orders, responding to public health changes and coordinating communications between the Health Department and the medical community.
- The Department is monitoring the response of the community to change in office hours of the La Crosse County Health Department. To date, no concerns have been raised. The Health Department does have staff in field and available routinely seven days per week beyond the posted office hours.

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

- The Health Department has submitted a formal request to seek accreditation as a nationally certified public health department in 2013.
- The Environmental Health Division has submitted their self audit for the Wisconsin Department of Health Services motel and restaurant inspection program.

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

- The Health Department has successfully received funds from the University Of Wisconsin School Of Medicine and Public Health and the federal Community Transformation Grant programs directly linked to the health department partnerships that improve the delivery of public health services in the County.
- The Wisconsin Department of Health Services—Administrator for the Division of Public Health, Karen Mc Keown, has been invited to meet with area policy makers this fall. The meeting will focus on efforts that might be taken by the State to assure that the health of the public is protected from adverse environmental impacts of frac sand mining and transportation.
- The National Association of Counties Drug Card Program that is coordinated by the La Crosse County Health Department has served about 1,100 persons to date in 2012 with a total savings of over \$29,000 in their drug purchases through private pharmacies in La Crosse County.

Doug Mormann
Health Department Director

MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

Internal Departments November 2012

County Clerk's Office

Elections

November 6, 2012: The Presidential and General Election is on Tuesday, November 6, 2012. The polls open at 7 AM and close at 8 PM. On September 20th, absentee ballots were mailed out to any person who had a request on file for an absentee ballot. This date seems very early but is necessary to comply with the Federal MOVE Act which must give military and overseas voters 45 days to return their ballot. In person absentee voting started on October 22nd and ends at 5pm on November 2nd. The last day to request an absentee ballot by mail is November 1st at 5pm. The State of Wisconsin has in person absentee voting, not to be confused with early voting as you have heard and read about in the media as of late. There is a difference between early voting and in person absentee voting. True early voting is where your ballot is put into a tabulation device and your ballot is counted the same day. With absentee voting, your ballot is sealed in an envelope and secured until Election Day when the municipal clerk delivers the ballots to the polls and they are processed and counted with the rest of the ballots. Just over 1,000 absentee ballots were cast on the first day of in person absentee voting. In 2008, the voter turnout for the Presidential Election was 83%, and it is anticipated to be just as high for this election.

Dog Licenses

Our office is preparing to distribute the 2013 dog invoices and tags to each of the municipal treasurers by mid-November so they can begin selling dog tags in December. Dog owners have until April 1st to purchase a 2013 dog tag without paying the \$25 late fee. Does this mean you have until April 1st to buy your dog tag?...not exactly. Wisconsin State Statutes states that all dog owners must purchase a dog tag by January 1st of each year. La Crosse County gives a grace period until April 1st at which time the late fee is assessed. If animal control is called and your dog is found to not have a license before April 1st, you may be cited for failure to license your dog.

County Board

Supervisor Bill Brockmiller resigned as of September 30, 2012. Six candidates filed letters of interest by the October 19th deadline, and interviews were held on October 23rd. Chair Tara Johnson anticipates making an appointment recommendation to the County Board for approval at the November 5th Planning Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ginny Dankmeyer, County Clerk