



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

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Memo To: La Crosse County Board of Supervisors
From: Steve O'Malley, County Administrator
Date: November 4, 2015

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”

November 9 & 10, 2015 Budget Public Hearing, Annual Meeting and Motions by Supervisors

Just a short reminder that our meeting schedule is different in November than other months, beginning with the Budget Public Hearing at 6:00pm on Monday November 9, 2015 followed by our regular business agenda from the committees this month. Following the direction of the County Board, we will reconvene at 9:00 am to complete any regular business and deliberate on consideration and adoption of the 2016 Annual Budget.

There are a few housekeeping corrections to consider and several motions coming out of the Executive Committee, but no specific changes recommended by an Standing Committee. However, any County Supervisor is free to make an individual amendment motion from the floor. If you have an amendment to propose, please work with myself and Finance Director Sharon Davidson to be sure that we can help identify the line item changes needed to accommodate your policy direction and stay within the established levy limits.

*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 2015

Veterans Service Office

On October 29th, La Crosse held the La Crosse Area Stand Down at the Cargill Hall in the LHI buildings. The Stand Down is designed to assist homeless veterans with receiving services that they may be eligible for. Over 20 homeless veterans were provided clothing, toiletries, blankets and other items to assist them through the winter. Several government and private organizations were on hand to also assist in trying to provide the veteran with assistance so they no longer are homeless.

Veterans Day – November 11th, 2015

November is normally the month when the nation takes a moment to remember the veterans who have served the nation which originally started after World War I. World War I – known at the time as “The Great War” – when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of “the war to end all wars.”

In November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day. It wasn't until President Dwight D. Eisenhower that a Veterans Day Proclamation was made and Veterans Day as we know it was created.

On November 11th, please take a moment to thank those in your department, family or in the community who have served this country.

Adam Flood
La Crosse County Veterans Service Officer

Lakeview

Lakeview Nursing Home Licensed Beds/Census Update

As of this date, the census in the nursing home is 80 with a licensed bed capacity of 84. Referral activity this past month continues to be centered around individuals with behavioral symptoms due to Alzheimer's or related dementia. As projected, we will request to close two beds in November and will continue to provide updates on a monthly basis.

Resident Relocation Plan

An initial Resident Relocation Plan as required under State statute has been submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. This plan identifies the process our organization will use to downsize the nursing home licensed beds. Once approved, we will begin working with the State Relocation Team for purposeful discharge of some residents that do not require the services we provide.

Ravenwood Behavioral Health Nursing Home Survey

Ravenwood's State recertification survey occurred on October 7, 2015. This 10 bed facility is State certified only. As a result of this survey, one correction order related to handwashing technique was issued. This correction order has been corrected and accepted and does not require an on-site verification re-visit.

Submitted by:
Wanda Plachecki, Administrator

MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

Health & Human Services November 2015

Human Services Department

INTEGRATED SUPPORT & RECOVERY SERVICES (ISRS)

SQUAD (Strengthening families through Quality interventions in United communities: Advancing skills in a way that respects Diversity)

A diverse group of regional stakeholders have begun working with La Crosse, Monroe, and Jackson County Mobile Crisis programs to explore:

- Utilizing social media as a prevention and resource tool
- Maximizing the use of Parent Peer Specialists and Youth Peer Specialists to prevent or support crisis situations

State Funding Consolidation Work Group

La Crosse County (Matt Strittmater) was invited to participate in a multi-month work group with the state to determine the utilization and reporting associated with multiple funding streams that were consolidated as part of the state budget.

Ravenwood Certification

The ISRS Outpatient Mental Health Clinic was certified to operate a branch clinic at Ravenwood (within Lakeview Nursing Home building) in order to provide psychiatric medication prescribing services for residents of that facility.

JUSTICE SUPPORT SERVICES

Moving On

Moving On is a cognitive behavioral curriculum-based program that centers on working with women in the criminal justice system. Justice Support social workers have been trained as have YWCA / Ophelia's House staff. Moving On is now offered in the jail setting in addition to groups in the Law Enforcement conference rooms.

ECONOMIC SUPPORT

Fraud Investigation

The Western Region for Economic Assistance (WREA) Consortium has a Fraud & Program Integrity/Benefit Recovery Team in addition to a contract with Central State's Investigations, for fraud investigation services. WREA staff on the team complete desk investigations, which are fraud investigations that can be completed primarily through completing collateral contacts by phone or through the internet. They also calculate overpayments for the 8 Consortium Counties. Through August 2015, WREA staff have established \$511,201 in overpayments under the Food Share, Medicaid, BadgerCare and Wisconsin Shares Child Care programs. Following an overpayment calculation, the client receives a Repayment Agreement, and must agree to pay back a minimum amount towards the overpayment each month. If the client fails to complete a Repayment Agreement, or fails to make regular monthly payments at the agreed upon amount, the State's Payment Collections Unit (PCU) will take steps to recover the overpaid benefits through tax intercept and other administrative means.

Supplemental ACA Funding for IM Consortia

Income Maintenance (IM) Consortia received additional funding in 2014 and 2015 to meet increased workload demands as a result of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and related Badger Care Plus eligibility changes. While the budget bill for 2016 and 2017 includes a plan to phase out the supplemental ACA funding, the administration decided to put a portion of this funding into an unallocated reserve because of their uncertainty whether the base funding budgeted is sufficient to cover the current cost of income maintenance activities.

The income maintenance caseload has increased steadily since 2013, especially the number of Childless Adults in the BadgerCare Plus program. In addition to an increase in applications, Consortia Call Center volumes have increase by more than 29% statewide since 2012.

With the support of the Department of Health Services (DHS), the IM Consortia are working with the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) on a white paper that will be submitted to the Joint Finance Committee, requesting that the supplemental funds put into the unallocated reserve be released to cover IM Consortia operations in 2016 and 2017. Based on the increased workload, release of the reserve funding is critical for Consortia operations.

COMMUNITY ACCESS & RESOURCES SECTION

Dementia-Capable Wisconsin Initiative

As part of the "Dementia-Capable Wisconsin" initiative that is focused on redesigning the dementia care system in our state, ADRCs statewide are updating training on the state's Dementia Care Guiding Principles and creating opportunities for communities to work toward a greater capacity to engage and support people with dementia, their caregivers and the community.

State Contract Update

The draft of our 2016 contract with the state has arrived with several changes focusing on data collection, reporting and standardization of ADRCs across the state. Many of the changes are creating a readiness within the ADRCs for the public long term care system changes coming in 2017. Our partner counties will be discussing how these changes will affect our current practice and plan for implementation as needed.

Jason Witt
Director of Human Services

Health Department

Mission: Protect, Promote and Improve the Health of all People to Enhance the Quality of Life

Goal #1 – Prioritize the work we do

- A. Biodiversity educator established research protocols for biodiversity and neighborhood surveys conducted in two target neighborhoods.
- B. Two restaurants were temporarily closed for high risk violations and operating without a license.
- C. A La Crosse dwelling was evaluated for contamination after La Crosse Police and WI DNR found toxic waste spread around the yard to conceal illegal activities.
- D. Nutrition staff, participants and WIC vendors saw the benefits of the change from paper vouchers to the e-WIC electronic card for purchase of food.
- E. Health Educator assisted 10 public schools with implementing Safe Routes to School at elementary schools resulting in 604 additional walks to school.
- F. Communicable disease team responded to 241 reports of confirmed diseases in the 3rd quarter. The team included nursing, health education and environmental health staff.
- G. Health Education staff worked on ordinances to ban e-cigarette use in county buildings.
- H. Health Education staff coordinated a car seat check event for Hmong families that resulted in 27 car seat inspection appointments. WI Department of Transportation funding provided 23 seats to families without adequate child safety seats.

Goal #2 – Ensure a competent, trusted committed and motivated workforce

- A. Jim Steinhoff replaced Health Director, Sarah Spah, and is the Interim Health Director effective 9/4/15.
- B. Aron Newberry was hired to fill the vacant sanitarian position.

- C. Nursing, Health Education and Nutrition staff attended the “Rebuilding for Learning Summit” hosted by the La Crosse School District, City of La Crosse and La Crosse County.
- D. Laboratory and Environmental Health Divisions have new managers. Sue Schreiner is the interim lab manager and David Sawvell is the interim Environmental Health manager.
- E. Sanitarian Nicole Frankfourth completed certified training for radon measurement and will take over the Radon Program.
- F. A nurse attended the annual WI Oral Health Coalition Conference in Stevens Point to support ongoing work with children’s oral health promotion through the school-based Fluoride Varnish and Seal-A-Smile programs.
- G. Nutrition Educator, Abbie Loos, was elected to the Chair-Elect position of the Wisconsin WIC Association.

Goal #3 – Balance fiscal responsibility with innovative funding

- A. Health Education was awarded a contract with Mayo Health System to educate providers. The funds are from a Pfizer grant; “Aligning Pain Management.”
- B. Health Education, Environmental Health and Lab Divisions were awarded a CDC grant to provide education and testing for residents obtaining drinking water from private water supplies.
- C. Nutrition staff held discussions with the Aging Unit and UW-La Crosse exploring partnerships with the Strong Seniors and Smart Seniors programs.
- D. A survey was created to evaluate the effectiveness of participation in coalitions.
- E. A time tracking system was implemented to track work done for grants.

Goal #4 – Participate in, lead and build effective community partnerships

- A. Management team met with Jason Larson of the Family Neighborhood Collaborative to determine future public health involvement.
- B. Environmental staff met with La Crosse Fire Department Chief to discuss collaboration on housing issues.
- C. Nurses collaborated with the Boys and Girls Club, UW-Extension, Lion’s Club, La Crosse Area Police, Sheriff’s and Fire Departments and the School District of La Crosse to offer a Back-to-School Fair at Erickson and Boys and Girls Club sites that included immunizations, vision and dental screening, dental sealants, sports physicals, and distribution of school supplies.
- D. The Vector Control Manager met with County Boards of Health or Administrators from eleven contracted governmental agencies to discuss 2015 vector-borne disease control activities and planning for 2016.
- E. Nurses worked with community partners to identify/implement strategies through the following action teams: Suicide Prevention, Safe Kids Coalition, Distracted Teen Driving and Child Death Review Team
- F. Health Educator provided resources on third-hand smoke, low birth weight and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) to staff at the Parenting Place.
- G. Nurses provided health promotion and disease prevention information and resources at the annual “Steppin’ Out in Pink” event.
- H. Nurses participated in 2nd annual Pridefest in Riverside Park, providing education on preparedness, Hepatitis B&C disease, vaccines, and Sexually Transmitted Infection prevention. Over 250+ attended.
- I. Health Educator assisted 10 public schools with implementing Safe Routes to School at their elementary schools resulting in 604 additional walks to school.
- J. Staff planned the Public Health Legislative Gathering held at UWL on October 12, 2015.
- K. Nurses served on the Coulee Region Immunization Coalition and hosted the Annual Immunization Symposium to provide immunization-related education for health care providers – 175 persons attended.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jim Steinhoff
Interim Health Director*

MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

Internal Departments November 2015

Treasurer's office

A lot has happened in the Treasurer's office since my last report. On October 16th Anne Topinka who was employed by the county for 35 years and in the Treasurer's office had decided to retire. We wish Anne the very best and she was a great asset not only to our department but to the County. She will be missed. I will be doing interviews this month and hopefully by the start of the New Year we will have someone on board, stayed tuned.

We will soon be taking our Foreclosure list to court for the 2010/2011 tax year. We will be ending up with about 27 parcels. A big turnaround since we started with 85.

In September I attended the WCA conference that was held in La Crosse. The Treasurer's association had a booth that needed to be manned so I along with some colleagues from adjoining counties were present. We had a wonderful response along with the some goodies to be given away.

We just recently sent out 2,200 letters for lottery recertification on parcels that had changes during the year. We are getting a very good response on them and we will be entering these thru the month of November.

In October I attended the WCTA conference which was held in Marinette County. Also in October we had our annual Clerk/Treasurer meeting which talks about Dog licensing, any new zoning information and also to keep the local treasurer's and clerks informed of any new changes this year in the collection of taxes and new changes that may be happening. We also discussed the changes of the tax bill that will be taking place in 2016 and how that will affect everyone.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to stop by or contact me.

Respectively submitted,

Shawn Handland
La Crosse County Treasurer