



*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 6, 2016**

**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 should 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”**

**County Board Planning Meeting November 7, 2016**

The Planning meeting will have several topics including:

- Update on Ending Veterans Homelessness
- IT Security Awareness Training
- Report on 2016 Neighborhood Revitalization Grant Program
- 2017 Budget Discussion Items
  - Health Department
  - Human Services Department
  - Acronyms Reference List
  - Fund Balances Applied
  - Premier Resort Tax proposal for Transportation Funding
  - Supervisor Ebert proposal to apply \$1 million Excess Sales Tax/General Fund Balance for Highways
- Review of 2017 Budget consideration and Process for Annual Meeting

**Reminder: County Board Public Hearing on the Budget and Annual Meeting**

- Monday November 14, 2016 6:00 p.m. Public Hearing on the 2017 Budget
- County Board Annual Meeting Tuesday November 15, 2016, 9:00 a.m.

*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 2016

### **Lakeview Health Center and Assisted Living Campus Update**

We've moved! After literally years of planning and preparation, all staff and resident are in our new building. The assisted living move was completed on Tuesday, October 18<sup>th</sup> and the Lakeview Health Center and Ravenwood residents moved on Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>. Our motto during the last few weeks has been to "Get in – get settled!" Right now we are in the "get settled" part of our moving process. Both residents and staff have been adjusting to changes in our physical environment and in how we live and work. Management support during these transitions has been available for staff to ensure as smooth a transition as possible.

All of our license changes have been completed. New licenses have been received for the following:

- Lakeview Health Center – 50 beds
- Ravenwood State-only Nursing Facility – 10 beds
- Maplewood CBRF (community based residential facility) – 15 beds
- Neshonoc Manor CBRF – 15 beds

Thank you to all who were able to attend our Open House activities earlier this month. Over 200 visitors attended our grand opening activities. We received many positive comments – "beautiful", "residential –it fits in to any neighborhood", "love the private rooms"...On behalf of the residents and staff, accept our gratitude for this wonderful space!

If you have questions or comments about Lakeview, please email or call.

Submitted by:

*Wanda Plachecki, Administrator*  
[wplachecki@lacrossecounty.org](mailto:wplachecki@lacrossecounty.org)  
608-786-1400  
*Lakeview Health Center*

### **Veterans Services**

On October 27<sup>th</sup>, Tomah held its annual Homeless Veterans Stand-down at the Cargill Hall. The event brought together community entities to assist veterans in receiving healthcare, shoes, outdoor / personal equipment, identifying potential housing possibilities and other basic needs. Veterans from across the county and surrounding areas were in attendance to receive help. At this time a count has not been provided on how many veterans were assisted, but the overall feel of the event was positive. If you are aware of any homeless

veterans, please send them to our office as we do have donations of supplies to provide them.

Friday, November 11, 2016 will mark the 97<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Veterans Day (previously celebrated as Armistice Day). It was dedicated proclaimed on November 11<sup>th</sup>, 1919 following the temporary cessation of hostilities between the Allied nations and Germany which went into effect on the eleventh hour on the eleventh day of the eleventh month. This was thought to be the end of "the war to end all wars".

Veterans Day celebrates the service of all U.S. military veterans and I would recommend that you take a moment to thank those who are in your life that have serviced in the Armed Forces.

In honor of Veterans Day, there will be several events held around the greater La Crosse area and I would encourage you to attend to show your support. (This list is not all encompassing but are a few that we have been notified that will be taking place.)

**Thursday November 10<sup>th</sup>**

- 9:30 a.m. – Southern Bluffs Elementary, their Veterans Day event includes raising of the flag and 4th and 5th grade musical performances
- 6:30 p.m. – Southern Bluffs Elementary, their Veterans Day event includes raising of the flag and 4th and 5th grade musical performances

**Friday November 11<sup>th</sup>**

- 8:00 a.m. — Annual Freedom Honor Flight Veterans Day Breakfast at UW-La Crosse, ceremony at Veterans Hall of Honor at the Veterans Memorial Field Sports Complex followed by breakfast in the Mitchell Hall Fieldhouse
- 10:45 a.m. – Veterans Day Ceremony outside of American Legion Post 52, 711 S. 6th St
- 11:00 a.m. – Non-denominational service at San Damiano Chapel on the campus of Viterbo University followed by a luncheon at VFW Post 1530
- 11:50 a.m. – Lincoln Middle School, SOTA II, and Coulee Montessori The assembly will include presentation of colors and a Veterans Day program

*Adam Flood*  
*Veterans Service Officer*

# MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

## Health & Human Services November 2016

### Human Services Department

#### **ADMINISTRATION**

##### Office Moves

Work on the remodeling and addition to the Health & Human Services (HHS) Building is nearing completion. A few staff have moved to their permanent locations in the existing remodeled building. Staff office moves into the new addition are anticipated to begin in early November with all moves completed for HHS by mid-December. We look forward to this change and expanded space and sincerely appreciate the support of this project.

#### **ECONOMIC SUPPORT**

##### Consortium Turnover

A previous study showed the statewide turnover rate for Economic Support Specialists at 29%. Western Region for Economic Assistance (WREA) continues to experience a high turnover rate. Given the lengthy certification training that new employees must complete before they can be on the job, WREA has been down up to 16 positions throughout 2016. A joint meeting of Consortia Leads and Department of Health Services (DHS) staff continues, to both explore ways to increase staff retention and adjust training and operations to what the state refers to as the 'new normal'. DHS will be developing a video that can be posted on county websites to provide a more accurate and realistic picture of what an Economic Support Specialist position involves. The position has changed significantly, with 75% - 80% of an Economic Support Specialist's time spent providing services by phone. DHS will also be changing the certification training requirements for Income Maintenance. Instead of requiring new employees to be trained on all public assistance programs, there's a plan to only require completion of training on programs the employee will administer. The planning group continues to explore other ideas, as does WREA's Board of Directors.

##### MyWICChildCare Pilot Update

As part of the MyWICChildCare Electronic Benefit (EBT) initiative, all licensed or certified daycare providers must sign a contract with the state's EBT vendor to continue participating in the Wisconsin Shares Child Care subsidy program after October 1, 2016. WREA staff are responsible for providing outreach to providers to offer assistance with signing the contract online. WREA staff are also busy converting all Child Care subsidy cases from the current system to the new EBT Child Care Statewide Administration on Web (CSAW) system, which must be complete by September 15, 2016. Once implemented, MyWICChildCare will transition provider payments from being issued directly to the provider to participants receiving the subsidy payments on an EBT card and being responsible for managing and paying their daycare provider directly. Since subsidy payments will be issued at the beginning of the month, before care is provided, the policies around authorizing child care are also changing.

#### **INTEGRATED SUPPORT & RECOVERY SERVICES (ISRS)**

##### Suicide Prevention Summit

Wisconsin's suicide rate is higher than the national average, and our region's suicide rate is higher than the state average. La Crosse County was one of the agencies that helped sponsor the September 21<sup>st</sup> Suicide Prevention Summit in La Crosse. Over 200 individuals

from across the region/state gathered to enhance skills and strategies to decrease the number of individuals who end their lives via suicide.

## **AGING & DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER (ADRC)**

### Funding

The primary funder for the Aging services, Greater Wisconsin Area Agency on Aging (GWAAR), is providing training on a national model/trend that is encouraged to be utilized in Wisconsin. This business acumen concept encourages Aging Units to begin contracting to provide services beyond the typical/historic scope (but within the current service array) of the program to new payer sources in order to generate additional revenue that can be used to enhance/maintain the Older American's Act programs that are offered locally. We are providing initial discussions to our committees as we learn more about how this could impact our services/work.

### Funding

On Wednesday, September 28, Congress passed a short-term (10 week) funding bill to keep the federal government funded through December 9, 2016. The end of the federal fiscal year was September 30, 2016, so this short term "continuing resolution" was needed to allow federally funded programs, such as our Older Americans Act (OAA) funded services, to continue functioning/receiving funding until a final FY 2017 budget is completed. This continuing resolution funds our OAA services and other aging programs at FY 2016 levels minus 0.5% in order to keep the funding below the budget cap established for FY 2017 in last year's bipartisan Budget Agreement. After the November election, the House and Senate are expected to restart talks on a final FY 2017 federal budget.

### Planning

Our regional Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) of Western Wisconsin serves Jackson, La Crosse, Monroe and Vernon Counties. As each county is exploring its current and preferred options for ADRC/Aging service integration we are, as a group, meeting frequently to understand the impact and planning needs for our ADRC region. The aging-related changes, coupled with significant changes in ADRC contract requirements, have caused us to reassess the costs and benefits to La Crosse County of both delivering these services regionally and our existing regional model.

Currently, the ADRC is under one contract, held by La Crosse, to provide ADRC services to the four county area in a consistent manner as outlined in the contract. Aging services are funded by contracts between Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) and each individual county. Each of our four counties has its own Aging Unit, which functions based on their county's service needs, whether they choose to directly provide services versus contracting for services, methods of marketing, etc. When an Aging Unit and ADRC integrate, they take the name "Aging and Disability Resource Center" and are required to use a unified marketing approach, location, website, etc.

The need to be planful as we make key decisions about the future of services and partnerships in this area is important as it affects greatly how the public accesses/finds services and needed assistance. There are upcoming meetings with the Directors from our partner counties (mid-month and end of month) where these issues will be discussed. We will keep the Health & Human Services Board up to date as discussions continue.

## **FAMILY & CHILDREN'S**

### PS Program On-Site Review

The Post-reunification Services (PS) program through the Department of Children & Families (DCF) continues to provide the necessary resources to enable families to successfully

reunify. Between June 1, 2016 and August 31, 2016 we successfully reunified 20 children and youth that were all eligible and enrolled in the PS program. During that period we had 70 children/youth that were eligible to be enrolled in the program; however, for 50 of those children reunification was not possible due to unresolved safety and treatment issues for their parents.

In September, we participated in a site visit and evaluation of the PS program. A principal researcher from The Children and Family Research Center with the School of Social Work at the University of Illinois and a Federal program monitor conducted focus groups and feedback sessions with Family and Children's Section leadership and staff. This is the second site visit we were selected to participate in during the past four years of PS program participation. The researcher appreciated our participation and indicated they gathered valuable information that may help shape the remaining two years of the program here in Wisconsin.

#### Foster Care Recruitment

On September 29, 2016 the Permanency Resource Unit participated in the Oktoberfest Torch Light Parade as a recruitment effort. The theme of our entry in the parade was "La Crosse County Foster Care; Become an Everyday Hero!" Invitations to participate in the parade were sent out to current foster parents, youth, and county workers and together approximately 30 people walked in the parade. A bright banner was held that stated "La Crosse County Foster Care" followed by a brightly lit van and many children and adults dressed in glow sticks handing out candy. It was an exciting night and 500 cards were distributed among the crowd encouraging people to consider becoming foster parents for La Crosse County.

#### **JUSTICE SUPPORT SERVICES (JSS)**

##### CORE Academy

Community Option for Re-Engagement (CORE) Academy is currently at capacity with 8 youth placed in the program. Four of these clients are La Crosse County residents and four are out-of-county residents. This not only brings in revenue for out of county placements, but also a cost savings from high cost placement for our La Crosse clients. David Steinberg recently marketed the program at the Wisconsin Juvenile Court Intake Association (WJCIA) Conference and has had numerous inquiries from other counties in potential placements, resulting in a potential wait list for the program.

##### Evidence Based Decision Making Initiative

Wisconsin was once again chosen to enter Phase VI of the Evidence Based Decision Making (EBDM) initiative through the National Institute of Corrections (NIC). La Crosse is one of eight sites that will benefit from this continued technical assistance from NIC.

*Jason Witt*

*Director of Human Services*

## **Health Department**

### **Governor's Task Force on Opioid Abuse:**

This Director was requested by the Governor's Office to be on the Governor's Task Force on Opioid Abuse. The first meeting was on October 28<sup>th</sup> in Green Bay. This Director participated



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

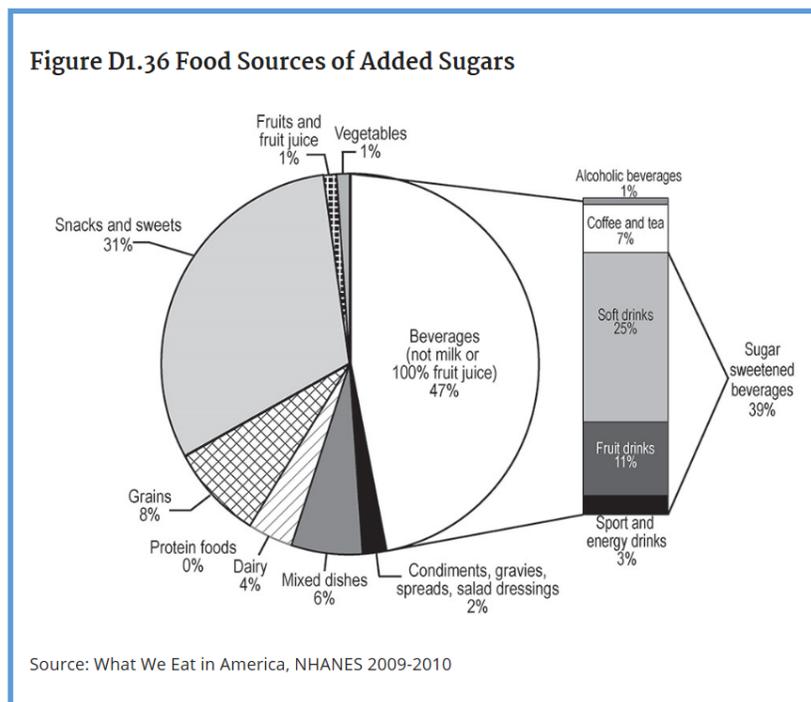
by phone. The meeting was mostly introductory and informational. Many on the Governor's Task Force are interested in prevention. Meetings will occur monthly. As you all know, we have a well-respected Heroin and Other Illicit Drug Task Force locally and I can help bring that voice to the table. I will keep you informed of the discussions and seek input as policy change proposals come up. Representative Jill Billings is also on the Governor's Task Force.

### **Will a Soda Tax Reduce Obesity?**

The World Health Organization released a new report (<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2016/curtail-sugary-drinks/en/>) on October 11, 2016, stating that "Taxing sugary drinks can lower consumption and reduce obesity, type 2 diabetes and tooth decay." The report explains that obesity rates continue to rise in America as do the health care costs to treat obesity-related diseases.

Will a sugar-sweetened beverage (SSB) tax change anything? The issue is a complicated one; a tax is not the only option, but it might help. Americans do consume far too much added sugars in their diets. "Added sugars" are different than naturally occurring sugars already in foods such as fruits and dairy. These sugars are added during preparation, increasing the sweetness and also the calorie content of foods such as candy, cakes, cookies, and other processed foods.

According to What Works for Health in Wisconsin, there is "some evidence" that a tax may make a difference. The review notes that it is important that "funds generated by this type of tax be used to subsidize healthy foods or to support other public health ventures."



The RUDD Report, has a Policy Brief Update related to Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Taxes: [http://www.uconnruddcenter.org/files/Pdfs/Rudd\\_Policy\\_Brief\\_Sugar\\_Sweetened\\_Beverage\\_Taxes\(1\).pdf](http://www.uconnruddcenter.org/files/Pdfs/Rudd_Policy_Brief_Sugar_Sweetened_Beverage_Taxes(1).pdf). This report states that there are currently, 34 states and Washington, D.C. have sales taxes on SSBs. The last page of this report gives arguments for and against a SSB tax. One example of what opponents might say is that this tax will hurt the poor and minorities who can least afford it. Proponents might state that obesity also hurts the poor and minority populations at higher numbers. SSBs are not a necessary part of a diet and a tax would decrease consumption, while improving health.

While the debate will likely continue about the value of a sugar-sweetened beverage tax, it is evident that Americans consume too many SSBs. Education to consumers about the health risks of consuming added sugars is another option. Water is a free and readily-available option!

### **Tularemia:**

Three pet cats living in the City of La Crosse have died of tularemia since the end of July. Tularemia is a bacterial disease spread between animals and humans. It is transmitted to people and other animals through ticks and biting flies and contact with infected rabbits and rodents. Also, human infection following contact with infected cats has been well documented. Tularemia is not transmitted person to person. All three cats that have died in La Crosse were allowed to run outside where the probability of contact with infected rabbits or rodents was likely. Symptoms of Tularemia infection of a cat include cough, difficulty breathing, skin sores or ulcers, poor appetite, weight loss, fever, vomiting, diarrhea, swollen lymph nodes and lethargy. Please remember that cats that run at large have a life expectancy that is less than half of cats kept indoors. Also it is against La Crosse City Ordinances and La Crosse County code to allow cats or dogs to run at large.

### **La Crosse County STD Prevention Web Survey:**

STDs are on the rise and La Crosse County experienced the highest rate of reported sexual transmitted diseases (STDs) at 520 during 2015. The Health Department contracts with Essential Health Services for STD testing for county residents. Essential Health can enroll residents in the Federal Healthcare program, this step reduced the number of tests the county was billed during 2015, which resulted in approximately \$7700 in unexpended contract funds. Health Education Manager, Paula Silha, requested carry forward of these funds to 2016 to conduct activity to prevent STD or reduce transmission of STDs. With the approval of the carry forward a small workgroup was formed including staff from Essential Health Services, St. Clare Health Mission and UW-La Crosse Health Center and State Health Department STD Program staff. The work group has identified a 3-tiered approach to addressing this problem including: provider education on EPT-Expedited Partner Therapy; advertising about STD testing and risk reduction through social media, tavern and bar outreach; and a targeted survey at each agency on (1) knowledge, attitudes and beliefs about STDs and (2) comfort in talking about STD risk and condom use with partners. The UW Survey Center at UW-Madison has agreed to work with the work group to design, gain approval and implement the survey with results available in early 2017.

### **A Sampling of September Activities:**

- Nursing staff responded to 15 reports of communicable diseases, including: Hepatitis B & C, Pertussis, Legionellosis, Zika, Invasive Streptococcal Disease and Mycobacterial Disease-non-TB. Health Education staff conducted 46 of 46 initial investigations of sexual transmitted disease cases and completed follow-up with 43 positive cases. Health Education staff investigated 12 cases of enteric disease: 3 campylobacter, 1 salmonella, 2 giardia and 6 e-coli.
- From July of 2015 to September of 2016 four bats which had contact with humans or domestic animals have tested positive for Rabies. Three exposures occurred in homes and one in a City of La Crosse Park. The exposure occurring at the park involved two children which found the bat on the ground and interacted with it. Fortunately one child told a parent of the contact and the bat was collected for testing. Both children received treatment with post-exposure rabies prophylaxis.
- Presentations were provided: at the Kwik Trip Annual Food Safety Conference, on population health to Family Practice Residency students at Gundersen, on the Health Department to Family Practice Residency students at Mayo, on the Community Health Improvement Plan at the Mental Health Coalition's Information Exchange, on Public

Health for the Boy Scouts, and on the Strong Seniors program at Altra Credit Union's Wellness Fest.

- The collaboration between the Health Department, schools, and healthcare (Gundersen and Mayo) for sustainability of the Farm to School program for the next 3 years was announced in a press conference on 9/12.
- The Coulee Region Immunization Coalition's (led by Public Health Nursing Division staff) annual Immunization Symposium at the Waterfront was attended by more than 135 nurses, medical assistants, nurse practitioners, doctors, and nursing students.
- Health Education staff provided support and logistics for 5 weeks of the Farmer's Market piloted at the Town of Farmington Town Hall in Mindoro.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jennifer Rombalski*  
*Health Director*