



*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: July 10, 2017

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 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
Veterans, Aging & Long Term Care
County Clerk, Finance, IT,
Personnel, Treasurer

“OF INTEREST”

County Board Planning Meeting Monday July 10, 2017

The July 10, 2017 Planning meeting of the County Board including:

- 2016 Sustainability Indicators Report
- Community Health Priorities

*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 July 2017

Veterans Service Office

There are many things happening for veterans this summer.

- La Crosse Area Veterans Mentoring Program (LAVMP) has received a grant that is allowing veterans and their families to return to recreational activities. This includes, but not limited to, month gym membership to CrossFit UDX, trout fishing, free canoe / kayak / paddle boards at Island Outdoors, golf at Forest Hills and many other activities. Veterans who are interested should call 608-785-6420 to learn more.
- Freedom Fest is also given our office tickets to be handed out to veterans so that they are able to attend the last Freedom Fest. So far our office has been able to give away 200 tickets for veterans and family members to attend the event.
- Another grant was awarded from the VA, and received by the National Hockey League (NHL), to assist veterans with a handicap to play hockey. Veterans are able to sign up for hockey at the Green Island Ice Arena.

On March 14, 2017 the VA signed into law that veterans who served in Camp Lejeune between August 1, 1953 and December 31, 1987 are now eligible to apply for presumptive service connected disabilities due to water contamination. Veterans who served during the time period, and stationed at Camp Lejeune for 30 days or more, should contact our office to find out more about the presumptive conditions.

To date our office has been quite busy working with veterans. On average we have been seeing anywhere from 150 to 200 veterans per month to apply for benefits with the VA. Veterans have been able to get into VA Healthcare, saving themselves \$100.00's in medical expenses. Other veterans have been able to get on VA Pension or receive a VA Service Connected Disability which has returned federal dollars to the veteran and to the La Crosse County. These dollars have quickly added up in the first six months of the year.

We continue to try and do additional outreach to find veterans who have never sought assistance through our office. If you know of a veteran, please direct them to us as they may be missing out on benefits they are eligible for.

Adam Flood
La Crosse County Veterans Service Officer

MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

Health & Human Services July 2017

Human Services Department

AGING & DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER (ADRC)

Advocacy

Audra Martine testified before the Wisconsin Legislature's Joint Finance Committee on April 19 regarding the direct care workforce shortage and Governor Walker's proposed budget increase of 2% for Medicaid Personal Care Workers and Nursing Home Care Workers.

ECONOMIC SUPPORT (ES)

WI 1115 Waiver Amendment 0 Childless Adults

Consortia representatives will be serving on a committee with the Department of Health Services (DHS) to develop plans to implement initiatives included in the governor's 1115 Waiver Amendment for Childless Adults receiving Medicaid. Under the waiver, the following changes are planned:

- Monthly Medicaid premiums for childless adults.
- Health Risk Assessment (HRA) required for childless adults receiving Medicaid. Monthly premiums would be reduced by 50% for healthy behaviors.
- 48-month Medicaid time limit for childless adults not meeting work participation requirements.

Drug screening and testing for childless adults receiving Medicaid.

JUSTICE SUPPORT SERVICES (JSS)

Training

Mandy Bisek joined a multi-disciplinary team, which included representatives from Probation & Parole, Jail, and Western Technical College's Project Proven in Aurora, Colorado, for a training on Justice Involved Women sponsored by the National Institute of Corrections.

INTEGRATED SUPPORT & RECOVERY SERVICES (ISRS)

Jail Therapist Hired

Sam Seefeld is a Master's level clinician that has begun as the new ISRS therapist who provides services to the Jail. His first day was May 15 which allowed for significant overlap with the retiring therapist (Steve Josephson) to ensure a smooth transition of service.

Joint Finance Committee Testimony

Matt Strittmater provided testimony at the Joint Finance Committee Public Hearing in Ellsworth. Main focus was on the positive impact removing the Children's Long Term Support Waiver wait list would have for La Crosse County families (approximately 180 children on current wait list for service).

Mental Health Awareness Walk

ISRS Outpatient Clinic employees facilitated the 6th annual Mental Health Awareness Walk on May 25th. Approximately 250 people gathered outside Human Services to hear a proclamation by Mayor Tim Kabat and a brief speech by a family/ consumer. A walk through the downtown area then occurred with individuals carrying informational signs.

Supported Employment Fidelity Review

In 2011 La Crosse County implemented the Evidence Based Practice of Supported Employment. This model is considered the most effective way to assist individuals with mental health issues to achieve competitive employment. The service is delivered via contract by Family & Children's Center to consumers within our longer term case management programs. The annual outside review of fidelity occurred in May, and our program received its third consecutive "exemplary rating". We are the **only** program in Wisconsin to currently be rated at this highest level.

Jason Witt
Director of Human Services



La Crosse County Board Health Department Report

April/May 2017



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Upcoming Legislative Gathering:

The next legislative gathering is scheduled for October 2, 2017 from 9:00 am – 11:00 am at the Cleary and Alumni Friends Center Great Hall – UW-La Crosse. The key speaker will be Thai Vue, Executive Director of the Wisconsin United Coalition of Mutual Assistance Association, Inc. with a talk entitled "Public Health is Grounded in a Multi-Cultural Perspective." The purpose of the legislative gathering is to provide an opportunity for Federal and State elected officials to meet with persons from the partner organizations (Western Technical College, Viterbo, UW-La Crosse, and La Crosse County Health Department) interested in supporting public health policy that improves the health of the public in La Crosse, Wisconsin area legislative districts.

Sharps Disposal Boxes - Update:



The Sharps boxes in the King Street Alley between 4th and 5th Street downtown La Crosse and in the boat ramp on the North side of La Crosse behind Hardee's have yielded 16,500 needles since installed at the end of April (less than 2 months). Aids Resource Center of Wisconsin continues to monitor/empty the boxes and coordinates proper disposal. These boxes were possible due to collaboration with our community partners through a subcommittee of the Heroin and Other Illicit Drug Task Force, which is tackling the issue of inappropriately disposed needles in our community.

Emerging Leaders in Public Health:

Jen Rombalski, Director, and Christine Gillespie, Public Health Nursing Manager, were recently awarded a leadership development grant through the Kresge Foundation. The \$125,000 award will be used to transform the leadership capacity of the department to

serve in a new role as our county's Chief Health Strategist, leading community health improvement initiatives to transform population health.

2nd Annual Drug Forum a Success:

On May 15, over 320 individuals attended two drug forums to help the community learn more about opioids, including what they can do to address heroin and prescription drug abuse in their community. Resources were also available from treatment, recovery and support providers.

- *Heroin + Prescription Painkillers: A Forum for Community Action* was sponsored by the Western Wisconsin Healthcare and the La Crosse Heroin and Other Illicit Drug Task Force. Over 200 professionals from around the region gathered to hear from a variety of local panelists and staff from the Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation who guided participants through a Community Opioid Toolkit.
- The Lybert Family from Yourchoice presented the WAKE UP CALL at both forums. The WAKE UP CALL is a life-size exhibit of a teen's bedroom with more than 20 "red flags" that can signal drug or alcohol use.
- There were also over 120 participants who attended the Community Drug Forum during the evening. The main purpose of the forum was to encourage parents and others living with addiction to drugs or who are at risk, or those concerned with seeking resources in our community to find help. Participants learned about current efforts going on in La Crosse County to prevent illicit drug problems.



To view the Community Drug Forum, go to: <http://1410wizm.com/index.php/item/30295-watch-community-discusses-drug-problem-at-forum-monday>.

Submitted by

Jen Rombalski
Health Director

MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

Internal Departments July 2017

Treasurer's office

Well since my last report, the Treasurer's office has been pretty busy. The 9 In-Rem foreclosures for 2012 which were taken by La Crosse County in February have been advertised and sold with the exception for 1 property which will be finalized by the end of August. We are currently working on the 2013 In-Rem foreclosure process which at last count we will be moving forward on 35 properties to start which is 6 less than the previous year. In June I held the Wisconsin County Treasurer's Association conference at the Radisson Hotel in La Crosse. We had 62 out of 72 County Treasurer's attend. Everyone that was present had a wonderful time and I cannot thank the Radisson Hotel staff enough as well as my staff for helping with the preparation of this conference. The membership elected myself as Vice President of the association and I am truly honored to be a part of this wonderful group. In our office we are gearing up for the July collections for the 2nd half installment payments which are due no later than July 31st. It has been pretty steady with payments coming in via mail and walk-ins. At this point we have about \$17.3 million to collect so it will be a busy July. As always if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to stop by our office or contact us at 608-785-9711 or my direct line of 608-785-9712.

Respectively submitted,

Shawn Handland
La Crosse County Treasurer

County Clerk

April 4th Election

Turnout for the April 4th election was at 19.94%. Lower than a typical Spring election but that can be contributed to the City of La Crosse not having a contested mayoral race on the ballot. After four elections last year, two already this year and two countywide recounts in December, the County Clerk's Office is more than excited to take a break from elections.

Youth & Government Day

On Tuesday, April 25th, the County hosted Youth & Government Day. Approximately 40 students from Bangor, Holmen, Melrose-Mindoro and Coulee Christian High Schools were given the opportunity to learn more about County Government. The day started with Senator Shilling and Supervisor Wehrs talking with the students. We continued with a debate in the boardroom on a "Ban the Box" resolution. The students then toured the Jail, Juvenile Detention Center, Justice Support Services, Morgue, viewed the BearCat /weapons room, and observed court cases. Thank you to those Supervisors, the Elected Officials, departments that gave tours, the American Legion and everyone else that helped to make this year's Youth & Government Day a big success.

Dogs

Over 800 dog citations were mailed out at the beginning of June to dog owners in La Crosse County that have not licensed their dog or showed proof of updated rabies for 2017. Our staff

worked feverishly to contact dog owners before citations went out to make sure erroneous citations were not issued.

Barron County Tornado Relief

The Clerk's office organized a tornado relief drive for the victims of the Barron County Tornado. There were several County employees who had family and friends living in that area that were directly affected by the tornado. We collected household items, clothes, toys, blankets, and everything and anything else. Our office quickly started to overflow with all the donated items that came in. Not to mention the 1200 pounds of donated items that the Solid Waste Department collected. It took a 16 foot Ryder truck, packed full, to get all the donated items up to Chetek. The generosity of the La Crosse County employees never ceases to amaze me!!!

*Respectfully Submitted,
Ginny Dankmeyer, County Clerk*