



LA CROSSE COUNTY
Exceptional services. Extraordinary place.

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Memo To: La Crosse County Board of Supervisors
From: Steve O'Malley, County Administrator
Date: September 6, 2017

Re: September Monthly Report to the County Board

Attached is the September 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 September 11, 2017

The September 11, 2017 Planning meeting of the County Board will include:

- Xcel French Island Report
- Coulee Cap Annual Report
- Review of the process for changing Speed Zones – Ron Chamberlain
- Overview of Speed Zone enforcement – Sheriff's Department

County Board Meeting Thursday September 21, 2017

I will provide an overview of the recent Moody's rating report and the County's resulting debt rate and outstanding principal remaining. In addition, I will provide an overview of 2018 budget challenges and the expected effect on the County tax rate based on the County Administrators budget recommendation.

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 September 2017

Veterans Service Office

The Veterans Service Office has seen a lot of donations this year in order for veterans to participate in free opportunities in the area and the state. During Freedom Fest, we were able to give away over 200 tickets. With Oktoberfest coming up, veterans are able to receive a free button for themselves and one guest. These events are great opportunities for veterans, who have withdrawn themselves, to re-engage in activities they once participate in.

Our office has also been working closely with the La Crosse Area Veterans Mentoring Program (LAVMP) who received a grant from the Franke Foundation to help veterans return to recreational activities. So far this year, over 200 veterans have been able to participate in events. Activities have ranged from the Dragon Boat Race, Escape Room, Bow Fishing, Coulee Con, Pottery, Horse Therapy and many more activities. The grant is awarded through the end of December, so more activities to come.

This year has been a busier year for us. We are currently averaging over 175 veterans and or their dependents per month in our office. Thanks to great staff, we have been able to keep up with the demand and ensure that they receive the benefits or answers to the questions that they have. In addition to having them come into the office, we are stepping up in our community outreach to get to those who are unable to make it into the office.

While all of this is taking place, we have been working with our IT Department to upgrade our database to better track information regarding veterans of La Crosse County. A big thank you to Dean Slindee in all that he has done for us. Our capabilities to input information along with accessing it quicker than we used to has greatly improved the office efficiency.

As the Fall is quickly coming up on us, our focus will be on Veterans Day and participating in activities throughout La Crosse County in order to show our offices' support in ceremonies that are taking place.

Adam Flood
La Crosse County Veterans Service Officer

Lakeview Health Center & Assisted Living

Lakeview Health Center survey: Our annual recertification survey was completed last month at Lakeview. Overall, the survey went well. We have submitted plans of correction for the health citations received. We also received 2 construction citations during the Life Safety Code portion of the survey. These are also in the process of being corrected. Although it may be surprising that a new building would have any life safety code construction deficiencies, it is generally the time that the engineer surveyors notices items

that were not evident during the construction approval process. If you have any questions about this survey, please give me a call. I'd be happy to review in more detail.

Census Update: Census has remained high since moving into our new campus. As of 8/31/17, our campus census was 50/50 at Lakeview Health Center, 8/10 at Ravenwood, 14/15 at Maplewood CBRF, 15/15 at Neshonoc Manor CBRF, 8/8 at Monarch Manor CBRF & 4/4 at Regent Manor AFH (reminder that CBRF is community based residential facility and AFH is adult family home – these are our assisted living licenses). Our resident satisfaction with their new home remains very high!

Submitted by:

Wanda Plachecki, Administrator

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Lakeview Health Center

Hillview Health Care Center

ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATE: Over the past few months, the Hillview Health Care Center management team, along with support from County administration, finance, and personnel has been assessing many aspects of the Hillview operation, including licensed bed capacity, staffing patterns, overtime analysis, & consolidation of resident living spaces. This operational analysis has identified many opportunities to improve efficiencies & increase revenues within the organization. The Hillview campus staff have done a great job of implementing these changes and will continue to identify additional improvements in the months ahead.

NEW INITIATIVE: The Hillview team has also been working to develop an enhanced dining service. Mealtime is a time when people have the greatest opportunity to do something familiar! This initiative is being implemented this month and will provide an enhanced dining experience with greater choice & a more "hospitality" ambience. Enriching the dining experience is one of the ways to enhance person directed care at Hillview. Identifying other ways to enhance the care and services for our residents will continue to be priority.

If you have any questions about these initiatives, please call me.

Submitted by:

Wanda Plachecki, MA, NHA

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MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

Health & Human Services September 2017

Human Services Department

AGING & DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER (ADRC)

Provider Updates

We will have a new long term care provider in our area beginning January 1, 2018. The new provider is named My Choice Family Care and will join Care Wisconsin and Community Link (formerly Western Wisconsin Cares) in providing Family Care services. We also have a new IRIS (Include, Respect, I Self-Direct) Independent Consultant Agency (ICA) beginning August 1, 2017; the new agency is called Advocates4U ICA and will join TMG (The Management Group/Magellan) in partnering with IRIS consumers in managing their self-directed care.

Regional Dissolution Update

Final dissolution of the regional ADRC occurred on June 30, 2017. Financial separation will continue through the end of the year as we will continue to complete final month's expense claiming from the partner counties.

Dementia Services

A new Dementia Crisis grant has been received by the ADRC. The new funds will continue outreach to individuals with memory issues through the Music & Memory program as well as begin a new service with Causeway Interfaith Caregivers to create a peer mentor program for caregivers of those with dementia.

FAMILY & CHILDREN'S (FC)

Grant Recipient/Collaboration

Our agency, along with New Horizons, jointly applied for a grant through the Department of Children and Families (DCF). The purpose of the grant was to receive technical assistance in writing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two agencies in their work regarding Child Protective Services cases. We were just recently informed that we were 1 of 3 counties in Wisconsin to receive the technical assistance grant.

INTEGRATED SUPPORT & RECOVERY SERVICES (ISRS)

Multi-County Meeting with Department of Health Services

ISRS administration participated in a multi-county meeting with the Department of Health Services (DHS) and Trempealeau Health Care Center to discuss ideas on how to reduce length of stay at Trempealeau. State hospitals are very full and they are hoping increased capacity at Trempealeau through shortening length of stay may be a piece of the solution. During the course of the day, two things came up that show the intense and effective work done by La Crosse:

1. La Crosse County's median average length of stay is ***50 days shorter*** than the state average.
2. La Crosse County's readmission rate is about ***25% lower*** than the state average.
3. A former Trempealeau Social Worker who is now in a County system said, "*I was so impressed with La Crosse when I worked at Trempealeau. I felt like I had to run to keep up with them.*"

Grant Funding for Opioid Treatment

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) has awarded nearly \$2.4 million in grants to 16 counties and three tribal nations to increase access to treatment services for opioid abuse. Each county and tribe receiving a grant is expected to use the most effective and efficient practices for treatment of opioid use disorder. Delivery of services must begin prior to September 1, 2017, and funding is available through April 30, 2018. **La Crosse County received \$99,695** that will be utilized to offer Peer Mentor and Supported Housing services. Individuals struggling with Opioid use who are engaged with the County's Child Protective, Juvenile Justice, and County Jail system will be targeted for priority access to services.

Jason Witt
Director of Human Services



La Crosse County Board Health Department Report

April/May 2017



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Great Rivers Hub Update:

Great Rivers Hub launched its pilot phase on August 1, 2017 focusing on high Emergency Room utilizers. Referrals have been received from health systems, entered by the Hub Director and Resource Specialist into the software database, and sent on to care coordinators. There are 2 Care Coordination Agencies with three 0.5 FTE staff total providing care coordination (two of these 0.5 FTEs are in the Health Department). Ten clients are currently in the database of which 4 are considered high risk and 2 are classified as having urgent needs. The main pathways opened include: housing (5), medical referral (4), and Social Service Referral – Transportation (3). One Education pathway has been closed.

Water Event Summary and Next Steps:

An executive summary of the water event from April and May 2017 relating to contamination in private wells of the Townships of Holmen and Onalaska has been published. The report is available on the Health Department website under the Administration Tab - [Reports](#).

Next steps involve coordinating a Nitrate Task Force to review data, determine root cause, and identify solutions to address the root cause. A \$10,000 grant from the Environmental Public Health Tracking program at the state has been received to support completion of these next steps by August 2018.



Influenza Season Approaching:



The Public Health Nursing Division is preparing for the upcoming flu season. Here are five most common questions (and answers) we receive:

Is the "stomach flu" the same as seasonal influenza?

No. *Seasonal Influenza is a respiratory disease and not a stomach or intestinal disease.* Many people use the term "stomach flu" to describe illnesses with nausea, vomiting or diarrhea. These symptoms can be caused by many different viruses, bacteria or even parasites. While vomiting, diarrhea, and being nauseous can sometimes be related to the flu (more commonly in children than adults) these problems are rarely the main symptoms of influenza.

So you got your flu shot last year and you still got sick with flu-like symptoms. WHY?

There are several reasons this can happen:

1. Some people become ill from other respiratory viruses besides flu such as rhinoviruses (associated with the common cold) which can cause symptoms similar to flu, and also spread and cause illness during the flu season. The flu vaccine only protects against influenza, not other illnesses.
2. It is possible to be exposed to influenza viruses shortly before getting vaccinated or during the two-week period after vaccination in which the body is developing immunity.

This exposure may result in a person becoming ill with flu before protection from the vaccine takes effect.

3. It is possible to be exposed to a flu virus that is very different from the viruses the vaccine is designed to protect against. The ability of a flu vaccine to protect a person depends largely on the similarity or “match” between the viruses selected to make the vaccine and those spreading and causing illness. There are many different flu viruses that spread and cause illness among people.
4. The flu vaccine can [vary in how well it works](#) and some people who get vaccinated may still get sick.

What strains of the flu virus are in the vaccine this year?

There are four strains in the vaccine:

- A/Michigan/45/2015 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus;
- A/Hong Kong/4801/2014 (H3N2)-like virus;
- B/Brisbane/60/2008-like (B/Victoria lineage) virus;
- B/Phuket/3073/2013-like (B/Yamagata lineage) virus.



Does the public health nursing division recommend that you get your flu shot?

Yes! It is the first and most important step in protecting against seasonal influenza viruses.

What are the side effects of the flu vaccine?

Flu shots are safe and cannot give you the flu, but there may be some mild side effects. The most common side effects from the flu shot are soreness, redness, tenderness, or swelling where the shot is given.

If you have any questions about seasonal influenza or the vaccine contact the Public Health Nursing Division in the Health Department.

Opioid Bill Signing Ceremony:

On Monday, July 17th, Governor Scott Walker, accompanied by the Lt. Governor and Representative Nygren, traveled to Onalaska to sign 4 of the Special Session - HOPE Legislation bills into law. As part of the Governor’s Task Force, Representative Jill Billings and Health Director Jen Rombalski participated in the event. Local Task Force members, including Health Educator Al Bliss and Health & Human Services Committee Chair Monica Kruse also participated.



Submitted by

Jen Rombalski
Health Director