

**Human Services Director's Report**  
**To the Health & Human Services Board**

September 2022

Activity	Program/ Section	Brief Description	Contact Person	Attach- ment
Falls Prevention Awareness Week	Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC)	While falls prevention is important to focus on throughout the year, the first day of fall (September 22) is designated as Falls Prevention Awareness Day and acknowledged across the United States. Again, this year, the ADRC in partnership with the La Crosse County Falls Prevention Coalition, has planned a week of activities to help our community get informed and get active to spread awareness. See attached schedule or visit <a href="http://www.lacrossestopfalls.org">www.lacrossestopfalls.org</a> , for more info!	ADRC Manager Carissa Pagel-Smith 785-6172 <a href="mailto:cpagel@lacrossecounty.org">cpagel@lacrossecounty.org</a>	Yes
COVID Federal Public Health Emergency (PHE)	Economic Support (ES)	The COVID federal public health emergency was extended another 90 days, until mid-January 2023. Given the latest extension, all covid-related policy waivers that impact income maintenance programs will remain in place.	ES Manager Lorie Graff 738-2410 <a href="mailto:lgraff@lacrossecounty.org">lgraff@lacrossecounty.org</a>	No
Community Economic Support Specialists	Economic Support (ES)	The two community Economic Support Specialists began working in the community in early July. Staff are now on-site regularly at the Reach Center and La Crosse County's main library. They have also been able to participate in community events, including Homeless Connect at the La Crosse Center, The Parenting Place's Family Fun Fest at Myrick Park, as well as a number of back-to-school events. The community Economic Support Specialists are available to meet in-person to answer questions about income maintenance programs, process applications, and troubleshoot eligibility issues that members may be experiencing.	ES Manager Lorie Graff 738-2410 <a href="mailto:lgraff@lacrossecounty.org">lgraff@lacrossecounty.org</a>	No
Foster Care Events	Family & Children's (FC)	The Permanency Resource Unit has been very active in the last month, pulling together a weekly virtual scavenger hunt to engage our La Crosse County foster parents and have a little fun. An email goes out to our foster care providers with the hunt of the day and prizes are mailed out to the winners. The feedback has been tremendous as providers are feeling like they are connecting with others in a way that has been missing since the pandemic began. Each year, as the school year begins, we have hosted a Pizza Night so foster families can relax and not have to worry about cooking dinner on the first day back to school. This year, we have partnered with Papa Murphy pizza, and gift cards will be sent out to foster families allowing them to pick up a pizza of their choice anytime that first week of school. This is one of the retention efforts that the Permanency Resource Unit does throughout the year to recognize the tremendous work foster families are doing to help children and families in our community.	FC Manager Tracy Puent 792-5507 <a href="mailto:tpuent@lacrossecounty.org">tpuent@lacrossecounty.org</a>  Lila Barlow <a href="mailto:lbarlow@lacrossecounty.org">lbarlow@lacrossecounty.org</a>	No