

Mission Statement
Family & Children's
of La Crosse County

Identifying and responding to safety concerns and needs of children, families and community utilizing a family's strengths and team process along with formal and informal supports to improve child, family and community quality of life.

Mary Ellen Prinsen, Manager



300 fourth street north . La Crosse WI 54601

Kate and John have five children which Kate single parents in her home along with two additional children. She expressed a sense of relief and was open to services when the Department became involved after numerous police contacts/welfare checks and referrals for reasons such as neglect, physical abuse and sexual abuse over the last two years. The condition of the home, lack of supervision, domestic situation between Kate and John, lack of follow through with recommended services as well as medical and education care for the children were all concerns.

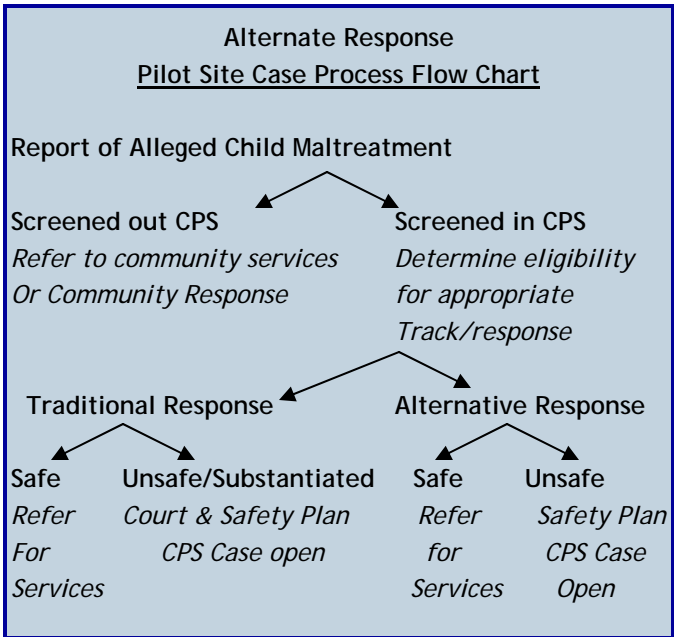
The primary focus offered to Kate by the Department was parent education and support to be better equipped to control the activities in the home, maintain a clean, stable and safe home and create consistent routine, home rules and support for the children. It was also recommended she take an active role in the medical, educational and therapeutic care of the children.

Kate has made tremendous progress towards the goals she agreed to and the court ordered conditions. The changes in her parenting and overall environment in the home have been positive. She is actively involved in all aspects of the children’s lives provides adequate supervision and has successfully established routine and cohesion. She has implemented daily schedules, chores, activities, rewards and consequences for the children. More importantly, she has followed through with these things over a period of time.

Kate has been working with service providers and she is more involved in meeting her children’s needs. She actively communicates with school and encourages the children to be involved in extracurricular school activities. Additionally Kate sought and secured a restraining order against John and actively pursued ongoing divorce proceedings. Doing so has empowered Kate and enabled her to focus on her children.



Family & Children’s Section provides services to children and families that are encountering significant difficulty in their daily living. The section provides Child Protection Services, Juvenile Justice Services, Children’s Mental Health Services, and services to children with physical, emotional and developmental disabilities. We continue to be one of the few counties in the state that has all of children’s services under one umbrella. Services are provided within the context of state and federal mandates, Wisconsin Statutes, and the mission of the Department.



Alternative Response

La Crosse County Human Services is one of five counties chosen to pilot Alternative Response in regards to child protection cases in La Crosse County. La Crosse was awarded a grant to implement this two track system to respond to allegations of child abuse and neglect combining the existing system of traditional investigation with Alternative Response for moderate to low-risk cases.

Over the next year the unit will be participating in trainings to implement Alternative Response, working with the state Department of Children & Families to evaluate the method of implementation and gather data to evaluate effectiveness as well as continue to collaborate with the state and other pilot counties on practice issues.

Family & Children's

608.785.6054

La Crosse County Family and Children's Section, Comprehensive Child Protective Service System

	Assess for Services	CPS Initial Assessment and Referral	CPS Ongoing Case Management
Child Welfare: Referral was not alleging child abuse and/or neglect (CAN) but was a request for services or Alternative Response on select screened out cases	Refer to Community Resources: Domestic Violence Services, Family Resource Center, St. Clare's Health Mission, Place of Grace, Salvation Army, Private Mental Health Providers or AODA counselors, Children's Miracle Network, Healthy Families; Housing Programs/HUD/CAP, Food Pantries; Refer to Specific Programs: Birth to Three, Family Support, Integrated Services Program, Children with Disabilities (COP/GIP), Juvenile in Need of Protection/ Services (JIPS), WIC, W-2 TAB Respite - G/L, Wrap Around funding.		
Low Risk: A CAN referral, unsubstantiated, not open for ongoing	All of the above services and/or programs are possible plus potential short term safety or risk management services	Alternative Response might get involved to link to community/private provider services	
Moderate Risk: A CAN referral may have been unsubstantiated or substantiated with protective parent	All of the above services and/or programs are possible plus potential short term safety or risk management services	Potential short term: Child At Risk Monitoring (Charm), Respite, Child Care, Kinship placement and funding, Wrap around funding during assessment phase only	
Parent Requests Placement	Services may already be provided by Children's Special Needs	Could be opened as a Voluntary Placement	Transferred to ongoing for 6 months of monitoring or formal CHIPS
Significant Risk: CAN case with injuries or safety issues, substantiated with need for control of safety issues	All of the Above ↔	All of the Above ↔	Refer to Specific Programs: In-home Family Counseling, Parent Visitation Monitor, Parent Support Worker, Transportation, Parenting groups, Alternate Care Placement, Court Services (CHIPS), Mediation
High/Severe Risk: CAN case with injuries, multiple uncontrolled safety issues	All of the Above ↔	All of the Above ↔	All of the Above most likely looking at long-term placement and possible alternative permanency plan.



Family Resource Liaison (FRL)

Family Resource Liaison receives referrals by parents, community members and local professionals to the Children with Special Needs Unit. Serving as a liaison, the FRL works to maintain and further develop a collection of resources to be shared with families and social service professionals. The initial meeting with the family is to discuss unmet needs and desired services and typically is a home visit to discuss areas of concern. Based on the needs of the children and family the FRL

will provide information and referrals to community resources and county supports. Each family can determine the length and extent of the FRL's involvement, ranging from a one-time link to resources to an on-going relationship providing support and further connection to services. In addition, the FRL is available to support families at school, medical and other relevant appointments.

These services are available for children who are La Crosse County residents and under the age of 17 years. Specific eligibility requirements can be found under each program on the Family & Children's website. The financial support for these services comes from a combination of federal, state and county sources. Additionally, strong emphasis is placed on soliciting informal community assistance to help support families. Some programs require a parental cost share for services.

300 fourth street north . La Crosse WI 54601

CHILDREN'S ALTERNATE CARE & DISABILITY SERVICES PROGRAM AREAS

ALTERNATE CARE

RESPIRE

FOSTER CARE-EMERGENCY ON CALL

FOSTER CARE TRAINING

KINSHIP

CHILD CARE PROTECTION

BIRTH TO THREE(B-3)

FAMILY SUPPORT AUTISM BENEFIT

NEURO DEVELOPMENT

MEDICAID WAIVERS

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

SUSTAINING CARE

TREATMENT FOSTER CARE

DATA RESOURCES INC/INDIVIDUAL

SERVICE AUTHORIZATION

PARTNERS IN ALTERNATE CARE

EDUCATION (PACE) - FOSTER PARENT

TRAINING



DELINQUENCY & JUVENILES IN PROTECTIVE SERVICES PROGRAM AREAS

HOME DETENTION & GLOBAL POSITIONING
SYSTEM (GPS)

ELECTRONIC MONITORING PROGRAM
ASSESSMENT FOR JUVENILE DETENTION
FACILITY

TRANSPORT FOR ADOLESCENT SERVICES

COMMUNITY SERVICE

RESTITUTION

RUNAWAY BRIDGE

YOUTH AIDS—AODA

FAMILY TRACKING

IN HOME DELINQUENCY

ACUTE PROTECTIVE SUPERVISION
PROGRAM (APSP)

THINK AHEAD PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

TOUGH CHOICES

SEX OFFENDER ASSESSMENT TREATMENT

LA CROSSE COMMUNITY CONFERENCING

GIRL'S CIRCLE GROUP

RESPIRE

EXCESS ABSENCES

REALITY CHECK

DELINQUENCY PREVENTION EDUCATION

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JUVENILE JUSTICE ACUTE PROTECTIVE SUPERVISION PROGRAM (APSP)

A five year summary of the APSP found it to be successful at reducing delinquency and saving La Crosse County substantial dollars in alternate care funds. This program was implemented to service youth who are adjudicated delinquent and are considered moderate to high-risk for out-of-home care, correctional placements or unable to remain in placement within La Crosse County.

A review of the outcomes suggest both youth and community benefitted from the program. Intervention by law enforcement, social workers and the courts was reduced, which saved time and money that would be required to process these cases The community profited by having less crime (repair, restitution and taxes) as well as less victims (injury and harm).

The youth improved educationally, socially and personally. Their competency increased providing a healthier and more productive lifestyle.

***CHILD PROTECTION AND OTHER
CHILD WELFARE SERVICES
PROGRAM AREAS***

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LIAISON/PROGRAMS

ADULT AODA SCREEN

W-2 LIAISON

CHILD AT RISK MONITOR (PATH)

FIT (FAMILY INTERVENTION TIME)

PARENT SUPPORT WORKER

INTENSIVE IN-HOME

FAMILY INTERACTION PROGRAM

INDEPENDENT LIVING

SERVICES TO PERSON IN TREATMENT

PARENT SUPPORT WORKER (PSW)

***CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH
& DISABILITY SERVICES
PROGRAM AREAS***

INTEGRATED SERVICES PROGRAM

CHAPTER 51 CASES

MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS PROGRAM

COMMUNITY INTEGRATION PROGRAM

CHILDREN'S LONG TERM SUPPORT

WAIVERS

AUTISM BENEFIT PROGRAM

FAMILY RESOURCE LIAISON

SUPPORTIVE SERVICE COORDIATOR

PATH

YES YOUTH EMPOWERMENT SERVICES
PROGRAM

MEDICAID WAIVERS

The Wisconsin Children's Code specifies legal parameters for involvement in families and jurisdiction over children alleged to be in need of protection and services (Chapter 48.13). In addition there are times that we provide services to children, youth and families on a voluntary basis when the child/youth has significant special needs. In order for a child or family to be eligible for services, there must be a concern of abuse or neglect to a child. The Statutory Definition of "abuse" can be found in Chapter 48.02. We provide services to all residents of communities, cities and towns within La Crosse County.

Visit the Family & Children's WEB site at:

[http://www.co.la-crosse.wi.us/
HumanServices/FC/index.htm](http://www.co.la-crosse.wi.us/HumanServices/FC/index.htm)