

Human Services Director's Report
To the Health & Human Services Board
 August 2016

Activity	Program/ Section	Brief Description	Contact Person	Attach- ment
Fiscal Staffing	Administration	Effective July 15 Cindy Knutson resigned from her role as Fiscal Manager for Human Services. She was about 9 months into this role. Her departure leaves a significant gap in our fiscal arena with work being assigned to others or reprioritized until the position is re-filled.	Dean Ruppert 785-6108 druppert@lacrossecounty.org	No
2017 Budget	Administration	Our 2017 budget request is due August 5 for review by County Finance and Administration. This has been one of the most challenging budgets to prepare due to scarcity of additional financial resources, community trends for service needs and difficult to control costs for out of home care and or institutional services. At the time of this writing, finalization of our request was not yet completed, but the intent is to not increase county levy and minimize our need for Fund Balance funds. We will become more engaged with County leadership and yourselves as we continue the review process for our budget request.	Dean Ruppert 785-6108 druppert@lacrossecounty.org	No
Position Analysis of Similar Positions	Administration	Human Services, along with other County Departments, is engaged in reviewing positions in our clerical and fiscal staffing areas to better determine job qualifications, job titles, and eventually pay ranges/options. Hopefully this will lead to more equitability and simplicity across the County for similar positions.	Dean Ruppert 785-6108 druppert@lacrossecounty.org	No
Trauma Informed Care	Family & Children's Child Protective Services	First Lady Tonette Walker and the Director of the Office of Children's Mental Health, Elizabeth Hudson, made a stop here in La Crosse on Tuesday, July 12. They met with Jason Witt and staff from Child Protective Services, Juvenile Justice, Integrated Support & Recovery Services, La Crosse School District, and foster care. First Lady Walker and Ms. Hudson acknowledged the work we have done with trauma informed care and the impact it has had on the families we work with. More information about First Lady Walker's visit, including a link to a local news story, can be found under our Twitter feed at https://twitter.com/LacrosseHS .	Tracy Puent 785-6083 tpuent@lacrossecounty.org	No
Food Share QUEST Card Replacement Fee	Economic Support	As a result of 2015 Wisconsin Act 55, the 2015-2017 biennial budget, Wisconsin began charging a \$2.70 fee for the replacement of lost or stolen Food Share QUEST cards. The fee is based on the actual cost to replace an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card, referred to as a QUEST card in Wisconsin, and the fee is collected from the Food Share recipient's benefits.	Lorie Graff 785-6061 lgraff@lacrossecounty.org	No

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Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy Program Changes	Economic Support	The Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) authorizes the federal child care subsidy program. In Wisconsin, the program is called the Wisconsin Shares Child Care Assistance program. The CCDBG Act of 2014 was passed in November 2015, and results in significant changes to the Wisconsin Shares Child Care Assistance program. Wisconsin will implement the changes incrementally over the next several years. The first change, which was implemented on August 1, 2016, eliminated the six month eligibility re-determination review required for the Child Care Assistance program in Wisconsin. Instead, families receiving Wisconsin Shares are now required to complete an eligibility re-determination review every 12 months.	Lorie Graff 785-6061 lgraff@lacrossecounty.org	No
Western Region Integrated Care (WRIC) <i>Pilot Project Update</i>	Integrated Support & Recovery Services	<p>Pilot Project: Implement shared services approach for a core set of mental health/substance abuse services across partner counties by the end of 2016.</p> <p>Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 Core Benefit services are operating within the consortium. • 10 Core Benefit services are approved for implementation in 2016. • 5 Core Benefit services slated for 2016 are still being designed. • A shared services methodology was developed and approved to provide the framework for how La Crosse County infrastructure will be financially supported by partner counties when work is done on behalf of the regional service model. 	Matt Strittmater 785-6156 mstrittmater@lacrossecounty.org	No
Americares	Integrated Support & Recovery Services	The Outpatient Mental Health/Substance Abuse clinic was approved to become a recipient of free psychiatric medications from Americares (non-profit organization). This will allow us to access certain types of medications and/or medical supplies at no cost for use with individuals below the Federal Poverty line. What we can order depends on available supply, but this new opportunity should result in being able to provide medications previously inaccessible to this population.	Matt Strittmater 785-6156 mstrittmater@lacrossecounty.org	No
Juvenile Justice	Justice Support Services	The Juvenile Justice Best Practices group, led by Mandy Bisek from Human Services and Curt Teff from the La Crosse School District, is wrapping up its work this month, with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signing scheduled for August 9, the system of care administrator hiring process nearly complete, and the racial justice facilitators having completed a week-long training through the YWCA Madison.	Rukmini Vasupuram 785-5547 rvasupuram@lacrossecounty.org	No

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Pre-Trial Services	Justice Support Services	The 2017 Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD) Grant was completed and submitted on July 19. The county's grant submission focused on enhancing existing pre-trial, diversion, and deferred prosecution services.	Rukmini Vasupuram 785-5547 rvasupuram@lacrossecounty.org	No
Wisconsin Long Term Care	Aging & Disability Resource Center	One of our local Family Care providers, Western Wisconsin Cares, announced that they will be merging with two other Family Care organizations (Community Care Connections of Wisconsin and ContinuUs) on January 1, 2017. Members of Family Care will get information by mail about this change.	Audra Martine 785-6172 amartine@lacrossecounty.org	No
Wisconsin Long Term Care	Aging & Disability Resource Center	On Thursday, July 28, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services announced plans for the remaining counties in Wisconsin that have legacy waiver programs to transition to Family Care (making it statewide) prior to the end of 2017.	Audra Martine 785-6172 amartine@lacrossecounty.org	No
CMS Rule Clarification	Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC)	The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued clarification on managed care Medicaid programs this summer. Wisconsin continues to make local clarifications regarding how this will impact program design. There are some pieces that affect how Aging and ADRCs can/can't integrate that continue to be worked out.	Audra Martine 785-6172 amartine@lacrossecounty.org	No
Advocacy	Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC)	Some ADRCs in Wisconsin were awarded grants in the past few years to create roles called "Dementia Care Specialists". These staff worked specifically on community collaborations, education to the business community, public presentations and caregiver needs. ADRCs have found these roles exceptionally valuable. This program was requested to receive ongoing and expanded funding, however, it did not pass during the legislative session. Due to the growing population of elders with dementia ADRCs are speaking with leaders, legislators, and the public to educate them on the value/need for this program. Locally, we are increasing outreach on dementia topics this fall and will continue to work on our ADRC Dementia Crisis grant program.	Audra Martine 785-6172 amartine@lacrossecounty.org	No
Collaboration	Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC)	ADRC received a grant in January to create a local collaborative working on options for clients with dementia in crisis. Our first gathering of community partners has occurred and workgroups are forming to work on collaborative options to improve our system coordination and communication.	Cheryl Neubauer 785-5708 cneubauer@lacrossecounty.org	No
Transportation	Aging & Disability Resource Center	Audra Martine will be meeting on August 17 with Wisconsin's Secretary for the Department of Transportation along with a couple other Aging advocates to discuss transportation funding, challenges and programs.	Audra Martine 785-6172 amartine@lacrossecounty.org	No