

**Human Services Department Report to County Board
July 2016**

INTEGRATED SUPPORT & RECOVERY SERVICES (ISRS)

Mental Health Awareness Walk

ISRS Outpatient Clinic employees facilitated the 5th annual Mental Health Awareness Walk on May 26th. Approximately 100 people gathered outside the Administrative Center to hear a proclamation by Mayor Tim Kabat and a brief speech by a consumer. A walk through the downtown area then occurred with individuals carrying informational signs.

AGING & DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER (ADRC)

Older American's Act Funding

The State of Wisconsin will be creating a new formula for distributing Older American's Act (OAA) allocations to counties. Currently counties are provided their portion of Wisconsin's OAA funds based on Census Bureau reports of poverty for individuals aged 60+ in each county. This method is no longer accurate as the Census Bureau sampling size is not large enough to provide accurate estimates. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) is creating a committee including county representatives to participate in the new allocation setting methodology. Amy Simonis will be representing La Crosse; the committee begins meeting in mid- May and conclude in July. As the OAA funds in Wisconsin are finite, some counties will gain funds while others will lose during this process.

Older American's Act Funding

Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR), the funding agency for our OAA programming, has announced a focus for the state Aging Units that is based on Business Acumen which would shift the philosophy of the traditional Aging Unit services. This has begun based on initiative from Kathy Greenlee, Assistant Secretary for Aging and Administrator, Administration for Community Living, at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. We will be requesting a local informational/education session for our committees/boards on this initiative as soon as it is available. Information on this initiative is attached to this report.

ADRC Contract Compliance

The 4 county ADRC partnership continues to work on contract compliance due to the many updates in this year's contract. We are focusing our effort on the physical space requirements, specifically parking availability/accessibility and building signage and room requirements in each of our 4 locations. The group has also discussed having fewer "open-office" available days per week in the Black River Falls, Sparta and Viroqua offices in order to allow for more satellite or outreach efforts in each county. Additional funding from Department of Health Services (DHS) has been requested to pay for remodeling in one office, signage updates across the region, and one new staff position (La Crosse).

JUSTICE SUPPORT SERVICES (JSS)

Juvenile Detention Facility/Juvenile Justice

La Crosse County Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF) Superintendent David Steinberg was appointed to Wisconsin Department of Children & Families (DCF) Secretary Eloise Anderson's recently-formed Advisory Council on Juvenile Justice. The purpose of the Council is to convene a variety of leaders in juvenile justice from across the state to provide advice and counsel to DCF on juvenile justice related issues including barriers in the system, promising practices and programs, and desired outcomes and measures. The Council will meet on a quarterly basis, with the first meeting having occurred on April 29, 2016.

La Crosse Area Family Collaborative (LAFC)

La Crosse County Human Services Director recently visited Chippewa County, where their equivalent of the Criminal Justice Management Council indicated an interest in creating an initiative similar to LAFC. A link to media about the visit is available here: <http://www.weau.com/content/misc/Chippewa-Co-works-to-address-problem-communities-380720551.html>

ECONOMIC SUPPORT

Implementation of 1-Touch Service Delivery Model and Food Share On-Demand

In February the Western Region for Economic Assistance (WREA) Consortium began transitioning to a 1-touch service delivery model, enabling customers to complete interviews and have their program applications and reviews processed within a single phone call to the consortium. The final phase of the 1-touch model began May 1st with WREA's implementation of the federal Food Share On-Demand waiver. This waiver eliminates the need for customers to schedule an appointment to complete their required Food Share interview. Instead, customers are directed to call during WREA's On-Demand hours to complete their interview. While program applicants and recipients are no longer required to schedule appointments, customers that wish to schedule a face-to-face or phone appointment may still do so.

Welcome Home Veterans Pilot Program

La Crosse County will administer the Welcome Home Veterans program this summer. The program is designed to assist veterans experiencing homelessness with first month's rent, security deposit and/or utility expenses. Referrals to the program can only be made by the Department of Veteran's Affairs Outreach and Recovery program, the County's Veteran's Service Officer or Couleecap.

Summer Fill Program – Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

This program targets homeowners who receive Social Security Retirement or Veterans income types, and whose primary heat source is propane or fuel oil. A \$50 client contribution is required to receive up to \$300 for propane customers and \$400 for fuel oil customers.

Public Benefit Crisis Benefits – Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

La Crosse County received additional Public Benefit funding to assist persons whose electricity has either been disconnected or who are facing a disconnect. The County's LIHEAP Crisis Plan policies, state minimum client contribution requirements and rules around the source of any client contributions can be waived in determining eligibility for these additional funds.

FAMILY & CHILDREN'S

Trauma Stewardship

Several Child Protective Services (CPS) social workers attended the local Child Maltreatment conference and received a full day training by Laura Vandernoot Lipsky, author of the book Trauma Stewardship. Additional information and insight was gained regarding the cumulative toll of secondary or vicarious trauma and trauma exposure responses. Additional information can be found in a TED talk by Laura at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uOzDGrcvmus>

Foster Care Event

The Permanency Resource Unit sponsored the third annual Brat Barn for Kids in Foster Care event on May 20, 2016 at the La Crosse Festival Foods on Copeland Avenue. This event was a success, adding \$440.21 to our foster care donation account. This account helps pay for additional enrichment activities that kids in foster care do not always have access to. Past funds have paid for things such as: prom attire, sports shoes, bikes, class rings, and glasses for example. There were staff, foster parents, and a board member that joined us to grill brats, work the stand, and hand out brochures to those interested in learning more about our foster care program.