

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

INTEGRATED SUPPORT & RECOVERY SERVICES (ISRS)

Western Region Integrated Care (WRIC) Pilot Project Update

Pilot Project to implement shared services approach for a core set of mental health/substance abuse services across partner counties by the end of 2016. Updates include:

- 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.

Americares

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.

AGING & DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER (ADRC)

Wisconsin Long Term Care

On Friday, June 10, Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) withdrew the Family Care 2.0 (long term care redesign) initiative. More information will come in the future regarding new initiatives that may be created to continue the effort to streamline and enforce efficiencies within the Long Term Care services in the state.

Wisconsin Long Term Care

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.

Advocacy

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.

Collaboration

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.

Transportation

On August 17 Audra Martine will meet with Wisconsin's Secretary for the Department of Transportation along with a couple other Aging advocates to discuss transportation funding, challenges and programs.

JUSTICE SUPPORT SERVICES (JSS)

Evidence-Based Decision Making (EBDM)

Adult JSS Supervisor Becky Spanjers and JSS Manager Rukmini Vasupuram recently attended an EBDM training in Wisconsin Rapids, hosted by the State Department of Justice (DOJ). Takeaways included input for an EBDM communications plan as well as guidance on areas of interest for the Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD) Grant.

Pre-Trial 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.

FAMILY & CHILDREN'S

Signs of Safety Presentation

On 6-30-16, Jason Witt and four of the Family & Children's Supervisors hosted a day-long meeting with Secretary Eloise Anderson and representatives from the Department of Children & Families (DCF), Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services (CPS), Casey Family Programs, and Safe Generations. The purpose of the meeting was for DCF to learn about how our agency has implemented Signs of Safety here in La Crosse as DCF is exploring whether to implement the model in Milwaukee CPS. After our presentation, we received very positive feedback from everyone at the meeting. We are hopeful that our presentation, and the discussion that took place, makes a positive impact on statewide programming around safety!

Trauma Informed Care

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>.