

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

INTEGRATED SUPPORT & RECOVERY SERVICES (ISRS)

Birth to 3 Program Involvement in 2015 Three Wishes Program

The La Crosse County Birth to 3 Program is delivered via contract with Coulee Children's Center and The Parenting Place. The program has been chosen as one of ten finalists in the Three Wishes Program sponsored by the Franciscan Sisters and the La Crosse Tribune. Each day at the beginning of December, there is a cover story about a Three Wishes candidate and then folks vote on which three should be funded.

The La Crosse County Birth to 3 Three Wishes entry is for money for basic developmental toys for families (stacking blocks for instance), supports that help a family engage and connect with their community (bus passes, children's museum passes, etc.), or other things that a family needs to achieve their Birth to 3 goals.

FAMILY & CHILDREN'S

Trauma Informed Care

La Crosse County was well represented at the Child Welfare and the Courts semi-annual conference that was held in Wisconsin Dells 9/29/15 – 10/1/15. The theme of the conference was implementation of trauma informed care. Judge Gonzalez, Judge Doyle, attorneys, local providers, County Corporation Counsel, Child Protective Services and Juvenile Justice Supervisors as well as the Family & Children's Section Manager and Human Services Director participated in county specific discussions and planning sessions. Judge Gonzalez indicated she would be taking the lead in scheduling ongoing follow-up meetings.

Post Reunification Reapplication

La Crosse County has been approved for year three participation in the Post Reunification Services program through the Department of Children and Families. We have been approved for up to 30 slots for enrollment of eligible children who are being reunified with their family.

ECONOMIC SUPPORT

Income Maintenance (IM) Operational Analysis Report

The Department of Health Services (DHS) contracted with Deloitte to conduct an analysis of the current state of IM administration in Wisconsin. The scope of the analysis included the 10 IM Consortia and MilES. In addition to studying each consortium's current operations, the report provides a summary of IM administration in other states. While the report is a point-in-time look at IM Consortia operations, several best practices were identified and discussed within the report.

Wisconsin Shares Child Care Assistance Program Funding for 2016

Due to an increase in families receiving Child Care Assistance across the eight Consortium Counties, Western Region for Economic Assistance (WREA) will receive an additional \$80,000 in funding for the administration of the Child Care Assistance program in 2016. This is in addition to funding the Department of Children & Families (DCF) will provide to support the Parent Pay Coordinator for the pilot WREA will participate in with DCF in 2016.

Fraud Prevention & Investigation Program (FPIP) Funding

Western Region for Economic Assistance (WREA) received an additional \$17,045 in Income Maintenance (IM) Fraud Prevention & Investigation Program (FPIP) funding for 2015, reflecting the statewide workload that exists to establish overpayments. For 2016, WREA will also receive additional FPIP funding as a result of increased funding approved in the State budget for 2016. The Department of Health Services (DHS) hasn't released the 2016 allocation amounts yet. Based on an estimate of the additional funding, and the workload needs of WREA's Benefit Recovery team, WREA will add an ES Specialist to its FPI and Benefit Recovery team for 2016.

COMMUNITY ACCESS & RESOURCES SECTION

La Crosse Area Family Collaborative Update

All staff for this program have now been hired; locations are identified and being made ready in the north and south side neighborhoods. A roll-out event occurred in October to formally announce the readiness.

Music and Memory Initiative

The ADRC has been asked to partner on a regional project that will occur in Tomah, Black River Falls and La Crosse nursing homes. The project is called Music and Memory; it brings recording devices to nursing home clients to engage them through music. The program will be seeking high school volunteers to assist in programming the devices/work with residents.

Tai Chi Initiative

The Aging Unit and ADRC will be working together in 2016 on a grant that was received to introduce Tai Chi to community members who are at risk of falls in order to provide strengthening opportunities. This program grants were awarded to Milwaukee, Dane and La Crosse Counties.

JUSTICE SUPPORT SERVICES

Wisconsin Treatment Court Standards Training

In October a two-day Treatment Court Standards Training was facilitated by the Department of Justice. The OWI and Drug Treatment Court teams attended. Eight performance measures based on the standards were identified by each Treatment Court. Follow-up meetings are in the planning stages.