La Crosse Area
Family Policy Board
“Systems and providers aligned for better outcomes”

Legislative Meeting
June 3rd, 2019
**Purpose of the La Crosse Area Family Policy Board**

*Aligning the human services system and provider agencies for better outcomes*

**Purpose:** Agencies servicing children, youth and families advising the Human Services Department and advancing “4 Cs” for a more aligned and effective community human services system.

| **C**ommunication | Sharing of information with agencies on current programming, new initiatives, concerns and issues involving families and children in the county. |
| **C**oordination | Finding ways to best compliment and work in tandem with other human services agencies in assisting individuals. |
| **C**ollaboration | Fostering partnerships to impact outcomes, advance service integration, and influence public policy |
| **C**onnectedness | Fostering relationships and understanding how agencies and initiatives fit into the broader community human services system and its challenges |
2. Scope: Services assisting children, youth and their families spanning the following four areas:

   a. Child protection and safe environment
   b. Juvenile justice and youth “at risk”
   c. Mental health and substance abuse
   d. Income support programs and basic needs

3. Activities: Subgroups aligned with four service areas

- **Juvenile Justice & “At-Risk” Youth**
  - Attic Correctional Services
  - Big Brothers Big Sisters
  - Boys & Girls Club
  - Essential Health Clinic
  - La Crosse County Human Services
  - La Crosse County Health Department
  - La Crosse Police Department
  - Neighborhood City Church
  - School District of La Crosse
  - YWCA
  - Great Rivers United Way
  - La Crosse Community Foundation

- **Child Protection & Safe Environment**
  - Bikers Against Child Abuse
  - Gundersen Health System
  - La Crosse County Human Services
  - La Crosse County Health Department
  - The Parenting Place
  - YWCA
  - Great Rivers United Way
  - La Crosse Community Foundation

- **Mental Health & Substance Abuse**
  - AMS of Wisconsin
  - Coulee Council on Addictions
  - Garrison Counseling
  - Great Rivers 2-1-1
  - Gundersen Health System
  - La Crosse County Human Services
  - La Crosse County Health Department
  - La Crosse Medical Health Sciences Consortium
  - Mayo Clinic Health System
  - YWCA
  - Great Rivers United Way
  - La Crosse Community Foundation

- **Income Supports & Basic Needs**
  - Catholic Charities
  - Consumer Credit Counseling
  - Coulee cap
  - Great Rivers 2-1-1
  - La Crosse County Human Services
  - La Crosse County Health Department
  - Neighborhood City Church
  - New Horizons
  - Workforce Connections
  - Workforce Development
  - YWCA
  - Great Rivers United Way
  - La Crosse Community Foundation
Strategic Priorities

1. Advocating on Policy Issues

2. Keeping Up to Date on Local Collaborations

3. Being Aware of Data & Trends

4. Understanding the Service Continuum

5. Sharing Knowledge

A FORUM TO CONNECT AND SUPPORT

4 “Cs”
Communication
Coordination
Collaboration
Connectedness
## 2019-21 State Budget: Priorities for Advocacy:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Support Modified</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Home Visiting for Expecting Mothers</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Children &amp; Family Aids Increase</td>
<td>(Support Wisconsin Counties Association request of $30 Mil., which is $15 Mil. more than Governor’s request.)</td>
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<td>3. Homelessness</td>
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<td>4. School Mental Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Return of 17 Year-Olds to the Juvenile Justice System</td>
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### Other Budget Issues of Interest to Our Members

- > Direct Care Workforce Funding
- > Child Care Subsidy
1. Home Visiting for Expecting Mothers
Home Visiting In La Crosse County

- **6,148** children under the age of 5  
  (estimated for 2018, source, US Census)
- 16%, or **1,007** children are living in poverty  
  (estimated for 2016, source, Livestories)

- Our collective capacity = **520** children  
  (source, community assessment in 2017)
Support Increased Home Visiting Funding

Governor’s Budget Proposal
$1,012,500 from TANF in FY 2019-2020 $2,175,000 from TANF in FY 2020-2021

Note – it is unknown if any of this funding will come to La Crosse County.
2. Children & Family Aids
The federal Department of Health and Human Services recently determined that Wisconsin is not in substantial conformance with any of the seven outcome areas and only one of the seven systemic factors it accessed.

State general purpose revenue provided for Children & Family Aids has declined by $3.6 million since 2010-11.
Joint Finance Committee Hearing Testimony
River Falls
(April 2019)


04:48:12
3. Homelessness
THE PROBLEM: HOW TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS IN WISCONSIN

Urban or rural. Homelessness is a problem that affects families and individuals across Wisconsin. However, it often can be a difficult issue to quantify. In an effort to provide these statistics, service providers that receive state money submit their data to the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), operated in Wisconsin by the Institute for Community Alliances. Their most recent report, published in July 2018 containing the data for 2017, tells the following story:

➢ 21,906 clients experiencing homelessness received services and shelter from HMIS agencies (does not include domestic violence agencies).
➢ 17,905 clients stayed in an emergency shelter
➢ 56% of those clients were outside of Milwaukee, Dane, and Racine Counties
➢ 42% of persons experiencing homelessness were members of a family or household
➢ 494 minors received services as unaccompanied homeless youth
A Hand for the Homeless makes the case that these numbers do not tell the full picture, as they do not include those classified as homeless under a different federal definition, nor do they account for the possible undercounting of homeless during the challenging annual Point-in-Time Count.
In April of 2017, the Wisconsin Legislature released a series of bills in tandem with 2017-19 state budget priorities to address homelessness in a statewide, comprehensive way, the first major attention the issue had received in decades.
THE COURSE OF ACTION: ASSEMBLY REPUBLICANS BEGIN THE DISCUSSION IN 2017

One bill created a new statutory body, the Interagency Council on Homelessness. Chaired by the Governor’s designee, Lieutenant Governor Kleefisch, the council contained secretaries or directors of eight state agencies and the four Continuum of Care organizations in Wisconsin – federally mandated collaborative zones of housing and service providers and homelessness advocates.
One year to the day of its authorizing bill becoming law, the council released its 2019-2022 action plan, *A Hand and a Home: Foundations for Success*, which was “perhaps the state’s most coordinated, deepest attempt to prevent and curtail homelessness.” The bills in this package were identified as legislative priorities in the plan.

They include new programming and $3.75 million in new spending, more than doubling the state’s current commitment.

2019 LEGISLATION — A HAND FOR THE HOMELESS

➢ LRB-1854/1, Plumer, Strategy 1.1 (prevention), 1.2 (diversion): Adds $500,000 annually to the Homeless Prevention Program to help avoid evictions, and creates a new program funded at $300,000 to begin diversion. Diversion is short-term assistance to steer those who present as homeless into stable housing outside the traditional homelessness system.

➢ LRB-1227/1, Steineke, Strategy 1.3 (SSSG), 1.4 (performance metrics), 1.5 (admin code): Adds $500,000 annually to the State Shelter Subsidy Grant program, a 50% increase to the fund and its first major increase since its creation in 1994. It also cleans up administrative code. Most significantly, it adds performance metrics to incentivize shelters to responsibly transition individuals into permanent housing.
2019 LEGISLATION — A HAND FOR THE HOMELESS

➢ LRB-1853/1, Snyder, Strategy 1.6: Adds $900,000 annually (a 300% increase) to the Housing Assistance Program, the state’s most flexible funder of Permanent Supportive Housing, Rapid Re-housing, and Transitional Housing.

➢ LRB-1316/1, James, Strategy 2.2: Adds $500,000 annually (a 100% increase) to the Homeless Case Management Services Program to assist families in shelter with gaining employment or increasing their income.

➢ LRB-1331/1, Dittrich, Strategy 4.1: Creates a Housing Navigation Grant, funded at $300,000 annually, to work with landlords to find available permanent housing units for individuals experiencing homelessness and to mediate any disputes that may arise.
2019 LEGISLATION — A HAND FOR THE HOMELESS

- LRB-1851/1, Pronschinske, Strategy 4.3: Creates an innovative forgivable loan program, funded at $500,000 annually, to renovate existing units for use as affordable housing.

- LRB-1332/1, Rodriguez, Strategies 3.2 and 3.3: Directs the Department of Workforce Development to identify and create programs for homeless youth (age 18-24) and adults, catered to those populations’ specific needs. It also mandates collaboration between local Workforce Development Boards and their corresponding homeless response systems.

- LRB-1852/1, Kurtz, Strategy 3.4: Adds $250,000 annually (a 100% increase) to the Skills Enhancement Program to help low-income individuals receive job training and technical skills.
4. School Mental Health
5. Return of 17 Year-Olds to the Juvenile Justice System
Other Budget Issues of Interest to Our Members

Direct Care Workforce Funding

Child Care Subsidy
Thank You!

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