**Human Services Director’s Report**

**To the Health & Human Services Board**

April 2024

| **Activity** | **Program/**  **Section** | **Brief Description** | **Contact Person** | **Attach-**  **ment** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Health Promotion | Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) | The ADRC is excited to make available a new evidence-based program, *Mind Over Matter: Healthy Bowels, Healthy Bladder*, to the community! Mind Over Matter (MOM) is a workshop designed to give women the tools they need to take control of their bladder and bowel symptoms. The first workshop will be held virtually (via Zoom) from 9 am to 11 am beginning April 17th. A short intro session will be held April 10th at 9 am, with the remaining sessions to be held May 1st and May 15th. This workshop is available to women aged 60 or older and must have a device (other than a smart phone) to participate. To learn more, or to register, call the ADRC at 608-785-5700. | ADRC Manager  Carissa Pagel-Smith 785-6172  [cpagel@lacrossecounty.org](mailto:cpagel@lacrossecounty.org) | Yes |
| Community Advance Care Planning Discussion | Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) | The ADRC in partnership with the La Crosse Medical Health Science Consortium, Gundersen Health System, and Mayo Clinic Health System, are hosting a free Community Advance Care Planning Discussion on April 17th from 6 pm to 7:30 pm at the South Side Neighborhood Center. The short documentary, *Extremis*, will be shown prior to the guided discussion which will discuss the importance of advance care planning prior to facing difficult treatment options. See attachment for registration information. | ADRC Manager  Carissa Pagel-Smith 785-6172  [cpagel@lacrossecounty.org](mailto:cpagel@lacrossecounty.org) | Yes |
| Aging Advocacy Day | Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) | Aging Advocacy Day is Tuesday, May 14th, and we (ADRC) want to fill a bus with La Crosse County constituents! Join citizens from around the state to share personal stories with legislators to help them learn more about issues impacting older adults and caregivers. Event registration is now open. To register, go to gwaar.org/aging-advocacy-day-2024 or call ADRC 608-785-5700 for assistance. To reserve a spot on the bus, call the ADRC no later than April 26th. | ADRC Manager  Carissa Pagel-Smith 785-6172  [cpagel@lacrossecounty.org](mailto:cpagel@lacrossecounty.org) | No |
| Community Events | Family & Children’s (FC) – Child Protective Services (CPS) | April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, a time to recognize that we each play a part in promoting the social and emotional well-being of children and families. It is an opportunity for professionals and concerned community members to work together to raise awareness about the effects of child abuse and to promote prevention and early intervention efforts underway in our community.  To bring more focus and attention to local efforts, the Coulee Region Child Abuse Prevention Task Force spends time each year on heightening awareness and coordinating activities that take a positive approach, emphasizing the many ways our community can support and strengthen families. The task force is made up of approximately 22 organizations and community members with the mission of bringing education and understanding about child maltreatment. By creating free events for caregivers and children, we create moments where maltreatment is less likely to occur. In addition, we create moments of joy that can be stored as health within the caregiver and child relationship. The theme is “Great Kids Start with YOU” to raise awareness and let the community know that it takes a village to raise a child and we all have a part in that effort. There are two upcoming events in the community-  On April 5th from 8:30-10:30am is the annual Blue-Ribbon Appreciation Breakfast at the Radisson Hotel in La Crosse. This breakfast is meant to recognize the people and organizations who work with children and families in our community. As part of the event, Mayor Reynolds will issue a proclamation recognizing April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. Registration for this event can be done by emailing [youth@nhagainstabuse.org](mailto:youth@nhagainstabuse.org).  April 20th from 11am-2pm is the Family Fun Event at the Myrick Park Main Shelter in La Crosse. This free, community event for families will include such things as: crafts/activity tables, inflatables for the kids, food/refreshments, entertainment, education, giveaways, and more! | FC Manager  Tracy Puent 792-5507  [tpuent@lacrossecounty.org](mailto:tpuent@lacrossecounty.org) | Yes |
| Foster Care Recruitment Event | Family & Children’s (FC) | On April 19th from 6-8pm Bethany Church is hosting a catered dinner and foster care panel event for prospective foster parents or people interested in supporting families.  Please share information about this event to any community partners, friends, and family that you know who may be interested in fostering. La Crosse County Social Workers, Cassy Grams and Kirsten Henry will be attending the event to answer any questions that arise about foster care and the child welfare system. They will also be providing information on upcoming La Crosse County Foster Care orientation meetings. The link below takes you to a YouTube video that has more information about the upcoming event.  [https://youtu.be/BGtIEzlKpyA?si=9JAOggDBv6X-CKrw](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fyoutu.be%2FBGtIEzlKpyA%3Fsi%3D9JAOggDBv6X-CKrw&data=05%7C02%7Ctpuent%40lacrossecounty.org%7Ce061562201b846a7ce8508dc4d0d064d%7C90642ce53c114728aa2dfc5917738a93%7C0%7C0%7C638469965551345187%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=uuAoXZHIGRacPiw2Fm0HPFAoN6eLVtI2m8IiBjIBOtc%3D&reserved=0) | FC Manager  Tracy Puent 792-5507  [tpuent@lacrossecounty.org](mailto:tpuent@lacrossecounty.org) | No |
| La Crosse County Mental Health Awareness Walk | Integrated Support & Recovery Services (ISRS) | The 11th annual La Crosse County Mental Health Awareness Walk will be held May 23, 2024. Opening ceremonies will begin at 12:00pm in front of the HHS building. 300 4th Street North, La Crosse, WI 54601. The community walk downtown begins at 12:20 with refreshments available afterwards. 1:00-3:00 Mental Health Self-Advocates in the HHS Basement Auditorium.  Green is the color that represents Mental Health Awareness as it symbolizes hope and resilience. Many wear green for the walk (it is optional). As we are placing an order for La Crosse County T-Shirts we wanted to offer the option to the board to place an order with us. $7.50 for short sleeve, $10.00 long sleeve, add $3.00 for 2 & 3 X-large sizes. The cost is true cost, it is not a fundraiser. If interested in ordering a shirt, please email [nhannan@lacrossecounty.org](mailto:nhannan@lacrossecounty.org) by April 20th. | ISRS Assistant Manager  Anneliese Skoda  [askoda@lacrossecounty.org](mailto:askoda@lacrossecounty.org) | Yes |