

**Human Services Director's Report**  
**To the Health & Human Services Board**  
**February 2022**

| Activity  | Program/<br>Section                       | Brief Description  | Contact Person   | Attach-<br>ment |
|---|---|--|--|-----------------|
| Guardianship Training                                   | Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) | Governor Evers signed Senate Bill 92, Guardian Training Bill, into law (now 2021 WI Act 97) which establishes initial training requirements for guardians of the person or estate before they are appointed and calls for the development of free, web-based online training modules. The training requirements include alternatives to guardianship; legal roles, responsibilities, and requirements of guardians; rights of wards; and where to go for resources and support. The new training requirement first applies to petitions for guardianship filed on the first day of the 13th month beginning after the legislation became effective. The law was published on December 4, 2021.   | ADRC Manager<br>Carissa Pagel-Smith 785-6172<br><a href="mailto:cpagel@lacrossecounty.org">cpagel@lacrossecounty.org</a> | No              |
| Medicare Part D   | Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) | A total of 301 individuals were assisted by our Elder Benefit Specialist, Tina Johnson, during the 2021 Medicare Part D season, the time of year where individuals can change their Medicare prescription plans. In 2021, the Medicare Part D season began October 15th and ended December 7th. Of the individuals Tina assisted, 122 were new to receiving her help. The majority of appointments were conducted virtually or via phone; a few in-person appointments by request only.  | ADRC Manager<br>Carissa Pagel-Smith 785-6172<br><a href="mailto:cpagel@lacrossecounty.org">cpagel@lacrossecounty.org</a> | No              |
| Public Health Emergency Extension                       | Economic Support (ES)                     | The federal Public Health Emergency (PHE) has been extended to April 16th, 2022. A range of policy waivers were implemented with the Public Health Emergency declaration to ensure access to public assistance benefits for those impacted financially by the pandemic. With very few exceptions, eligibility for Medicaid and Badger Care Plus has been maintained throughout the PHE. Additional emergency Food Share benefits have also been issued to households each month since mid- 2020. Local, state, federal and stakeholder agencies continue to plan for the unwinding of covid policy waivers following the PHE end. The State of Wisconsin has formed an unwinding taskforce to assist with planning and communication of the policy waivers. With the new PHE end date, the first health care terminations may occur at the end of May. Annual re-eligibility renewals would begin again in June 2022, with a plan to equally distribute renewals over the following year to help level consortia workload as much as possible. | ES Manager<br>Lorie Graff 738-2410<br><a href="mailto:lgraff@lacrossecounty.org">lgraff@lacrossecounty.org</a>           | No              |
| Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP) Update | Economic Support (ES)                     | La Crosse County has experienced an increase in households seeking assistance from the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP). WHEAP provides a one-time payment during the heating season to assist eligible households with their heating costs. La Crosse County Economic Support has provided WHEAP assistance to 2,532 households from October 2021 through January 21, 2022. This is up from 2,066 households receiving assistance during the same time period last year.  | ES Manager<br>Lorie Graff 738-2410<br><a href="mailto:lgraff@lacrossecounty.org">lgraff@lacrossecounty.org</a>           | No              |

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| Grant Funding Related to Room & Board Costs | Outpatient Clinic/Integrated Support & Recovery Services (ISRS) | <p>The Outpatient Clinic has been providing room and board funding for any Medicaid recipient who is found eligible by their provider and approved by Medicaid. There were 52 people in the last quarter of 2021 who requested room and board funding. Of these, 19 were diagnosed with an Opioid Use Disorder.</p> <p>The DHS Opioid Dashboard indicates a high need in our community as La Crosse County ranks in the top 25% of Wisconsin Counties in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2020 the rate of emergency room visits for All Opioid Overdoses was 64.9 per 100,000.</li> <li>• In 2020 there was a rate of 25.3 per 100,000 opioid-related deaths.</li> <li>• In 2019 were 516 people who received services through Medicaid for Opioid Use Disorder.</li> </ul> <p>The Outpatient Clinic team will be bringing forward in March a resolution related to our application to receive funding to cover Room and Board costs for Medicaid members with an Opioid Use Disorder in Residential Substance Use Disorder Treatment programs.</p> | <p>ISRS Manager<br/>Christin Skolnik 785-6019<br/><a href="mailto:cskolnik@lacrossecounty.org">cskolnik@lacrossecounty.org</a></p> | No              |