**Human Services Director’s Report**

**To the Health & Human Services Board**

January 2025

| **Activity** | **Program/****Section** | **Brief Description** | **Contact Person** | **Attach-****ment** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| MAPP-Medicaid Purchase Plan-Premium Payments | Economic Support (ES) | The Department of Health Services (DHS) is exploring permanent changes to MAPP Premium Payment processing.  While this change is being explored, members that do not pay their MAPP premiums will not have their MAPP benefits terminated.  This temporary process is currently being implemented until 10/2025. Members should continue to pay their MAPP premiums.  There is no change in a member’s requirement to pay an initial MAPP premium to become eligible for the MAPP program.  The temporary process to pause termination of benefits is only relevant to members who are receiving ongoing MAPP benefits. | ES Manager Lorie Graff 738-2410lgraff@lacrossecounty.org | No |
| Like Kin Legislation | Family & Children’s (FC) -Child Protective Services (CPS) | Governor Evers signed 2023 Wisconsin Act 119 into law on March 14, 2024. The changes to statute made by this Act, will go into effect January 1, 2025. This legislation includes: * Expanded definition of “relative” – Adds “first cousin once removed” to the definition of relative in 48.02(15).
* Adding “like kin” definition – Defines “like kin” and incorporates a tribal nation’s definition 48.02(12c) “Like-kin” means an individual who has a significant emotional relationship with a child or the child’s family that is similar to a familial relationship and who has not previously been the child’s licensed foster parent. For an Indian child, “like kin” includes individuals identified by the child’s tribe according to tribal tradition, custom or resolution, code, or law.
* Expanded eligibility for the kinship care subsidy – Caregivers in the above categories will be eligible to apply for financial support through the Kinship Care program (DCF 58)
* This expanded definition applies to both voluntary and court-ordered kinship cases.
* The law adds provision to Chapters 48 (Children’s Code) and 938 (Juvenile Justice Code) to permit a court to order placement with like-kin.

This will have life-changing impacts on families. Children will now be able to be placed more easily with those who already know and love them – and who they know and love in return – and those caregivers will receive needed financial support. For more information on the Kinship Care program, please contact Alyssa Bowe, Kinship Care Coordinator, at 608-784-4357 or by email at abowe@lacrossecounty.org | FC ManagerTracy Puent 792-5507tpuent@lacrossecounty.org  | No |
| Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD) Grant Award | Justice Support Services (JSS) -JSS Adult | The WI Department of Justice awarded Justice Support Services $129,000 to support evidence-based enhancements to the Diversion program. This funding will support staff salary/fringe and training. | JSS ManagerTonya Van Tol 785-5815tvantol@lacrossecounty.org | No |
| Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Award | Justice Support Services (JSS) -JSS Adult | The WI Department of Justice awarded Justice Support Services $54,300 to support evidence-based enhancements to the Pre-Trial program. This funding will support direct client care, continued support for Center for Effective Public Policy for technical assistance and staff trainings in 2025. | JSS ManagerTonya Van Tol 785-5815tvantol@lacrossecounty.org | No |
| Community Development Block Grant Awarded (CDBG) | Justice Support Services (JSS) – La Crosse Area Family Collaborative (LAFC) | The City of La Crosse awarded La Crosse County Human Services and La Crosse Area Family Collaborative one year of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding starting April 1, 2025. $47,043 was awarded to fund staff salary/fringe and programming in the Schuh/Mullen Homes neighborhood. | JSS ManagerTonya Van Tol 785-5815tvantol@lacrossecounty.orgLAFC SupervisorIsaac Hoffmanihoffman@lacrossecounty.org  | No |