**Human Services Director’s Report**

**To the Health & Human Services Board**

July 2024

| **Activity** | **Program/**  **Section** | **Brief Description** | **Contact Person** | **Attach-**  **ment** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| New Homelessness Response System Manager | Administration | The Human Services Department has hired Jim Drees as Homelessness Response System Manager. Jim brings a wealth of skills and experience in leadership, project management, systems development and collaboration that will greatly benefit our community. Jim, who holds a master’s certificate in project management from the University of Wisconsin, comes to us from a recent role as CEO of an organization working to provide safe drinking water to underserved communities. In his new role, Jim will be leading the implementation of the Pathways Home plan to end long-term homelessness in La Crosse.  Jim’s first day on the job will be Monday, July 15th. His onboarding plan will include meeting and developing relationships with community partners and stakeholders as he transitions into leading the Pathways Home initiative. | Director  Jason Witt 785-6095  [jwitt@lacrossecounty.org](mailto:jwitt@lacrossecounty.org)  Deputy Director  Serena Peloza  [speloza@lacrossecounty.org](mailto:speloza@lacrossecounty.org) | No |
| Impact of ADRCs | Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) | The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) has released a new report titled, The Impact of ADRC and Tribal Programs in Wisconsin: Status Report 2023. This report (attached) summarizes Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) and Tribal program services and uses a variety of data and customer stories to outline the impact that ADRCs and Tribal ADRCs made in Wisconsin in 2023. | ADRC Manager  Carissa Pagel-Smith 785-6172  [cpagel@lacrossecounty.org](mailto:cpagel@lacrossecounty.org) | Yes |
| La Crosse County 2025-2027 Aging Plan Survey Results | Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) | To help guide the development of our next three-year aging plan, the ADRC developed and distributed a 12-question survey via mail and electronically during the timeframe of March and May 2024. A total of 1,125 responses were received, representing approximately four percent of La Crosse County’s 60 and older population. The attached report provides a snapshot of the feedback received, in addition to an overview of the next steps to develop our 2025-2027 Aging Plan. | ADRC Manager  Carissa Pagel-Smith 785-6172  [cpagel@lacrossecounty.org](mailto:cpagel@lacrossecounty.org) | Yes |
| End of Unwinding | Economic Support (ES) | June was the final month of post-public health emergency (PHE) renewals, with income maintenance consortia resuming regular operations in July 2024. Within the next month, Medicaid enrollment numbers will be released for June 2024. This data will be important in assessing how many La Crosse County residents had their healthcare coverage end over the 12-month unwinding. Food Share interviews, which have been waived during the unwinding period, will resume on September 1st. | ES Manager  Lorie Graff 738-2410  [lgraff@lacrossecounty.org](mailto:lgraff@lacrossecounty.org) | No |
| Health Care Premiums Reinstatement | Economic Support (ES) | Premiums for BadgerCare Plus for children were reinstated April 1, 2024. This impacts children in families with income over 201% of the federal poverty level (FPL). Because Wisconsin state law requires that premiums be charged for certain children enrolled in BadgerCare Plus, premiums were required to be reinstated as part of the ending of the PHE unwinding. However, Wisconsin law conflicts with requirements under the federal Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023, which requires that children in certain Medicaid programs are provided with 12 months of continuous health care coverage. The Center for Medicaid Services (CMS) issued guidance in 2023 that non-payment of a premium is not an exception to the continuous health care coverage requirements. For a child who has continuous coverage, that coverage may not be terminated for failure to pay a premium. Essentially, while Wisconsin is now charging premiums for some children enrolled in BadgerCare Plus, non-payment of a premium has no impact on the child’s health care coverage. | ES Manager  Lorie Graff 738-2410  [lgraff@lacrossecounty.org](mailto:lgraff@lacrossecounty.org) | No |