**Human Services Director’s Report**

**To the Health & Human Services Board**

March 2024

| **Activity** | **Program/**  **Section** | **Brief Description** | **Contact Person** | **Attach-**  **ment** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Departure of ISRS Manager | Administration | On March 12, Christin Skolnik will be leaving Human Services after what has been a 5-Year tenure as Manager of the Integrated Support and Recovery Services (ISRS) section. Christin has been with Human Services since 2012, during which time she also served as a social worker then supervisor for the Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) unit and ISRS Assistant Manager. Christin’s leadership will have a lasting impact on ISRS as she brought a passion for consumers gained from several years of direct social work. CCS saw significant growth during Christin’s time as manager while ISRS implemented promising new initiatives, such as the Crisis Co-Responder program. Christin is embarking on a new journey, where she is returning to her social work roots. We thank Christin for her service and wish her well! | Director  Jason Witt 785-6095  [jwitt@lacrossecounty.org](mailto:jwitt@lacrossecounty.org)  Deputy Director  Serena Peloza  [speloza@lacrossecounty.org](mailto:speloza@lacrossecounty.org) | No |
| La Crosse County 2025-2027 Aging Plan | Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) | The ADRC has begun to gather input to assist with the development of the next La Crosse County Aging Plan. Mandated by federal law, the plan is required for the county to receive federal funds under the Older Americans Act of 1965. Plans, to the greatest extent possible, should address local needs as defined by the community or program participants thus feedback is critical. To collect this input, a survey is available electronically or to request a hard copy, call 608-785-5700 or stop by the ADRC office. To complete the survey online, visit www.surveymonkey.com/r/lacrossecountyagingplan. A variety of caregiver- and nutrition-focused listening sessions will also be held during the month of March to gather input. For the list of these opportunities, check out the March edition of the *La Crosse Senior Life* or visit the ADRC (newly updated) website at www.lacrossecounty.org/adrc. | ADRC Manager  Carissa Pagel-Smith 785-6172  [cpagel@lacrossecounty.org](mailto:cpagel@lacrossecounty.org) | No |
| Senior Nutrition | Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) | March is National Nutrition Month! The ADRC provides nutrition services at four congregate dining sites and delivers meals to more than 500 older adults unable to leave their homes. In 2023, ADRC provided a total of 73,654 meals! The Senior Nutrition Program is available to seniors 60 years of age or older and their spouses, regardless of age. Its purpose is to reduce hunger and food insecurity and promote socialization, health, and well-being among older adults. | ADRC Manager  Carissa Pagel-Smith 785-6172  [cpagel@lacrossecounty.org](mailto:cpagel@lacrossecounty.org) | No |
| Summer EBT Program | Economic Support (ES) | Wisconsin’s Department of Health Services is working to develop a permanent Summer EBT program under the larger Food Share program.  Funding for the program is being provided to States from the federal Food and Nutrition Services/FNS Department.   The new Summer EBT program will be modeled after the federal Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) program that provided food benefits to the families of children who experienced greater need because of the COVID-19 pandemic.  The new Summer EBT program will provide a monthly Food Share benefit amount for summer months to families whose children receive free or reduced-price lunch during the school year.   The Summer EBT program will launch for summer 2024. | ES Manager  Lorie Graff 738-2410  [lgraff@lacrossecounty.org](mailto:lgraff@lacrossecounty.org) | No |
| Foster Care Event and Recruitment | Family & Children’s (FC)  -Child Protective Services | The Family & Children’s Section hosted a foster care event on Thursday, February 8, 2024, from 5:30-7:30pm at the La Crosse Children’s Museum. The purpose of this event was for current foster and relative care providers to bring their families for a night of family fun together. Pizza was also provided to families at the event. We also used this as a recruitment event in that we asked current foster and relative care providers to bring another family to the event that may be interested in becoming foster parents or respite care providers. | FC Manager  Tracy Puent 792-5507  [tpuent@lacrossecounty.org](mailto:tpuent@lacrossecounty.org) | No |
| Foster Care Recruitment | Family & Children’s (FC)  -Child Protective Services | Staff from the Family & Children’s Section partnered with Bethany Church, and a family from the church who are La Crosse County foster parents, to produce a video aimed at recruiting foster parents through local churches. Here is a link to the video. <https://youtu.be/SPklvg-xRiQ?si=WKh1G9t2JReyKf6k>  We are also looking at recruitment efforts centered around people who are also willing to provide supports to families working with CPS. We are shifting our foster care slogan to “Be the Village” as we need people not only to be foster parents, but to be supports to parents and their children with the goal to help keep the family together or get the family reunited sooner. | FC Manager  Tracy Puent 792-5507  [tpuent@lacrossecounty.org](mailto:tpuent@lacrossecounty.org) | No |
| Training/Conference | Family & Children’s (FC)  -Child Protective Services | **27th Annual La Crosse Child Maltreatment Conference**  Thursday and Friday, May 2nd & May 3rd  Stoney Creek Hotel, 3060 So. Kinney Coulee Rd., Onalaska, WI.  The conference focuses on current issues in child maltreatment.  *Information and registration available at* [**ce.mayo.edu/childmaltreatment2024**](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fce.mayo.edu%2Fchildmaltreatment2024&data=05%7C02%7Ctpuent%40lacrossecounty.org%7C2e3ff67e7ea34c9b871f08dc3c8e69dc%7C90642ce53c114728aa2dfc5917738a93%7C0%7C0%7C638451830333440984%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=D4z7cCaHBDEb9RKGoLa3TRxEDF3P0%2BBfqvPqCQLwQ9A%3D&reserved=0) | FC Manager  Tracy Puent 792-5507  [tpuent@lacrossecounty.org](mailto:tpuent@lacrossecounty.org) | No |
| 2023 Deer Creek Innovative Program Award | Integrated Support & Recovery Services (ISRS)  -Crisis Unit | The La Crosse Police Department along with the ISRS Crisis Unit were awarded the 2023 Deer Creek Innovative Program Award for its Community Resource Unit/Co-Responder Program. The award was given by The Wisconsin Law Enforcement Accreditation Group. The award recognizes Law Enforcement Departments for their unique and innovative programs. The Co-Responder team is a unique partnership pairing together a City of La Crosse Police Officer with a La Crosse County Crisis Worker and together they co-respond, partner and collaborate their responses to mental health calls for services. | ISRS Assistant Manager  Anneliese Skoda  [askoda@lacrossecounty.org](mailto:askoda@lacrossecounty.org) | Photo |
| HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital, HSHS St. Joseph’s Hospital, LE Phillips Treatment Center, and Prevea’s Western Wisconsin health centers. | Integrated Support & Recovery Services (ISRS)  -Crisis Unit | HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital (Eau Claire), HSHS St. Joseph’s Hospital (Chippewa Falls), and LE Phillips Treatment Center have announced they will close around the end of the first quarter 2024 and their Prevea partners on or before April 21, 2024, in Western Wisconsin.  The ISRS section along with many state and community partners continue to work together to provide support and resources to individuals in need of AODA treatment and mental health supports.  For questions directly related to HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital and HSHS St. Joseph’s Hospital closure, contact 888-307-7099.  For question directly related to assistance for mental health supports and/or AODA services, contact 608-784-4357.  [HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital and HSHS St. Joseph’s Hospital Closure Information](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.hshs.org%2Fsacred-heart%2Fhshs-sacred-heart-hospital-and-hshs-st-joseph%25E2%2580%2599s-hospital-closure-information&data=05%7C02%7Ccskolnik%40lacrossecounty.org%7Cfc62455fa79f498172b308dc1dd2f714%7C90642ce53c114728aa2dfc5917738a93%7C0%7C0%7C638418039142116592%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Dg1uZUt77%2Bg9%2B8YTXDI18Lv2threC52vJjibe%2Fvrkuo%3D&reserved=0) | ISRS Assistant Manager  Anneliese Skoda  [askoda@lacrossecounty.org](mailto:askoda@lacrossecounty.org) | No |