

Human Services Director's Report
To the Health & Human Services Board
February 2019

Activity	Program/ Section	Brief Description	Contact Person	Attach- ment
Nutrition Advisory Council	Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC)	The ADRC is seeking members to join the Nutrition Advisory Council. Meeting quarterly, the Council is tasked with providing input on all matters related to the delivery of nutrition and nutrition-supportive services. More than half of its members must be participants of the nutrition program and/or representative of the individuals served.	Carissa Pagel-Smith 785-6172 cpagel@lacrossecounty.org	No
New Advocacy Committee	Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC)	The ADRC is looking for at least five individuals to join/form an Advocacy Committee. Members will participate in the planning and oversight of aging services and participate in related policy development and advocacy. Members will also attend Aging Advocacy Day on May 14, 2019, at the State Capitol to help educate state legislators about important issues affecting our aging population.	Carissa Pagel-Smith 785-6172 cpagel@lacrossecounty.org	No
7.5 Campaign	Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC)	The ADRC is promoting the Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging's campaign, Ask Me About 7.5, throughout 2019. The campaign provides an opportunity to share an important message about aging: <i>Research has shown that people with POSITIVE perceptions of aging live, on average, 7.5 years longer than those who do not.</i> Buttons and informational cards will be used to help share this message.	Carissa Pagel-Smith 785-6172 cpagel@lacrossecounty.org	No
Impact of Federal Government Shutdown on Food Share Benefits	Economic Support (ES)	As a result of the federal government shutdown, current Food Share members received their February Food Share benefits early. Wisconsin issued February benefits before January 20 th . While a notice was sent via email to all Food Share recipients who provided the agency with an email address, the Department of Health Services (DHS) was not able to mail a paper notice of the early issuance.	Lorie Graff 785-6061 lgraff@lacrossecounty.org	No
Income Maintenance Funding Study Project	Economic Support (ES)	A UW-Madison graduate class has accepted the Income Maintenance (IM) Funding Study as a Spring semester project. In addition to determining the total cost to administer IM programs statewide, the study will seek to identify differences in costs between Consortia across the state. The study is expected to be completed by May 2019, with the students presenting their report at the Wisconsin County Human Service Association (WCHSA) Spring Conference.	Lorie Graff 785-6061 lgraff@lacrossecounty.org	No

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Child Welfare Funding Advocacy	Family & Children's (FC) – Child Protective Services	<p>The Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) is continuing with its public relations campaign related to the request for an additional \$30 million in the next biennial budget for child protective services. In January, WCA Executive Director Mark O'Connell appeared with county representatives Jason Witt (La Crosse) and Teresa Kovach (Portage) on a 30-minute show on the WisconsinEye, "Newsmakers", to discuss the child welfare crisis in Wisconsin. You can view the show here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LhPTOGaNUqY. After the appearance, the program's host, Steve Walters, wrote a newspaper editorial about the issue: https://www.gazettextra.com/opinion/columns/walters-drug-abuse-breaks-county-child-care-budgets/article_8d1839b3-cc7e-5b7c-8f26-c13ecc0a37d0.html. The increased funding for child welfare was the number one priority that county representatives from across the state (Including Monica Kruse, Doug Weidenbach, David Steinberg and Jason Witt from La Crosse) spoke to their state legislators about on January 16 in Madison as part of the County Ambassadors Program (CAP) "Day at the Capitol." Next, WCA is coordinating a campaign where social workers from across the state will be writing letters to Governor Evers and state legislators detailing the crisis from their perspective.</p> <p>Thanks to an invitation from Representative Steve Doyle, he and Jason Witt were able to directly brief Governor Evers on Wisconsin's child welfare crisis and the WCA funding request during a private meeting on January 15.</p>	<p>Jason Witt 785-6095 jwitt@lacrossecounty.org</p> <p>Tracy Puent 785-6083 tpuent@lacrossecounty.org</p>	No
Children's Long Term Support (CLTS) Program Expansion	Integrated Support & Recovery Services (ISRS)	CLTS Supervisors recently submitted to the State their plan for La Crosse County to be in compliance with the 2019 State Rate Setting initiative. The transition plan includes number of waiver participants, reviews of service plans, vendors accepting new rates and allying our systems to new rate setting codes. Fully implemented CLTS Rate Setting by 07/01/2019. No impact of participant services expected.	Christin Skolnik 785-6019 cskolnik@lacrossecounty.org	No
Grant Received	Justice Support Services (JSS)	Adult Diversion Programs were officially awarded Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD) funding once again for 2019 in the amount of \$209,180. The focus of this funding is to provide pre- and post-diversion services to defendants in La Crosse County. As this has been ongoing funding through the Department of Justice, this grant was budgeted for 2019.	Mandy Bisek 785-6216 mbisek@lacrossecounty.org	No