

**Human Services Department Report to County Board
January 2019**

ADMINISTRATION

Operational Effectiveness – Business Practice

The Children's Long Term Support Waiver Program will be transitioning in 2019 to a statewide rate-setting methodology that establishes the rates that providers will receive when they contract with counties to provide services for these youth. This is being done as a result of a corrective action plan by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) requiring the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) to comply with federal Home and Community Based Waiver regulations. Opportunities for local providers to ask questions/learn more have been provided by both the state and Human Services' contract unit as we receive more information. Providers should be transitioned to the new system by mid-2019.

Customer Service/ Practice – Trauma Informed Care

A new committee has begun meeting within Human Services to create a multi-section effort at instilling the values of Trauma Informed Care into the services of, employment with and environment of the department. We are looking to have this as a strong point of emphasis in 2019 and beyond and expect it will have many positive effects for our customers, employees and partners.

AGING & DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER (ADRC)

Dementia Coalition/Action Network

The ADRC is seeking action-focused leaders and partners from the community to form a Dementia Coalition or Action Network to support the community changes necessary for a Dementia Friendly La Crosse County. Because Dementia affects everyone in our community, representatives from a variety of entities are encouraged to participate: community agencies and businesses that people with Dementia frequent, healthcare organizations and hospitals, universities, transportation units, law enforcement, emergency medical services, faith communities, chambers of commerce, parks, education, Dementia caregivers and people living with Dementia. For more information or if you are interested in being a part of a task force, please contact Kelsey Flock, Dementia Care Specialist, at kflock@lacrossecounty.org or call 608-785-5780.

Home-Delivered Meal Program

A total of 275 handcrafted items (hats, mittens and scarves) received from Coulee Region RSVP, along with holiday cards made by Viking Elementary 5th grade students, were delivered to home-delivered meal participants prior to the holidays. Home-delivered meal participants will also receive emergency-meal packs to be used if/when home-delivered meals are cancelled due to weather. The La Crosse County Nutrition Program cancels meal delivery if/when the La Crosse School District closes due to inclement weather.

ECONOMIC SUPPORT (ES)

Federal Approval of Wisconsin's 1115 BadgerCare Reform Demonstration Amendment Request

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has approved Wisconsin's 1115 BadgerCare Reform Demonstration amendment request. Most of the initiatives included in the amendment apply to Childless Adults receiving Medicaid or BadgerCare. The amendment allows Wisconsin to limit Medicaid and BadgerCare eligibility to 48 months for childless adults between of the ages of 19 and 49 who do not meet work requirements. They may reapply after six months and the 48-month limit of benefits resets. Establishing premiums and emergency department co-payments are also included in the amendment. Members would be required to complete a health risk assessment, and may be able to reduce their premiums through healthy behaviors such as not smoking or by maintaining a healthy weight. While CMS rejected Governor Walker's proposal to require drug screening and testing of Childless Adults for Medicaid and BadgerCare eligibility, they approved full Medicaid coverage of residential treatment for substance abuse disorder (this does not include coverage of room and board). The change in coverage for substance abuse disorder treatment applies to all Medicaid and BadgerCare members. Given the recent administration change, it's uncertain what steps will be taken by the new Governor to implement initiatives included in the recently approved 1115 waiver.

FAMILY & CHILDREN'S (FC)

Foster Care Recruitment

Our Foster Care Program teamed up with Marcus Theatre in La Crosse to promote foster care and becoming a foster parent during the opening of the movie "Instant Family". Marcus Theatre allowed us to set up a display table in their lobby with brochures and information on our foster care program. On December 4th in the evening, a private showing of the movie occurred for La Crosse County Foster families. The foster parents attending this event were asked to bring a friend who may be interested in learning more about foster care.

INTEGRATED SUPPORT & RECOVERY SERVICES (ISRS)

Children's Long Term Support (CLTS) Program Expansion

Background: The current state budget includes an attempt to reduce or eliminate the wait list for Children's Long Term Support services in Wisconsin. La Crosse County had 186 children on our wait list when the expansion began in September of 2017. The state is slated to cover the cost of expansion without additional county contribution, and provided funding for La Crosse to get to a total of 300 children served by the end of 2018.

Status update: 275 children are enrolled in CLTS services as of 12-3-18. All families who were waiting for services in September of 2017 have been contacted, and 110 were eligible and opened to services. We continue to outreach to new referrals that have been received since September of 2017 as we are not yet at the state identified target number of 300.

Process Improvement Project Presentations at State Conference

ISRS had two process improvement teams active in 2018. Both projects were invited to present at the State Mental Health & Substance Abuse Conference on October 16, 2018.

- Comprehensive Community Services successfully increased consumer attainment of treatment goals.
- Crisis successfully increased teaming and referrals of children served by Child Protective Services, Juvenile Justice, and the La Crosse Area Family Collaborative.