

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

AGING & DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER (ADRC)

Dementia-Friendly Community

The ADRC's Dementia Care Specialist, along with ADRC Supervisor and two ADRC Advisory Committee members, were recently trained to facilitate Dementia LIVE within our community. Dementia LIVE is a high impact, dementia simulation experience that immerses participants into life with dementia, resulting in a deeper understanding of what it is like to live with cognitive impairment and sensory change. This training, along with other related materials, will be used to train ADRC staff, other county employees, businesses/organizations, students, family/friends and the general public.

ECONOMIC SUPPORT (ES)

Income Maintenance (IM) Funding Study

The Income Maintenance (IM) Funding workgroup of the Wisconsin County Human Service Association (WCHSA) will be working with a class from the Robert M. La Follette School of Public Affairs to complete an IM Funding study. The purpose of the study is to collect data necessary to determine the full cost of providing income maintenance services that comply with all Federal and State requirements and to accurately process Food Share and Medicaid cases in a timely manner. The study's final report will allow for counties and consortia to have access to standardized information, and the ability to identify differences in cost across counties and consortium members. The final product will allow counties and consortia to accurately and effectively project cost impacts as program modifications occur. The IM Funding study is anticipated to conclude mid-May 2019.

FAMILY & CHILDREN'S (FC)

Child Welfare Funding Advocacy

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.

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.

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: 302 children are enrolled in CLTS services in La Crosse as of 1-2-19. The state identified target number for our county was 300. All families who were waiting for services in September of 2017 have been contacted; 110 were eligible and opened to services. We continue to outreach to new referrals that have been received since September of 2017.

Justice Support Services (JSS)Grant Received

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.