

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

AGING & DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER (ADRC)

National White Cane Safety Day

More than 1,200 La Crosse County residents 18 and older have some degree of vision loss; five percent of the older adults (65+) in our community are blind or visually impaired. Pedestrian safety for people with impaired vision is an ongoing concern. In recognition of National White Cane Safety Day, the ADRC participated with the Wisconsin Council of the Blind & Visually Impaired to raise awareness among motorists and pedestrians of the White Cane Law. An October 11 press conference shared information and highlighted a campaign displayed on the side of four MTU buses coinciding with National White Cane Safety Day on October 15.

ECONOMIC SUPPORT (ES)

BadgerCare Reform Waiver Amendment Initiatives

The Department of Health Services (DHS) has developed an implementation plan for a number of changes included in the BadgerCare Reform Waiver amendment. Under the Department's plan, Childless Adult BadgerCare members will be subject to several new requirements beginning February 1, 2020. Childless Adults with income between 50% and 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) will be charged an \$8 monthly household premium for BadgerCare. Healthy behavior incentives, including a health risk assessment and an optional health survey, may lower their monthly premium if a member demonstrates avoiding/actively managing health risk behaviors. Childless Adult BadgerCare members will also be subject to a copayment for non-emergent use of the Emergency Department after February 1, 2020. DHS's implementation plan is pending approval by the Joint Finance Committee (JFC). The Department has also requested a 90-day extension from the JFC for implementation of the Childless Adult community engagement requirement and residential substance abuse treatment coverage for full benefit BadgerCare Plus and Medicaid members.

FAMILY & CHILDREN'S (FC)

Foster Care Event: First Day of School Family Dinner

The Foster Care Unit sponsored the third annual "First Day of School Family Dinner" on September 3, 2019. Foster families were given pizza from Dominos and soda donated from Coca-Cola Corporation to help families with the transition back to school.

Trauma Informed Parenting Training

We are continuing to partner with the La Crosse School District in providing Trauma Informed Parenting to staff, birth families, and members of the community. We are scheduled to have upcoming trainings at Logan High School starting in September 2019, Hamilton Elementary School in October 2019, and Hintgen Elementary School in January 2020. This is a great start in getting all schools across the La Crosse School District educated in Trauma Informed Parenting. Our goal is to branch out to the surrounding school districts in the future.

Child Welfare and the Courts Conference

A team from the agency attended the bi-annual Child Welfare and the Courts Conference in Wisconsin Dells September 25-27. The focus of this year's conference was on effectuating timely permanency for children. The keynote speakers and breakout sessions really centered around family engagement, evidence-based practices, and the importance of keeping children in their home whenever possible by wrapping services/supports around them to address the safety concerns.

Foster Care Retention

We are implementing a new foster parent mentoring program to support our new foster families and help them build connections. We have five experienced foster parents who have now been paired up with new foster families. This mentoring program matches up newly licensed foster parents with seasoned foster parents who can answer questions, give guidance, and support them through their first placement.

JUSTICE SUPPORT SERVICES (JSS)

Legislative Pretrial Tour

On August 12, the Criminal Justice Management Council sponsored a Legislative Tour of La Crosse County's Pretrial Process. It was a successful day, attended by Senator Shilling and Representative Billings, along with representatives of the Criminal Justice Management Council, and County Board (thank you!). Numerous local media outlets attended the tour and provided community coverage. The intention of this day was to provide local representatives, stakeholders and our broader community an inside view of the pretrial process and the elements that go into making bond decisions. Justice Support Services was highlighted for those on the tour with information regarding the assessment and monitoring processes provided by JSS.

Media Coverage:

8/12/19 La Crosse legislators tour pretrial circuit court system [La Crosse Tribune](#)

8/12/19 Criminal Justice Management Council hosts pretrial tour for area legislators [WXOW](#)

8/12/19 Local Legislators tour La Crosse's criminal justice system [News 8](#)

Appointment to Governor's Juvenile Justice Commission

David Steinberg, Superintendent of the La Crosse County Juvenile Detention Center, has been appointed to the Governor's Juvenile Justice Commission (GJJ) per Executive Order #43. The GJJ is Wisconsin's State Advisory Group required by the federal Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Act.

See [link](#) for full membership.

Conferences

Justice Support Services leadership and staff took advantage of several worthwhile conferences in the month of September to enhance our knowledge of research and best practices and to learn from others in the field doing similar work. Conferences included:

- National Association of Pretrial Services and Agencies (NAPSA) in San Diego, CA, attended by JSS-Adult Leadership and staff (grant funded)
- Wisconsin Juvenile Court Intake Association in Wisconsin Dells attended by Youth Justice and Juvenile Detention leadership and staff
- Child Welfare and the Courts in Wisconsin Dells attended by Youth Justice Supervisor along with Child Protection and other County leadership
- Pretrial Assessor Training in Wisconsin Dells attended by all pretrial staff and leadership
- Treatment Court Standards Training in Appleton, WI, attended by our new OWI Court Coordinator