



*Office of County Administrator
County of La Crosse, Wisconsin*

County Administrative Center
400 4th Street North • Room 3300 • La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601-3200
(608) 785-9700 • Fax (608) 789-4821
www.co.la-crosse.wi.us

Memo To: La Crosse County Board of Supervisors
From: Steve O'Malley, County Administrator
Date: January 7, 2013

Re: January Monthly Report to the County Board

Attached is the January Monthly Report to the County Board, providing monitoring information about department activities to the full County Board instead of reporting only to governing committees.

REMINDER Monthly Reporting by roughly half the organization every other month. While you will receive this report each month, the reports do not cover every department each time.

February, April, June, August, Oct. & Dec.

Planning, Resources & Development
Public Works & Infrastructure
Judiciary & Law Enforcement
Corp Counsel & Child Support

January, March, May, July, September, November

Health & Human Services
Aging & Long Term Care
County Clerk, Finance, IT,
Printing, Personnel, Treasurer

“OF INTEREST”

Elected Officials take office With the beginning of the New Year, the following County Elected Officials formally take office by being sworn into office on Monday January 7, 2013: Cheryl McBride, Register of Deeds; Ginny Dankmeyer, County Clerk; and Shawn Handland, Treasurer. This will be the first elected term for the County Clerk and Treasurer. Please stop by and congratulate them.

Lakeview Study not yet complete The Board should be aware that the Lakeview Study by WIPFLI is not yet complete as had been expected this month. We expect to have some initial recommendations about the potential right-sizing of Lakeview services in February, and identification of Pros & Cons regarding site location in March.

Arbitrator rules in favor of Deputies Union The County and Deputies Union were unable to reach agreement for 2012-2013 and submitted the matter to arbitration. At the end of the year we received notice that the arbitrator ruled in favor of the Deputies without requiring a contribution toward WRS. The County's position has been that all employees should provide the same % payment to WRS. In the alternative, it has been the County's position that a higher deductible Health Insurance plan would be implemented for those who do not contribute to WRS, to achieve cost savings. Therefore two resolutions are going to the Executive Committee and County Board this month regarding: "Adoption of Plan and Rates for 2013 for a High Deductible Health Plan for Active Employees Not Contributing to the Wisconsin Retirement System" and "Modification of Compensation Plan for Public Safety Management Employees for 2013" (The second resolution will give time for Administration to meet with Sheriff's Department Sergeants and Supervisors to discuss options.)

*If you have any questions, feel free to contact me by phone or e-mail.
County Administrator direct line: 785-9789, cell phone 608-385-3316
or e-mail steve.omalley@co.la-crosse.wi.us*

MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

Aging & Long Term Care January 2013

Lakeview Health Center

STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

WIPFLI is in the final stages of the strategic planning process. The market study has been completed. Preliminary reports indicate a continued need for our specialty nursing home services and need for development of specialty assisted living services. Final report has not been received.

Operational and financial assessments continue. WIPFLI analyst has met to discuss operational issues related to both nursing home and assisted living models. Final report on optimum size and service model is pending.

As always, I extend the invitation to stop in when you are in the West Salem area or call with any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

*Wanda Plachecki, Administrator
Lakeview Health Center*

Aging Department

Please see attachment regarding Commuter Bus System.

Respectfully,

*Noreen Kuroski
Director of Aging*

MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

Health & Human Services January 2013

Human Services Department

ECONOMIC SUPPORT

Wisconsin Shares Child Care Assistance Regionalization

Members of the Western Region for Economic Assistance (WREA) Consortium continue to participate in a workgroup with Department of Children and Families' representatives to determine the feasibility and potential timeline for regionalizing Wisconsin Shares Child Care assistance. The WREA Consortium has requested to pilot administering the Child Care program regionally in 2013. While full implementation of a regional pilot may not be possible in 2013 given technical work needed to support some of the changes, the Department of Children and Families continues to explore parts of the regionalization request that are possible in 2013. If not through a pilot, the WREA Consortium hopes to better align the Child Care program with the WREA Income Maintenance Consortium in 2013.

Income Maintenance

The Department of Health Services has announced that they will share part of \$2.1 M in Food Share bonus dollars the State received in 2012 with IM Consortia statewide. The bonus dollars were awarded to the State of Wisconsin for their performance in Food Share payment accuracy for FFY 2011. The amount that will be shared with Consortia and how the additional funds will be allocated to Consortia is still being discussed.

Collaboration with Salvation Army

The Salvation Army has agreed to be a pilot site to provide access and support for economic support services. Economic Support staff will provide training to staff and volunteers in January with a start date in February. By providing access to economic support in the community it is expected customer service will be enhanced and staff workload will be decreased.

CHEMICAL HEALTH & JUSTICE SANCTIONS

CHJS Public Relations Committee

The PR Committee has been working with community partners to enhance employability of people involved in the criminal justice system. Employment has been a priority of the Criminal Justice Management Council for many years. Through participation in the Transition from Jail to Community Initiative, La Crosse County has been able to better support clients who are unemployed. Developing a standardized process with employers will enhance services even more.

Ophelia's House

The YWCA of the Coulee Region was awarded the contract for Ophelia's House. The submission from the YWCA continued to prioritize needs of women who are involved in the criminal justice system. Many other community partners contributed letters of support for the program.

MENTAL HEALTH RECOVERY SERVICES

Integrated Mental Health and Substance Abuse Clinic

As we continue to explore ways to best integrate services, achieve our "one department" vision and position ourselves to maintain quality services in these challenging fiscal times, there have been a number of discussions about substance abuse service delivery. To better respond to people with co-occurring disorders and prepare for state level changes in mental

health and substance abuse, we have chosen to transition some of the substance abuse services formerly provided by the Chemical Health and Justice Sanctions Section over to the MHRS section.

In mid-October MHRS began to operate an integrated Mental Health & Substance Abuse Clinic that includes the administration of contracted substance abuse services such as prevention, detoxification, residential services, and outpatient services.

Community Recovery Services (CRS) State Certification Visit

La Crosse County was one of the first counties in Wisconsin to begin to offer a new Medical Assistance (M.A.) program called Community Recovery Services (CRS). The program began in 2010 and is a way our county can draw upon M.A. to assist in funding certain types of residential placements or services offered in a consumer's home to prevent residential placement. There are tremendous clinical and administrative requirements. A recent 5 day visit from the state resulted in very positive feedback regarding the manner in which we are meeting program requirements. A plan of how we are going to increase our residential vendor's performance related to documentation of services delivered was required and submitted.

Community Support Program 2012 Contract Objectives Review

The Community Support Program (CSP) is the case management model that provides an inter-disciplinary approach to individuals with the most complex mental health needs. It is an Evidence Based Practice approach that is nationally regarded as the most effective program to assist an individual with complex needs to live in the community. The CSP contract has many objectives attached that we ask the vendor (Family & Children's Center) to strive for during the course of each year. At this point in 2012 they are proud of the fidelity review/action plan process they have developed to increase the effectiveness of three Evidence Based Practices the model provides. They are also proud of the continued effort they have to link consumers with integrated physical and dental care through Scenic Bluffs. Many of these had no existing providers in place.

Jason Witt

Human Services Director

Health Department

Mission: Protect, Promote and Improve the Health of all People in the County

Goal #1 - Provide high priority public health services.

- About \$1,500,000 in contracts to the La Crosse County Health Department to provide services in 2013 have been set in place. Several of the contracts are multiple year contracts assuring revenues to deliver public health services into 2015.
- Several thousand influenza immunizations were provided to the public in La Crosse County, primarily at school and community clinics.
- In the last quarter about 250 communicable disease investigations were conducted on illnesses including sexually transmitted disease, pertussis, TB, foodborne illness, etc.
- The wave of pertussis infections in La Crosse County has declined. In 2012, we will have investigated applied disease control techniques to about 120 cases compared to a usual annual total under 10.

- The La Crosse County Communities Putting Prevention to Work Program was recognized in a US Center for Disease Control (CDC) publication for its success in increasing the availability of healthy food, encouraging the improved labeling of food in restaurants, grocery stores, etc., improving the community's ability to provide safe walking and biking opportunities and increasing the number of seniors participating in exercise related activities.
- The Healthy Dining Guide was distributed identifying restaurants that provide nutritious food with appropriate calories per meal.
- The rate of mosquito borne illness, West Nile Virus and La Crosse encephalitis, in La Crosse County remained low. Tickborne Lyme disease continues to be reported at significantly higher rates than in previous decades.
- Over 500 County employees participated in a health risk assessments to enable them to better understand steps that they can take to remain healthy and thus reduce the sick leave and health insurance costs.

Goal #2 - Achieve and maintain designation as the highest level public health agency.

- Health Department staff participated in a formal quality improvement effort that enabled the reduction in the amount of "wait" time for clients receiving seasonal influenza at community and school clinics.
- Funding was received to be used to help the La Crosse County Health Department achieve national accreditation as a local health department in 2013-2014.

Goal #3 - Promote and utilize partnerships to develop public health services.

- The La Crosse School District awarded the La Crosse County Health Department with their "Champion for Public Education" award. The award recognized specifically the Safe Routes to School Program while also acknowledging the wide range of services provided by the Health Dept in partnership with the La Crosse School District directed toward keeping students healthy and able to learn. Services noted included immunization clinics at schools, environmental health consultation and inspections, educational presentations for students and staff on smoking reduction and animal health, coordination of emergency preparedness planning and education, participation on the School District Medical Advisory Committee, Rebuilding Learning Partnership and the City of La Crosse, County of La Crosse and La Crosse School District efforts to coordinate services.
- The Health and Human Services Board sponsored a frac sand meeting with the Administrator of the Wisconsin Division of Public Health and DNR staff on the public health implications of frac sand that included Boards of Health and local health department staff from nine surrounding counties.
- Health Department staff continues to assist in the coordination of the Child Death Review Committee whose purpose is to identify patterns in the occurrence of death in children and, based on that information, develop mechanisms for preventing them occurring in the future.
- Health Department staff participated with other County departments at the Hmong Mutual Assistance Association's Elderly Health Fair.

Doug Mormann
Health Department Director

MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

Internal Departments January 2013

County Clerk's Office

Elections

Another year of elections is over! Can we say it was another busy and unusual election year? Just when we thought that we had registered all the La Crosse County voters for the June Recall, the numbers from the Presidential and General Election on Tuesday, November 6, 2012, proved us to be wrong. The voter turnout for this election was about 85% and as predicted it did have a higher voter turnout than we have seen in past years. It is great that people are getting out and exercising their right to vote.

Now, our office will start to prepare for the 2013 Spring Elections. The "current" scheduled elections are the Spring Primary, Tuesday, February 19th (if needed), and the Spring Election, Tuesday, April 2nd. However, our Office is always prepared to expect the unexpected. For, we know that anything could change at anytime, from what we have learned over the past two years.

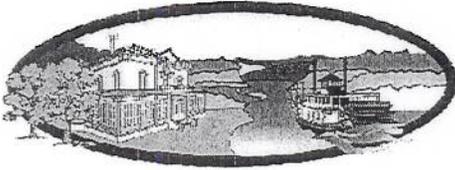
Dog Licenses

The 2012 dog tags expired December 31, 2012, and the 2013 dog tags may be purchased at the dog owner's municipality until April 1st. The cost of the 2013 dog tags did not increase. If dog owners do not purchase the dog tag by April 1st, then they will need to purchase the tags in our office and pay for the 2013 dog tag with an additional late fee of \$25.00.

County Board

Bill Schultz, Jr. was appointed and sworn into office by Judge Dale Pasell as County Board Supervisor for District 11 at the November 5, 2012, County Board Planning Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ginny Dankmeyer, County Clerk



CITY OF PRAIRIE DU CHIEN Municipal Offices

214 East Blackhawk Avenue - PO Box 324
Prairie du Chien, WI 53821
Phone: (608) 326-6406 Fax: (608) 326-8182

THREE-COUNTY COMMUTER BUS SYSTEM BEGINS DECEMBER 3RD

(Prairie Du Chien, WI – November 29th 2012) – December 3rd will mark the start of the three-county, fixed-route, commuter bus system to connect Vernon, Crawford, and La Crosse Counties. The Scenic Mississippi Regional Transit (SMRT) is the result of the collaboration of Crawford County Transportation Coordination Committee (TCC) and representative of Vernon and La Crosse counties. "December will give us the opportunity to get the routes up and running, gauge areas of demand and need, identify any obstacles to service, and refine the system accordingly," said Peter Fletcher, Transportation Planner with the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission in La Crosse.

SMRT will operate three routes with buses running four round trips a day, five days a week with the one-way fare being \$3. SMRT is intended to provide affordable and reliable transportation in the region for purposes ranging from employees getting to work to people going to medical appointments. In addition, SMRT will increase the effectiveness of local transportation programs, according to Lynda Wilke, Mobility Manager, with the Vernon County Unit on Aging. "SMRT will complement the senior transit services we provide and increase their reach."

Running Inc. of Viroqua will operate the system. Running has experience throughout the region in providing transit services and is the parent company of eight transit companies. "This is an exciting opportunity for the three counties as well as for our company," says Justin Running. "We intend to make this the best rural transit system in the state." For more information about the schedules, stops, and buses, contact Running Inc. at (877) 444-6543 or visit the SMRT website at www.rideSMRT.com.

The system is funded with support from many local governments, businesses, institutions, and the Supplemental Rural Transit Assistance Program (STRAP), which is a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) program administered by the Wisconsin DOT. The FTA also supported the acquisition of the buses. Business supporters include Gundersen Lutheran, Organic Valley, Vernon Memorial Healthcare, Walmart, and Dairyland Power. "We thank all the partners in making SMRT a reality, and look forward to the list of partners growing as the operation matures," says Jeanne Christie, Director of the Aging & Disability Resource Center of Southwest Wisconsin, and Coordinator of the Crawford County TCC. Jake Miller of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) adds, "the collaboration and cooperation in planning, funding, and operating SMRT that the TCC fostered is one reason that WisDOT decided to support it with STRAP funding as well."

About Schedules and Routes

Running Inc. (877) 444-6543;
SMRT website at www.rideSMRT.com

About the SMRT Vision and the Transportation Coordination Committee

Peter Fletcher, Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission, (608) 785-9396, peter@mrrrpc.com.
Lynda Wilke, Vernon County, (608) 637-5201, lwilke@vernoncounty.org
Jeanne Christie, Crawford County, (608) 326-0235, jchristie@ crawfordcountywi.org

About the Supplemental Transportation Rural Assistance Program

Jacob Miller, Wisconsin Department of Transportation, (608) 264-7335, Jacob1.Miller@dot.wi.gov

SMRT Commuter Bus

Bus service is planned to begin this fall. Four round trips on each of the three routes will occur Monday thru Friday. Eighty percent of the funding is provided by a federal grant through Wisconsin DOT to the City of Prairie Du Chien. Counties, communities, businesses and institutions contributed to the twenty percent match for the grant. For further information please contact: Peter Fletcher, Transportation Planner, Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission, t. 608-785-9396, e. peter@mrrpc.com

