



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

County Administrative Center  
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**Memo To: La Crosse County Board of Supervisors**  
**From: Steve O'Malley, County Administrator**  
**Date: May 2, 2013**

**Re: May Monthly Report to the County Board**

Attached is the May 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”**

May 6, 2013 Policy Planning Agenda

The agenda will cover a number of topics that should be especially interesting to the Board, including:

- Update on the work of the Administrative Center and Downtown Campus Study Committee
- Progress Report on the Sustainability Plan
- Report on the purchase offer for the Park Plaza property and next steps.

*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 [omalley@lacrossecounty.org](mailto:omalley@lacrossecounty.org)*

# **MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD**

## **Aging & Long Term Care May 2013**

### **Lakeview Health Center**

#### **STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS**

We are beginning the architectural design and site planning process with HSR Associates, Inc. and Nelson-Tremain Partnership. Initial discussions with them will include site discussions in conjunction with other County and Village representatives & design work on an 8 bed CBRF.

In addition, we have initiated discussions with the Department of Health Services to review their expectations related to issues such as resident relocation, incentive discussions, and any other concerns as they arise. It is expected that a multi-stakeholder planning committee will be formed to address these issues.

Lakeview staff continue tours of other newly constructed facilities in Wisconsin. These have been helpful in identifying design features that will enhance resident care and staff efficiency. Staff have also been encouraged to take advantage of the many "virtual" tours available on facility and county web sites.

Monthly town hall meetings continue for Lakeview staff in order to provide information and obtain feedback from staff about this process. If any of you are ever interested in attending one of these meetings, please let me know.

#### **WHISPERING PINES RCAC**

In partnership with the LaCrosse County Housing Authority, Lakeview provides services to the tenants of the Whispering Pines apartment complex through the Residential Care Apartment Complex assisted living model. Located in West Salem and adjacent to our campus, Whispering Pines is a form of housing with services available to seniors in Wisconsin. The Whispering Pines RCAC has many services available, including 1) assistance with care such as bathing, dressing, grooming, 2) nursing services such as medication reminders and set-up, 3) one community noon meal, and 4) help with laundry and housekeeping.

Lakeview provides these services to tenants at Whispering Pines while the LaCrosse County Housing Authority owns the property and manages the housing portion of services.

Recently, Whispering Pines RCAC had its recertification survey by the State of Wisconsin. We are happy to report that this resulted in a cite-free survey.

#### **WEST SALEM RELAY FOR LIFE**

The Honorary Chairperson for this year's West Salem Relay for Life was Erica Schultz, Lakeview's RN Quality Manager. To honor her and all those who have battled cancer, we sponsored a Relay team. This is an important event for our community and is a meaningful way for us to connect with the community we are a part of.

As always, comments or questions are always appreciated.

Sincerely,  
*Wanda Plachecki, Administrator*

## **Aging Department**

Please see attached brochures.

*Noreen Kuroski*  
*Aging Director*

## **Veterans Service Office**

- As mentioned in my last report, Tomah VA Medical Center has committed to a new facility here in La Crosse combining primary care and mental health care. I have recently been told that the expanded services include **optometry, audiology and podiatry**. This will be very useful for veterans who now have to go to Tomah VA Medical Center to access any of these services.
- **Claims backlog:** The VA has instituted some changes in development letters sent to veterans when a claim is filed, hoping to speed up the claims process. Efforts are also being made to better communicate between VA rating officials, veterans service organizations and county veterans service officers. Over time, this may help shorten the claim process somewhat.
- Please check with your local American Legion or VFW to find out when **Memorial Day events** are scheduled in your community. As usual there will be parades in La Crosse and in Onalaska, and ceremonies in Holmen and West Salem on Memorial Day morning, May 27, 2013. Please attend an event; it's the least we can do to remember the fallen and their sacrifices.

*Jim Gausmann, CVSO*

# MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

## Health & Human Services May 2013

### **Health Department**

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

#### **Goal #1 - Provide high priority public health services.**

- A foodborne illness outbreak involving three states was identified and resolved.
- An education session for landlords on having smoke-free multi unit housing policies was completed.
- Staff prepared for a region wide public health preparedness exercise that will be occurring on May 3.
- The Home Health Care Program provided, approximately, 250 home health nursing and home health aide visits in the last month.
- Approximately 280 persons utilized the prescription drug reduced fee card sponsored by the National Counties Association.
- Over 125 persons received services through the Salvation Army/Health Department/Viterbo Nursing School Program at the Salvation Army.
- The Pertussis outbreak ended.
- Over 200 children participated in the fluoride varnish applications provided through WIC, Head Start and the Seal-A-Smile Program.
- The Harvest of the Month Partnership held a press conference to kick off the coordination of nutrition education activities with the La Crosse schools, health care facilities, private business and others.
- The Healthier Wisconsin Partnership Program moved forward in meeting with UW-L, La Crosse School District and persons from the Parenting Place to coordinate student and other physical activities in the coming year.
- The Community Transformation Grant Program had 950 community residents indicate interest in being notified routinely about wellness related activities including exercise, development of improved Farmers' Market services, physical and nutrition activity in schools, etc.

#### **Goal #2 – Achieve and maintain designation a the highest level public health agency**

- The Environmental Health Division successfully completed an audit of its serves by the Wis. Department of Agriculture
- A review of "Compass 2012" a required community health needs assessment completed in partnership with about 20 other organizations and input from about 1000 community members scored 92% in a test of its quality by the UW School of Medicine and Public Health
- Progress continues to be made in preparing for National Accreditation of local health Depts.

- Monica Kruse and the Dept Dir. presented at a state conference on preparing for National Accreditation.

**Goal #3 –Promote and utilize partnerships to develop public health services**

- Joint efforts with the La Crosse School District, three local institutions of higher learning, two health care systems and 40 other organizations resulted in a very successful Health Summit. The goal of the gathering is to continue progress being made to improve the health of the public.
- The collaborative efforts of area school districts, UWL, Head Start and others are resulting in several successful initiatives to improve physical activity options for students and staff.
- Harvest of the Month efforts with local hospitals, Wal-Mart, Woodman’s, Kwik Trip and others to coordinate nutrition education efforts aimed a encouraging consumption of locally grown food continue.

*Doug Mormann, Director*

**Human Services Department**

**CHEMICAL HEALTH & JUSTICE SANCTIONS**

Criminal Justice Management Council (CJMC)

The Public Relations Sub-Committee of the CJMC met with various employers within the community to discuss the necessary tools, skills, information, and resources required for employers to become comfortable with employing people with criminal records.

Transition from Jail to Community (TJC)

Representatives from Hennepin County visited La Crosse to learn more about the implementation of the TJC project. The learned how La Crosse County has changed it processes to become more evidence-based.

Grant Submission

A “Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program” grant was submitted to the Federal government. The purpose of the grant is to enhance the current process for providing services for those who may have a mental health diagnosis at any point in the process.

**FAMILY & CHILDREN’S SECTION**

Drug Endangered Children Coalition of La Crosse

On 3/4/13 the Drug Endangered Children (DEC) Coalition of La Crosse held a meeting with legislators from our region. Jill Billings, Jennifer Shilling, Steve Doyle and Chris Danou were in attendance. Information was presented regarding the increase in the number of local DEC cases. Cases were discussed to highlight the significant physical and traumatic impact on children. We discussed criminal and CHIPs statutes and improvements that are needed to more effectively prosecute these cases. Minnesota has a criminal and CHIPs statute for Child Endangerment that we would like to see added in Wisconsin. Next steps were discussed as well as strategies for gaining momentum for legislative proposals and the best timing for the future.

### Evaluation of WI Permanency Roundtables (PRT) Initiative

Casey Family Programs is completing an evaluation of the WI Permanency Roundtables Initiative. La Crosse was asked to participate in this process due to the large volume of PRT case consults that we have conducted over the past 15 months.

## **ECONOMIC SUPPORT**

### Child Care Program

The Department of Children and Families officially approved the exceptions that the Western Region for Economic Assistance (WREA) Consortium requested for the Child Care program. This will allow our Consortium to process applications and re-eligibility reviews regionally within our Consortium. Current policy requires Child Care applications and reviews to be processed in the county where the Child Care applicant/recipient resides. In addition, DCF approved WREA's request to transfer Child Care funds between the eight counties in our consortium. If one county is over-spending their contract dollars, but another county is under-spending, we will be able to transfer funds to wherever it is needed within our 8 county consortium. Implementation of the changes will occur in April. Over the next year, we will be evaluating the effectiveness of integrating Child Care administration into our IM Consortium operations. We expect the changes will improve customer service through customers being able to be seen by the county that's most convenient for them. In addition, integrating Child Care into the regional operations already in place for Income Maintenance will increase the efficiency of the WREA Consortium.

## **MENTAL HEALTH RECOVERY SERVICES**

### Advanced Community Intervention Team (CIT) Training

The La Crosse Police Department was awarded a grant to provide advanced Community Intervention Team (CIT) training for officers that have already completed the initial 40 hours of this curriculum designed to position them to most successfully interact with individuals with mental health issues. MHRS Mobile Crisis will work closely with the Mental Health Coalition of the Greater La Crosse Area to deliver the curriculum for this advanced training.

### Western Region Integrated Care (WRIC) Pilot Project Update

**Background:** The State of Wisconsin has been working with stakeholders since 2009 to identify a future design for mental health and substance abuse services. In 2012 the state released a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a group of counties to work with them over three years to develop a shared services approach to the delivery of a core set of mental health and substance abuse services. In late 2012 a La Crosse, Jackson, and Monroe County vision was selected as one of two pilot projects to be funded. The goal is to implement a shared services approach to the delivery of a set of core services across partner counties by the end of 2015.

**Update:** The Advisory Council met for the first time; members were oriented to the project and their role. Construction Crew activity occurred in all three counties to map out what four of the 32 required core benefit services currently look like. Purpose of the mapping is to serve as a needs analysis as well as provide the foundation for identification of efficiencies and opportunities to build upon when future service design occurs to make core benefit services available across the region in a coordinated fashion.

*Jason Witt*

*Human Services Director*

# MONTHLY REPORT TO THE COUNTY BOARD

## Internal Departments May 2013

### County Clerk's Office

#### **Elections**

April 2<sup>nd</sup> Nonpartisan: Turnout for the April 2<sup>nd</sup> election was just shy of 21%. This was a lower turnout than normal for an April election considering the City of La Crosse had the Mayoral contest on the ballot. I'm going to assume that the low turnout was due to the 16 elections La Crosse County has had in the past two years and voter fatigue has set in.

#### **Youth & Government Day**

On Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, the County hosted Youth & Government Day. High school students were given the opportunity to learn more about County Government. We tried something new this year to help the students become more involved and started the day with a debate in the boardroom on Frac Sand Mining. Chair Johnson ran the debate as an actual board meeting and the students thoroughly enjoyed it. They were very involved and asked some very good questions. Supervisor Pedretti, Zoning & Planning Administrator Nathan Sampson, and Karl Green from UW Extension helped to answer questions from the students. Representative Billings and Supervisor/Town Clerk Pedretti also spoke to the students about how working on the County Board also helps with local and state issues. The students were able to tour the Health Department, Justice Sanctions, the jail, view the BearCat and observe court cases. Thank you to those Supervisors, the Elected Officials, the American Legion and everyone else that helped to make this year's Youth & Government Day a big success.

#### **Dog Licenses**

We have now started collecting money for late dog licenses. If dog owners did not purchase their license by April 1<sup>st</sup>, they are now charged an additional \$25 late fee per dog. If they do not purchase the late dog tag by June 1<sup>st</sup>, citations will be issued. The fine for failure to license dogs is \$200.50.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ginny Dankmeyer, County Clerk

### **Personnel Department**

#### *IN THE PROCESS OF CHANGE*

#### **Our Current Demographics:**

**PEOPLE:** As of December 2012 there were 1365 employees working for the County.

- 885 of those were full time employees
- 242 of those were part time employees
- 238 of those were irregular part time employees (on call, seasonal, less than half time and temporary)

Approximately 70% (958) of County employees are Female and 30% (407) are Males.

The Average Age of Residents in La Crosse is approximately 37.4 years.  
The Average Age of County Employees is 47 years. Average Age of Managers is 48.6 years.

Years of Service average of All employees = 10.5 years  
Years of Service average of management employees = 13.29 years

About 62% of employees (845) belong to one of 8 Collective Bargaining units represented by AFSCME, (American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees), WPPA (Wisconsin Professional Police Association), SEIU (Service Employees International Union).

**Future Demographics:**

**PEOPLE:** Calendar years 2013, 2014 and 2015 we will see substantial change in our workforce and in the way we work with one another. This basic organizational change requires additional work now and for the next 2 years for the Personnel Department.

**Retirements** – continue to accelerate as our staff ages:

In 2010 there were 24 retirements; in 2011 there were 30; in 2012 there were 36; and we are anticipating 45 retirements in 2013. We assist each and process all final benefits for retirees.

**Aging Staff** – As of this report – 34 regular employees are over age 65 (and 9 of those are over 70).

17 regular staff are currently 65; and 21 are 64; and 16 are 63; and 23 are 62. All of these staff (a total of 111) could retire in the next 3 years. That's about 8% of our total workforce. (This does not include elderly Site Managers/Bailiffs. Our oldest employee is 80.)

**New Hires** – the replacement of retirees adds to the number of new hires that must be obtained through recruitment, set up and orientation by the Personnel Department. In 2011 there were 181 new hires; in 2012 there were 275 new hires and in 2013 we are on track to have over 200 new hires again despite downsizing.

**UNIONS:** ACT 10 and 32, have made the most significant changes in the Labor-Management relationship in 40 years. Union contracts were convenient governing documents for administering pay and benefits, scheduling, hiring, promotion, grievances and terminations among staff performing greatly different functions. All contracts will expire Dec. 31, 2013 except that for Sheriff's Deputies.

This will force change in a number of core areas:

County Personnel Administrative code; Grievance Process; Employee Handbooks; Pay Plan Administration; and Management will need to step into a role formerly covered by contract provisions. All of this will require training of staff in subject including Health Insurance, Handbook provisions, New Grievance processing, and general good Management practices.

**NATIONAL HEALTH CARE:**

The Affordable Health Care Act (ACA) will mandate changes to the Health insurances, and cost implications will require review of Dental and Life insurance programs as well. Monitoring employee hours, health coverage, premium and employee hours will be mandated.

**OUTLOOK:**

2013 will be a year in which preparations are made – for loss of contracts, loss of communication with employee representatives, for handbooks, and new management roles, and Health insurance changes.

2014 will be a year of implementation of these and many other changes

2015 will be a year of adjusting to and refining the changes

**It will be a ride like no other we've seen before,** but we are preparing. The Personnel Department is working with Finance, Corp Counsel and the County Administrator to make transition as smooth as possible into the future.

*Robert B. Taunt*

*County Personnel Director*

# **Questions About Social Security & Medicare? *What has been proposed? Will it impact you?***



**U.S. Representative Ron Kind &  
State Senator Jennifer Shilling Invited**

[State Budget Issues also addressed]

***Come to this Town Hall Meeting to hear more.***

**Friday, May 17, 2013**

**12:30PM—2:30PM**

**Hmong Cultural & Community Center  
1815 Ward Ave. La Crosse**

**Call 608-785-9710 for more information**



*Sponsors: La Crosse County Aging Unit, ADRC of Western WI,  
Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR),  
National Committee to Preserve Social Security & Medicare  
Wisconsin Alliance of Retired Americans*

The Fourth Annual

# Vital Aging Conference

*Unleash the Power of Age!*

## Thursday, June 6, 2013

9AM—3PM Cartwright Center, UW-La Crosse

Join us at 8 a.m. for “Morning Move & Groove” exercise session

\$25, lunch and refreshments included

608.785.6502 | [www.uwlax.edu/conted/vitalaging](http://www.uwlax.edu/conted/vitalaging)



### Come & Enjoy

- Belly Dancing,
- Learning in Retirement,
- Before the After,
- Celebrate Diversity in Aging,
- Outhouses
- The Inside Scoop
- and much, much more!

### Keynote Speakers:

- ◇ **Brian Udderman**, UW-La Crosse  
*Was Mom Wrong? Health Myths that May Surprise You!*
- ◇ **Tom Thibodeau**, Viterbo University  
*Instead of Growing Old—Older & Growing*
- ◇ **Noreen Holmes**, La Crosse County  
*The New Aging in America*

### Sponsors:

*La Crosse County Aging Unit*



MAKING MORE POSSIBLE



**Comfort Keepers**

Expand Your Mind \* Strengthen Your Body \* Refresh Your Spirit  
Discover the Possible