

Human Services Director's Report
To the Health & Human Services Board
January 2020

Activity	Program/ Section	Brief Description	Contact Person	Attach- ment
Transportation Services	Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC)	<p>The ADRC is an annual recipient of Specialized Transportation Assistance funds as authorized by Wisconsin Statute 85.21. Any funds are held in a trust for future expenses or the acquisition or maintenance of transportation equipment. Given the balance of the trust, the ADRC sought applications/requests from local non-profit service providers to assist with the purchase or maintenance of equipment used for specialized transportation. As a result, the ADRC was pleased to grant funds to five local agencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$559.80 to Bethany St. Joseph Care Center for new tires • \$5,400 to Benedictine Living Community for wheelchair lift • \$6,458 to Bridges of Belonging for new wheelchair lift • \$14,481.88 to Aptiv for various equipment and wheelchair lift • \$3,837.49 to Creative Community Living Services for various equipment/maintenance 	Carissa Pagel-Smith 785-6172 cpagel@lacrossecounty.org	No
Dementia Care Services	Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC)	<p>With use of Alzheimer's Family and Caregiver Support Program (AFCSP) funds, the ADRC has purchased several items designed specifically for people with dementia. Items include reminiscence cards and picture books to spark a range of conversations around favorite memories; interactive companion pets and realistic baby dolls designed to bring comfort, companionship and fun; weighted lap pads for comfort and relaxation; and fidget tools used for tactile/sensory play. Items will be gifted to local memory care facilities to provide to residents with dementia as well as be available for staff to gift to clients with dementia throughout the year.</p>	Carissa Pagel-Smith 785-6172 cpagel@lacrossecounty.org	No
Caregiver Support	Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC)	<p>With use of Alzheimer's Family and Caregiver Support Program (AFCSP) funds, the ADRC has purchased a variety of training videos for family caregivers providing support and care for persons with dementia. Videos showcase Teepa Snow, leading trainer and consultant in the work of dementia. The ADRC will gift a number of these videos to the La Crosse County Library so that they are available for checkout by caregivers throughout the County. Videos will also be available at the ADRC for checkout as well as give ADRC staff the ability to share/promote with caregivers as applicable.</p>	Carissa Pagel-Smith 785-6172 cpagel@lacrossecounty.org	No

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City of La Crosse Senior Programming	Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC)	<p>The ADRC is working collaboratively with the City of La Crosse, City Library and members of the Southside Senior Center and Harry J Olson Senior Center. Representatives from these entities have been meeting monthly to discuss future senior programming in the City of La Crosse. Due to the anticipated closure of the Harry J Olson Senior Center by December 31, 2020, as well as recent closure of the Southside Senior Center, this collaborative group has discussed alternative, potential opportunities to house senior programming. To capture feedback, an input session was held on December 10th and a survey was deployed. To access the survey, please visit www.surveymonkey.com/r/LaCrosseSeniorProgramInterestSurvey.</p>	<p>Carissa Pagel-Smith 785-6172 cpagel@lacrossecounty.org</p>	No
Wisconsin Early Care and Education Initiative	Economic Support (ES)	<p>The Department of Children and Families (DCF) will be assembling regional workgroups in 2020 to focus on improving Wisconsin’s Early Care and Education system. Under Governor Evers, Wisconsin’s mission for early care and education is to address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pervasive challenges around equity, access, quality and affordability; • improving recruitment, retention and support of a high-quality and effective Early Care and Education workforce; and • ultimately improving the well-being, healthy development, and kindergarten readiness among all children ages birth to 5 (B-5). <p>Among the activities DCF plans to pursue is to conduct a robust B-5 needs assessment, develop a comprehensive B-5 strategic plan, empower families with knowledge and Early Care and Education choices, and share Early Care and Education best practices. Western Region for Economic Assistance (WREA) Consortium reps will join other stakeholders to participate in the Western Region’s work group.</p>	<p>Lorie Graff 785-6061 lgraff@lacrossecounty.org</p>	No
Secure Detention Inspection	Justice Support Services (JSS) – WRAS Secure Detention	<p>Our Western Regional Adolescent Services (WRAS) Secure Detention Facility had another glowing inspection this year (see attached).</p>	<p>Mandy Bisek 785-6216 mbisek@lacrossecounty.org</p> <p>David Steinberg 785-5542 dsteinberg@lacrossecounty.org</p>	No

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Foster Care Events	Family & Children's (FC) – Child Protective Services (CPS)	<p>The Foster Care Holiday Party on December 5 had a wonderful turnout as 131 foster children and parents enjoyed an evening together eating and playing games. Game prizes were donated by the La Crosse Kiwanis Club and the potluck included donations from Olive Garden. Every child that attended received a free book donated by Karolina Stream, and got their picture taken with Santa Claus.</p> <p>The fun did not stop there as 23 foster homes brought a total of 118 children to Shenanigans for the third annual Foster Care Night on Sunday, December 15. This event was sponsored by Shenanigans through the donations of community members throughout the year. The families were able to spend three hours playing games (with the kids even convincing their foster parents into playing laser tag!) and eating pizza together. This event is especially popular with our older youth and is the only way many of the families could afford such an experience.</p>	Lila Barlow 785-5539 lbarlow@lacrossecounty.org	No