

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

Activity	Program/ Section	Brief Description	Contact Person	Attach- ment
Restored Public Access to the Health & Human Services Building	Administration	The doors of the Health and Human Services Building were unlocked as of Tuesday, September 1st . This means the public once again has access to the building during regular business hours four days a week (Tuesday – Friday) without the need for an appointment and without someone having to let them in. An exception is that the building remains closed on Mondays so long as the parking lot is used for the National Guard COVID-19 drive-through testing events. The Health and Human Services Building had remained closed a bit longer than other downtown County buildings as we've continued to work on reasonable precautions and also waited for the construction impacting the first floor related to the bathroom remodeling to be complete.	Audra Martine 785-6108 amartine@lacrossecounty.org	No
Falls Prevention Awareness Month	Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC)	September is Falls Prevention Awareness Month! Did you know that Wisconsin has the highest rate of reported older adult falls of any state in the country? In lieu of an annual educational event, typically held on the first day of fall, the ADRC dedicated its September edition of the Senior Life newspaper to falls prevention to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • share related facts/statistics; • share steps to prevent falls and other helpful information; • provide a fall risk-assessment and home safety checklist BINGO; and • announce the start of a new exercise class, <i>Staying Active Together</i>, which will provide an hour of virtual balance and strength exercises. Classes will be held via Zoom every Monday and Wednesday from 10:30 to 11:30 am starting September 14. For more information or to register call 608-785-5700 or email adrc@lacrossecounty.org. 	Carissa Pagel-Smith 785-6172 cpagel@lacrossecounty.org	No
Outpatient Clinic	Integrated Support & Recovery Services (ISRS)	The Outpatient Clinic in collaboration and with support of the La Crosse County Information Technology (IT) Department is excited to begin the implementation and use of an integrated electronic prescribing software system into our clinic's electronic health record system, My Avatar. This new electronic prescribing system, Order Connect, will be ready for use by October 1, 2020.	Christin Skolnik 785-6019 cskolnik@lacrossecounty.org	No

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Crisis Unit	Integrated Support & Recovery Services (ISRS)	<p>The ISRS section is excited to welcome staff into two newly created Mental Health Crisis Specialist positions in September. These new positions will be working with children, youth, and families in La Crosse County who may be experiencing a crisis. A large focus of each new employee will be building relationships and collaborating with multiple community partners in order to help prevent, problem solve, and support all who are touched by crisis.</p>	<p>Christin Skolnik 785-6019 cskolnik@lacsossecounty.org</p>	No
Foster Care Events	Family & Children's (FC)	<p>The Permanency Resource Unit has been very active in the last month, pulling together a weekly virtual scavenger hunt to engage our La Crosse County foster parents and have a little fun. An email goes out to our foster care providers with the hunt of the day and prizes are mailed out to the winners. The feedback has been tremendous as providers are feeling like they are connecting with others in a way that has been missing since the pandemic began.</p> <p>Each year, as the school year begins, we have hosted a Pizza Night so foster families can relax and not have to worry about cooking dinner on the first day back to school. This year we have partnered with Papa Murphy pizza, and gift cards will be sent out to foster families allowing them to pick up a pizza of their choice anytime that first week of school. This is one of the retention efforts that the Permanency Resource Unit does throughout the year to recognize the tremendous work foster families are doing to help children and families in our community.</p>	<p>Lila Barlow 785-5539 lbarlow@lacsossecounty.org</p>	No