

**Human Services Director's Report**  
**To the Health & Human Services Board**  
**March 2021**

| Activity  | Program/<br>Section                       | Brief Description  | Contact Person   | Attach-<br>ment |
|---|---|--|--|-----------------|
| Advocacy  | Admin                                     | Human Services Deputy Director Audra Martine has been appointed to a two-year term on Wisconsin's Long-Term Care Advisory Council. The Council is charged with advising the Department of Health Services on long-term care, with an emphasis on design, effectiveness, efficiency and quality of Family Care, Aging and Disability Resource Centers, and the IRIS self-directed supports waiver.  | Audra Martine 785-6108<br><a href="mailto:amartine@lacrossecounty.org">amartine@lacrossecounty.org</a>   | No              |
| Centralized Processing of Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP) Applications | Economic Support (ES)                     | Wisconsin counties administer the WHEAP program, which assists eligible low-income households with their heating and cooling energy costs and energy crisis assistance. The Wisconsin Division of Energy has implemented a change to centralize processing of Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP) applications that are submitted online. Forty percent of WHEAP applications received in La Crosse County this federal fiscal year (October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021) have been submitted online. The Division of Energy reports this change is being made to support additional workload due to the current economic situation, and that the change is temporary. Considering the importance of maintaining local access to and coordination of the program, counties would be concerned about any long-term change that would involve centralization of the program.   | Lorie Graff 785-6061<br><a href="mailto:lgraff@lacrossecounty.org">lgraff@lacrossecounty.org</a>         | No              |
| La Crosse County 2022-2024 Aging Plan   | Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) | The ADRC of La Crosse County has begun to gather input to assist with the development of the next La Crosse County Aging Plan. Mandated by federal law, the plan is required for the county to receive federal funds under the Older Americans Act of 1965. Plans, to the greatest extent possible, should address local needs as defined by the community or program participants, thus feedback is critical. Given that opportunities for in-person events are limited due to the pandemic, approximately 5,300 surveys were mailed to the subscribers of the La Crosse Senior Life monthly newspaper. A link was also made available to complete the survey online. To date, nearly 700 responses have been received! The survey will soon close but if you, or someone you know, would still like the opportunity to complete the survey, call 608-785-5700 to request a hard copy or visit <a href="https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/lacrossecountyagingplan">https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/lacrossecountyagingplan</a> . Thank you! | Carissa Pagel-Smith 785-6172<br><a href="mailto:cpagel@lacrossecounty.org">cpagel@lacrossecounty.org</a> | No              |

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| Health Promotion | Aging &<br>Disability<br>Resource<br>Center (ADRC) | The ADRC of La Crosse County is excited to announce a new program, Bingocize, a 10-week evidence-based program that combines a bingo-like game with exercise and health education! Bingocize has been shown to increase older adults' functional fitness, health knowledge and social engagement. Classes will be held virtually on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 - 10:00 AM beginning April 13. To register, call 608-785-5700 by March 22. | Carissa Pagel-Smith 785-6172<br><a href="mailto:cpagel@lacrossecounty.org">cpagel@lacrossecounty.org</a> | No              |