

**Human Services Department Report to County Board
March 2020**

AGING & DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER (ADRC)

Transportation Services

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:

- \$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

Dementia Care Services

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.

Caregiver Support

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.

Aging Mastery Program (AMP)

Inclusa, in partnership with the ADRC of La Crosse County, National Council on Aging and Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources, is offering a second session of the Aging Mastery Program (AMP). AMP is a 5-week program that empowers participants to take key steps to improve their well-being, add stability in their life and strengthen ties to the community. This second AMP session will launch Friday, April 17, 2020. Class will meet every Friday from 8:30 to 11:30 AM through May 15, 2020, at Inclusa (2615 East Ave S). For more information, or to register, please contact Carla Lundeen of Inclusa at 608-785-6271 or carla.lundeen@inclusa.org.

Dementia Awareness

Experience what it may be like to live with dementia. The ADRC of La Crosse County, Dementia Friendly Community Coalition and Mayo Clinic Health System have partnered to bring a dementia awareness simulation to the community. In living "in their shoes" we create compassion, understanding and can make changes to enhance the quality of life for our community members living with dementia. Please join us March 23, 2020, at Mayo Clinic Health System La Crosse, Professional Arts Building, by signing up for a free, one-hour experience between 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM. To register, go to www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0a4ba4ab2aabf49-community2.

ECONOMIC SUPPORT (ES)

Wisconsin Early Care and Education Initiative

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:

- 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).

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.

Public Charge Rule

After a ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court on January 27, 2020, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security can implement a new federal rule relating to "public charge". In some cases, getting health care, FoodShare, cash benefits or housing assistance may have an impact on whether an individual is able to get a green card or change their immigration status. There are a number of exclusions to the public charge rule. Income Maintenance (IM) Consortia have been given basic talking points to assist customers calling with concerns over public charge. Consortia staff will also be referring customers to Covering Wisconsin's website for a list of free and low cost legal services :

www.coveringwi.org/immigration.