

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

**AGING & DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER (ADRC)**

Senior Programming

The City of La Crosse Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department, along with the La Crosse Library and ADRC, partnered to open a new senior programming facility currently referred to as "Saint Andrew Street" located in the historic Rubber Mills, La Crosse Footwear complex at 1407 Saint Andrew Street in La Crosse. This new facility officially opened in mid-September, however, due to COVID-19 is only open during scheduled programming and tours by appointment. The La Crosse County Senior Nutrition Program meal site located at the Harry J Olson Senior Center has relocated to this new facility. Due to COVID-19, the congregate meal program remains closed, however, the home-delivered meal program began operating from this new facility. To request a tour, call 789-8640. Tours (15 minutes) are available on Wednesdays between 9:00 - 10:30 AM and 12:30 – 3:00 PM.

**ECONOMIC SUPPORT (ES)**

Health Care Suspension Versus Termination for Inmates

Under federal law, BadgerCare Plus and Medicaid may not pay for health services provided to incarcerated individuals with the exception of someone who is outside of prison or jail for 24 hours or more (e.g., when admitted as an inpatient to a hospital). Given this restriction, BadgerCare Plus and Medicaid have had a longstanding policy of terminating eligibility when someone is incarcerated and requiring a new application upon release. Provisions in the federal SUPPORT Act require states to "suspend" instead of terminate Medicaid eligibility for juveniles and former foster care youth who are incarcerated. Effective October 24, 2020, the Department of Health Services plans to suspend instead of terminate BadgerCare Plus, SSI-related Medicaid, and Well Woman Medicaid eligibility for any inmate regardless of age. This change will streamline the process, making it easier for inmates to regain healthcare eligibility prior to their release from jail or prison.

**INTEGRATED SUPPORT & RECOVERY SERVICES (ISRS)**

Outpatient Clinic

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.

Crisis Unit

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.

Grant Funds

ISRS received \$17,000 from the state through the Coordinated Services Initiative Supplemental Grant to provide support/services to families with financial or treatment hardships due to COVID this summer. The grant ended as of 9/30/20 and almost all of the funds were exhausted.