

LA CROSSE COUNTY NOTICE OF MEETING

COMMITTEE OR BOARD: Health & Human Services Board

DATE OF MEETING: TUESDAY, JULY 6, 2021

MEETING PLACE: La Crosse County Administrative Center
County Board Room 1700
212 6th Street North
La Crosse, WI 54601
[Click here to join the meeting](#)

TIME: 6:00 PM Public Hearing on Human Services and Health
Department 2022 Budgets
6:30 PM Regular Meeting

PURPOSE OF MEETING:
See Attached Agenda

NOTICES FAXED/MAILED/EMAILED TO:

NEWS MEDIA

La Crosse Tribune
Other Media

OTHER

Andrea Richmond
David Trapp
Sara Eckland
Randy Erickson

COUNTY DEPARTMENTS

County Board Chair
County Administrator
County Clerk
Corporation Counsel
Health Director
Human Services Director

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Tina Tryggstad, Chair
Kim Cable, Vice-Chair
Noelle Weber-Strauss
Jamie O'Neill
Maureen Freedland
Tom Jacobs
Ebony Hyter
Laurie Logan
Susan Waukon

MEMBERS: If unable to attend, call County Clerk's Office at (608) 785-9581.

- * **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Individuals may make a public comment in person or virtually. For individuals intending on making a virtual public comment, **please register at least 24 hours** in advance by emailing publiccomment@lacrossecounty.org or leave a message at 785-9700. Please include your name and email address you will be using to connect with the committee, along with the name of the committee you would like to provide a public comment. The Committee may receive information from the public, but the Committee reserves the right to limit the time that the public may comment and the degree to which members of the public may participate in the meeting.

PERSONS WITH DISABILITY: If you need accommodation to attend this meeting, please contact County Clerk's Office at (608) 785-9581 as soon as possible.

PUBLIC ACCESS TO BUILDING: The east entrance to the Administrative Center will be the only door to the building open after 4:30 p.m.

DATE NOTICE FAXED/MAILED/EMAILED AND POSTED: July 1, 2021

**This meeting may be recorded and any such recording is subject to
Disclosure under the Wisconsin Open Records Law**

NOTE TO BOARD MEMBERS: If you have questions re: Director Reports or Consent Agenda Items, you are encouraged to contact the appropriate Dept Head before the board meeting to get additional information.

Health Dept: Audra Martine 785-6425 amartine@lacrossecounty.org
Human Services Dept: Jason Witt 785-6095 jwitt@lacrossecounty.org

LA CROSSE COUNTY NOTICE OF MEETING HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

Date: Tuesday, July 6, 2021

Place: La Crosse County Administrative Center
County Board Room 1700
212 6th Street North
La Crosse, WI 54601

Time: 6:00 PM Public Hearing on Human Services and Health Department 2022 Budgets
6:30 PM Regular Meeting

Start time for
agenda items

- | | |
|------|--|
| 6:30 | 1. Announcements |
| | A. June County Board Action |
| | B. Board Members Report on Conferences/Meetings/Workshops |
| 6:40 | 2. Public Comment (See * on page 1 of this notice on how to sign up for making public comment) |
| | 3. Board Education |
| 6:50 | A. Policy, Practice, People of Health Education – Healthy Neighborhood Environments |
| 7:10 | B. Human Services Quarterly Data Review |
| 7:25 | C. Health Department Reaccreditation |
| 7:55 | D. Health Department Status Update (Post-COVID, Demobilization, Planning for the Future) |
| 8:05 | 4. Director Reports |
| | A. Health Department Written Director's Report |
| | B. Human Services Written Director's Report |
| 8:10 | 5. Consent Agenda |
| | A. Minutes |
| | 1. Health & Human Services Board 6/8/21 |
| | 2. Criminal Justice Management Council 5/19/21 |
| | B. Department Reports |
| | 1. Human Services Vendor Audit Report |
| | 6. Items for Future Agendas |
| 8:15 | 7. Adjournment to the next meeting to be held on Tuesday, August 10, 2021 |

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER:

3A

MEETING DATE:

7/6/21

REPORT TO THE HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

DEPARTMENT: Health Department X INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

SECTION: Education

SUBJECT: Retail Neighborhood Assessment

PREPARED BY: Paula Silha, Audra Martine FILING ID: _____

REVIEWED BY: Audra Martine, Health Director IMPLEMENTATION DATE: _____

Policy: Health Department Policy #130 -Department Plans and Reports, provides an overview of the Health Department's plans and reports including their purpose and maintenance. The policy includes overview of the CHA-Community Health Assessment which is currently being prepared by Department staff. The purpose of the CHA is to identify health needs in the community and direct the development of the CHIP-Community Health Improvement Plan which directs the Department's initiatives to improve the health of all community members.

Practice: Tobacco retail assessment is a requirement of the Tobacco Prevention and Control program. Termed WRAP – WI Retail Assessment Project, this assessment looks at the placement of tobacco products; flavored cigars, e-cigarettes and e-juice, in convenience stores near products that are attractive to youth; juice, candy and flavored beverages. The health department CHIP-Community Health Improvement Plan priorities include social determinants of health and substance use disorders. This focus has engaged health department staff to continue and expanded the retail assessment to include tobacco, alcohol, healthy food and CBD. The assessment is a joint project between the Education staff working in Tobacco Prevention and Control and UW-Extension staff with GIS mapping skills. This assessment demonstrates the concentration of substance retailers in low income neighborhoods.

People: Health Ed staff Judi Zabel and Nikki Kvam and Health Ed student Intern Mitchell Jaeger have completed the retail assessment following the WRAP protocol and including alcohol, healthy food and CBD in the assessment. In partnership with UW-Extension staff Mari Pietz the mapping of retailers has been completed. Staff are present this evening to share the mapping data, discuss the relevance of the concentration of retailers in low income neighborhoods and promote continued discussion within the Health and Human Services Committee to potential policy strategies that could address the negative impact of a concentration of tobacco, alcohol, lack of healthy food and CBD retailers in low income neighborhoods.

Mandated Program: No, however health departments are required to prepare a CHA report on a regular basis

Tax Levy: CHA Levy time – Nursing Manager and Health Educator with data analysis skills

Funding Source: WI Tobacco Prevention and Control grant, WI DHS and tax levy

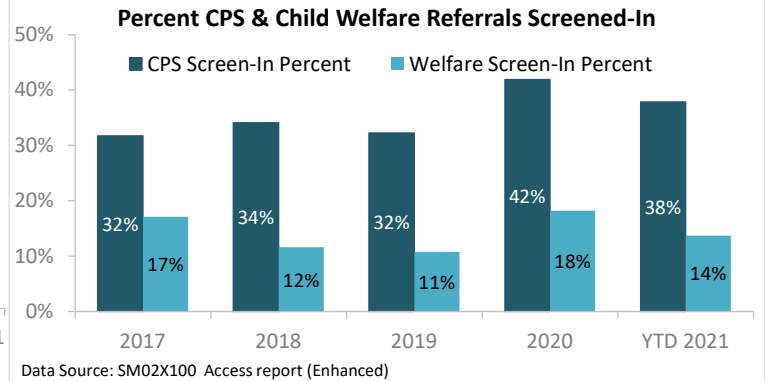
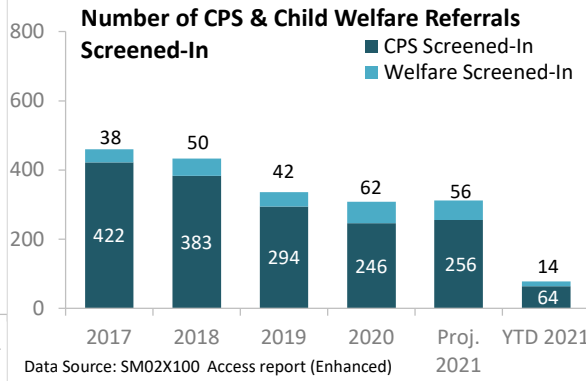
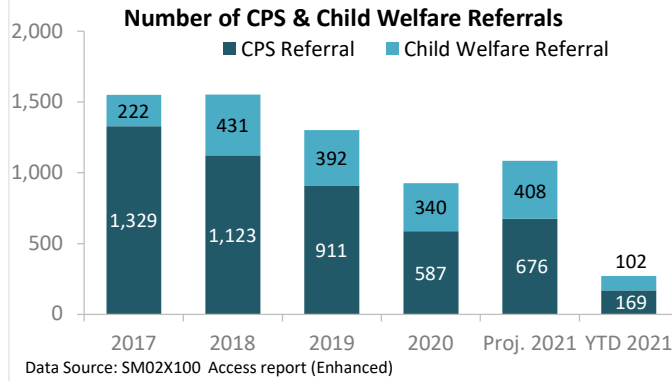
Population Targeted: 118,000

Number of People Served: La Crosse County residents

Essential Public Health Service: #1 Assess and monitor population health status, factors that influence health and community needs and assets, #3 Communicate effectively to inform and educate people about health, factors that influence it, and how to improve it.

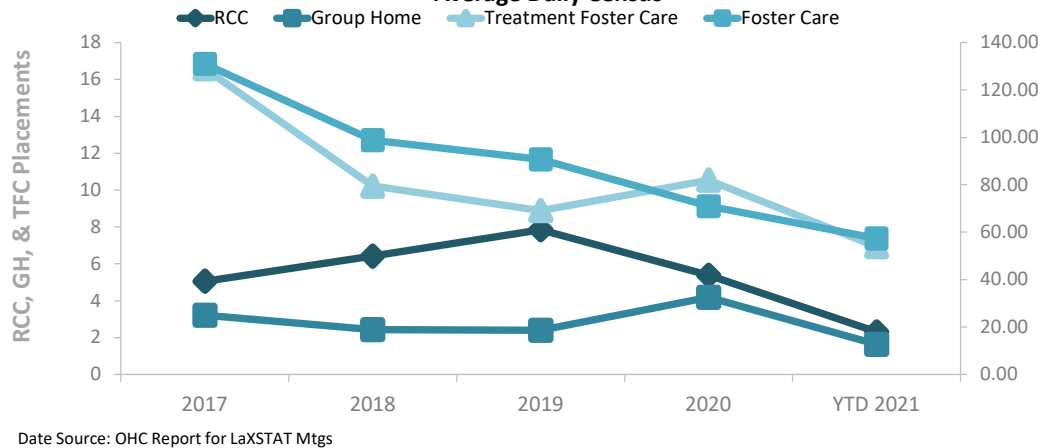
Healthy Wisconsin 2030: This activity addresses the following priorities identified in the plan. Alcohol, Opioids, Tobacco, Adverse Childhood Experiences

I) CPS Access/Initial Assessment Unit

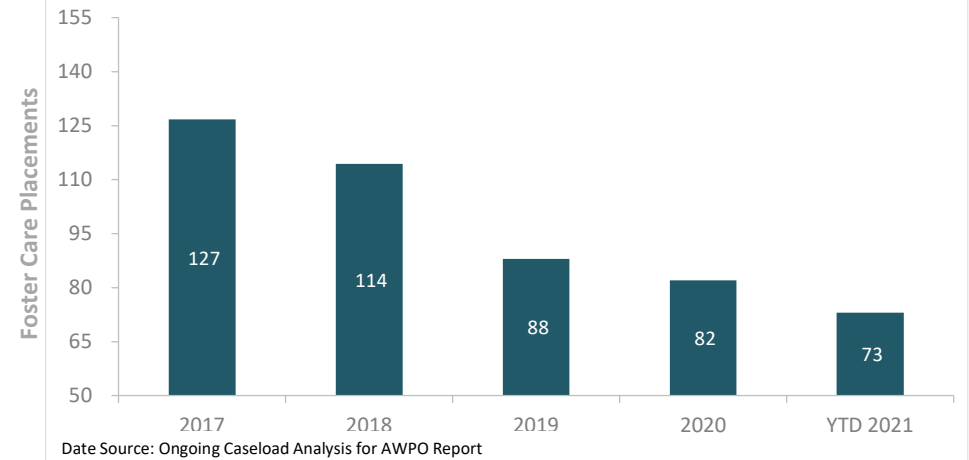


II) CPS Ongoing Unit

a. CPS Out-of-Home Care Placements: Average Daily Census

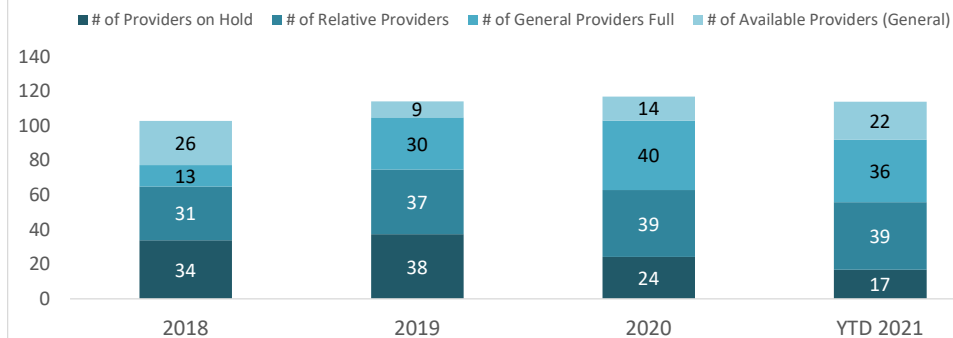


b. Average Number of Unduplicated Ongoing Cases

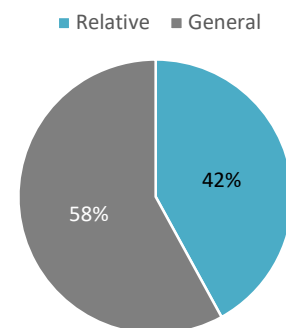


III) Permanency Resource Unit

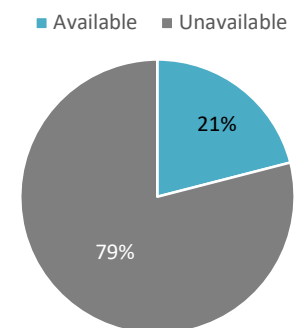
a. Avg. Number of Licensed Providers



b. Percent of Relative Providers



c. Percent of Available Beds

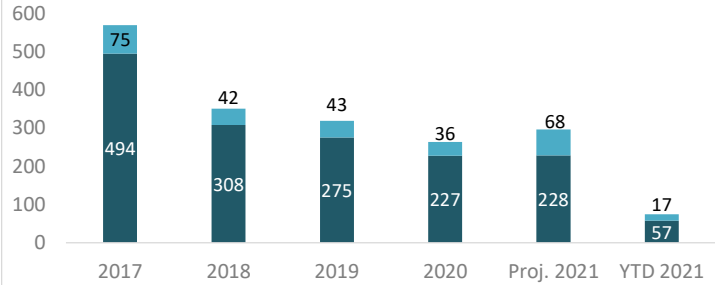


**Human Services Program Data
Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)
Human Services Quarterly Report**

I) Aging and Disability Resource Center

a. ADRC: Number of New Enrollments

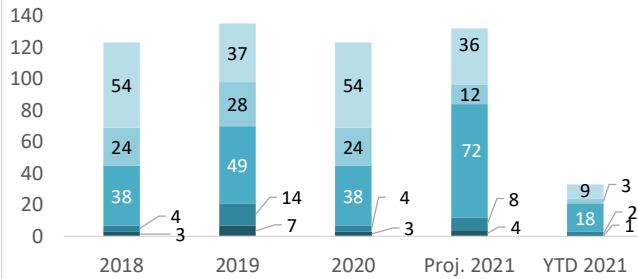
■ MCOs ■ IRIS



II) Adult Protective Services (APS)

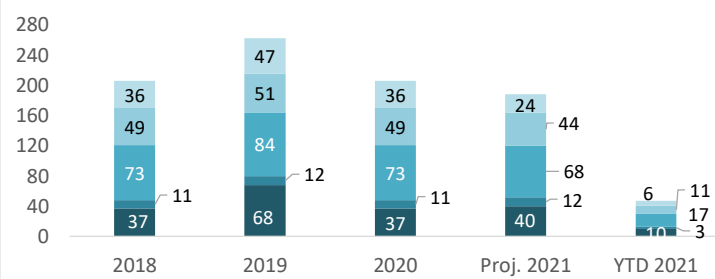
b. Adult Protective Services (APS) Referrals <60

■ Other < 60 years ■ Caregiver Neglect < 60 years
■ Self-Neglect < 60 years ■ Non-Caregiver Abuse < 60 years
■ Financial < 60 years



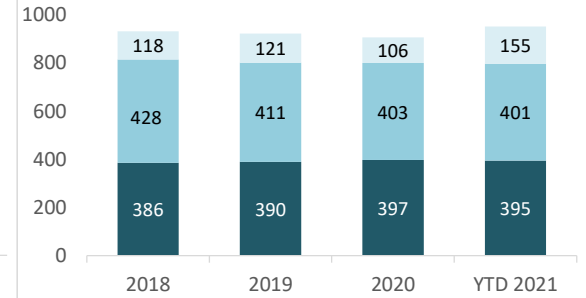
c. Adult Protective Services (APS) Referrals 60+

■ Financial 60+ years ■ Non-Caregiver Abuse 60+ years
■ Self-Neglect 60+ years ■ Caregiver Neglect 60+ years
■ Other 60+ years



d. Average Ongoing Case Management

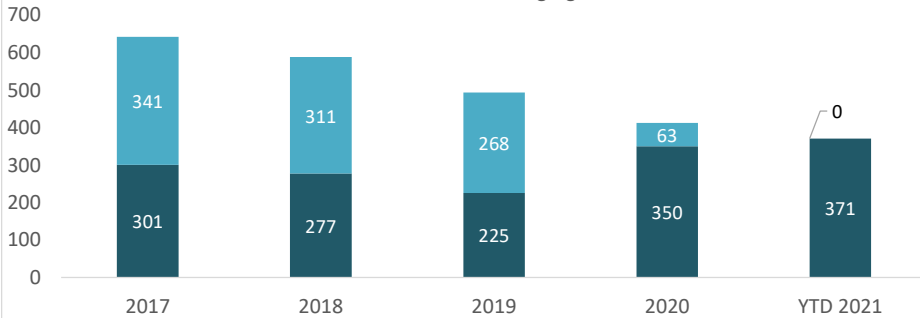
■ Mental Health Commitment
■ Guardianship. W/ Protective Placement
■ Guardianship (Only)



III) Aging

e. Aging: Average Number of Meal Program Participants

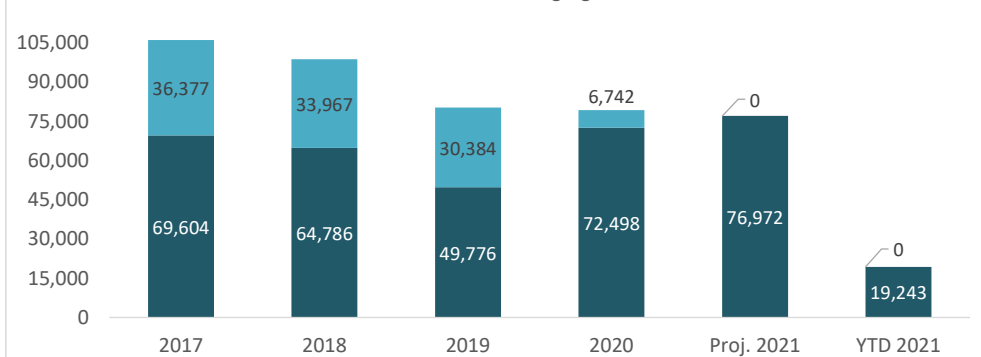
■ In-Home ■ Congregate



Note: Data includes duplicate participants as participant 1 could receive a meal all 12 months of the year

f. Aging: Number of Meals Served

■ In-Home ■ Congregate



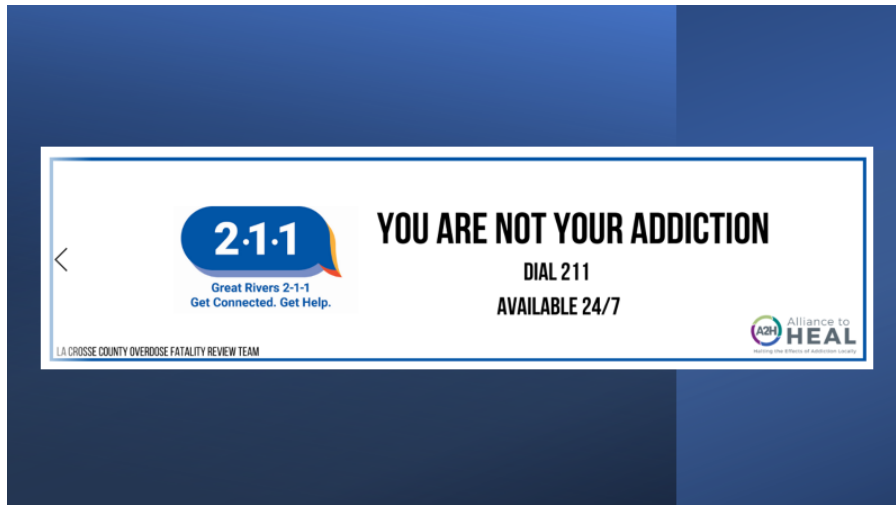
Health Director's Report
To the Health & Human Services Board
 July 2021

4A

Activity	Program/ Section	Brief Description	Contact Person	Attachment
Communicable Disease Investigation - Improved Staff Capacity	Education	Some staff are participating in a training provided by the Sexually Transmitted Disease Program Lead in the Bureau of Communicable Disease. This training will focus on priorities to cover when doing STI disease investigation and strategies to elicit cooperation for individuals who have tested positive for cases of Chlamydia and Gonorrhea.	Health Education Manager Paula Silha 608-785-9854 psilha@lacrossecounty.org	n/a
Community Outreach/Impact	Education	During the COVID pandemic, in-person car seat checks either by individual fee for service appointments or Brenengen Fitting Station events have been cancelled. Calls for assistance with installation or distribution of seats purchased with a DOT grant have continued. Research shows that 80% of child car seats are used improperly, leading to safety hazards. Brenengen has entered into a contract with LCHD to provide staff for 6 monthly Fitting Station events (2 locations per month) at the Onalaska and West Salem locations. Brenengen-Morrie's has agreed to support 1 clinic each month (Aug. 12 and Sept. 9) and will contract to provide free car seat checks at their West Salem location. Following this programming the Department will evaluate the need to continue to engage in this car seat installation assistance.	Health Education Manager Paula Silha 608-785-9854 psilha@lacrossecounty.org	n/a
Improving Community Access to Care - Addiction Services	Education	As part of the work of Alliance to HEAL, funding has been identified through the La Crosse Community Foundation for a Navigator position to assist those interested in substance use treatment and recovery.	Health Educator Al Bliss 608-790-5059 abliss@lacrossecounty.org	n/a
Improving Community Safety	Education	The April 24 th Drug Take Back day collected over 800lbs of unused and expired prescription medications from approximately 368 vehicles at the drive through event held at the HHS Building.	Health Educator Al Bliss 608-790-5059 abliss@lacrossecounty.org	n/a
Support of Improved Community Service Models	Education	Originally a part of the Alliance to HEAL, the Lighthouse Project has become a 501c3 not-for profit organization. This project was awarded a grant in the amount of \$4,410,000 to establish a peer run respite center for people unable to have housing or services for substance use treatment as a stop gap until they have access to services.	Health Educator Al Bliss 608-790-5059 abliss@lacrossecounty.org	n/a
Community Education/ Improving Access to Care – Addiction Services	Education	As a result of the work of the Overdose Death Review Team (which is in its 3 year of reviewing local overdose deaths and collating recommendations to prevent overdose deaths), 10 billboards to create awareness about the Never Use Alone campaign were posted. This promotes a national hotline to help those who may be using to be safe and connected with help to prevent a fatal overdose. A second campaign titled "You are not your addiction" was also part of the billboard display and helped link people to services including 211 and Alliance to HEAL.	Health Educator Al Bliss 608-790-5059 abliss@lacrossecounty.org	yes

Activity	Program/ Section	Brief Description	Contact Person	Attach- ment
Community Education - Youth	Education	Health Education was awarded a Communities Talk Grant to facilitate a community conversation discussion about youth alcohol and marijuana prevention in collaboration with the La Crosse County Prevention Network. Funding from SAMHSA-Substance Abuse Mental Health Service Administration	Health Educator Judi Zabel 608-785-9855 jzabel@lacrossecounty.org	n/a
Enhanced Service Capacity	Health Lab	The lab spent the last few months putting together the standard methods, standard operating procedures, and passing proficiency testing in order to add testing capabilities within the lab for Phosphorous and Total Suspended Solids of surface waters to our certification. This allows samples processed for Land Conservation to be added to their own or DNR studies as they are processed at a certified lab.	Laboratory Manager Carol Drury 608-789-7816 cdrury@lacrossecounty.org	n/a
Response to Community Safety Needs	Environmental Health	So far in the month of June, the Environmental Health Staff have responded to 14 Human Health Hazard Complaints. At least 3 of these resulted in condemnations. For the month of June, there have been a total of 28 complaints.	Environmental health Manager Carol Drury 608-789-7816 cdrury@lacrossecounty.org	n/a
Enhanced Service	Environmental Health	This is a new program we started this year being conducted by our summer Environmental Health Staff. We have conducted 2 tick drags. The first Tick Drag at the marsh produced 3 ticks. The second drag at Bluebird Springs Campground, produced 10 ticks. We are working with UWL and UW Madison to identify the ticks. This information will eventually be posted on our website along with tick protection education.	Environmental health Manager Carol Drury 608-789-7816 cdrury@lacrossecounty.org	n/a
Stewardship	Health Fiscal	This year, Health was selected for the 2020 audit related to CARES and Routes to Recovery Funds. Support from Finance staff was exceptionally helpful in completing the process. Health's CARES Funding included a collection of grants from WI DHS that totaled \$1.2 million for Contract Tracing, Disease Investigation and Monitoring, and about \$230,000 in additional support for COVID Testing and Pandemic Planning.	Financial Manager Jennifer Mullin 608-785-9862 jmullin@lacrossecounty.org	n/a
Health Preparedness Strategy Planning – Vaccination	Nursing	As the demand for vaccination decreases, our team's focus has shifted along with the state from "no wasted dose" to "no wasted opportunity." Our goal is to educate every resident who isn't yet vaccinated about COVID-19 vaccination, and to provide to everyone who wants one. We are focusing on the populations that have the least access to other vaccinators who would benefit from dedicated conversation that addresses their questions and concerns. This is important for many reasons, one of which is because COVID-19 at a national level has had disproportionate impacts on infecting and killing a higher portion of People of Color and those with the least access to health education and health care services. Between 5/24/2021 and 6/24/2021, the Public Health Nursing team gave 988 immunizations to 861 clients. 983 of those 988 immunizations were COVID-19 vaccines (including both first doses and second doses), and were provided through 25 clinics that covered a wide variety of populations, including homebound individuals, incarcerated individuals (at both the jail and juvenile detention), the general community at events like June Dairy Days and church meals, and through outreaches held at schools and one at a local tavern. We do also provide non-COVID vaccinations and routine health screenings such as blood pressure at Tuesday morning clinics at the health department, and are planning for fall catch-up clinics coinciding with back-to-	Public Health Nursing Manager Jacquie Cutts 608-785-5535 jcutts@lacrossecounty.org	n/a

Activity	Program/ Section	Brief Description	Contact Person	Attach- ment
		school events in order to get children who got behind on routine vaccinations caught up before school starts.		
Communicable Disease Investigation – Trend Analysis	Nursing	Between 5/24/2021 and 6/24/2021, the Health Department identified and investigated 110 cases of communicable disease. Of those, 48 were new cases of COVID-19. By contrast, during the same time period last year in 2020, the Health Department followed 419 cases of communicable disease, of which 343 were COVID-19. We are grateful to be seeing a decline in COVID-19 cases which is allowing our team to plan for the resumption of regular Public Health Nursing functions that are vital to the overall health of our community.	Public Health Nursing Manager Jacquie Cutts 608-785-5535 jcutts@lacrossecounty.org	n/a
Community Health Assessment	Department-wide	A community health assessment (CHA) is a process conducted every 3 – 5 years to identify the public health issues that need particular attention and focus. It includes both quantitative data (what secondary health data tells us are the most significant health issues) as well as qualitative data that looks at community perceptions and experiences that elucidate what is identified in the quantitative analyses. Once complete, the CHA is then used to create the community health improvement plan (CHIP) to guide the implementation of those priorities. Over the last two months, the Health Department’s cross-sectional Community Health Assessment workgroup has been working on the next iteration. So far, we have conducted most of the quantitative data analyses and are currently conducting 40 key informant interviews. We look forward to reviewing the preliminary findings with the HHS Board soon.	Public Health Nursing Manager Jacquie Cutts 608-785-5535 jcutts@lacrossecounty.org	n/a
Enhanced Service due to COVID	Nutrition	The La Crosse WIC Program began providing Farmers’ Market vouchers to participants in June. Each eligible participant receives \$30.00 in the form of \$5.00 vouchers to redeem at local farmers’ markets between June and October; this is a program enhancement as previously, each family (versus individual) received a voucher. Due to COVID-19 precautions, WIC continues to serve participants virtually. Issuance of the FMNP vouchers has been via curb-side pick-up. Anticipated return to in-person WIC visits is this fall.	Nutrition Manager Jennifer Loging 608-785-6423 jloging@lacrossecounty.org	none



Billboard advertisement for 2-1-1 Great Rivers 2-1-1. The billboard features a blue background with a white rectangular area containing the following text and logos:

- On the left, a small left-pointing arrow.
- Next to the arrow is the 2-1-1 logo, which includes the text "Great Rivers 2-1-1" and "Get Connected. Get Help."
- To the right of the logo, the text reads: "YOU ARE NOT YOUR ADDICTION", "DIAL 211", and "AVAILABLE 24/7".
- On the far right is the "Alliance to HEAL" logo, with the tagline "Reducing the Effects of Addiction Locally".
- At the bottom left, in small text, it says "LA CROSSE COUNTY OVERDOSE FATALITY REVIEW TEAM".



Billboard advertisement for the Wisconsin Addiction Recovery Helpline. The billboard features a blue background with a white rectangular area containing the following text and logos:

- On the left, a small left-pointing arrow.
- Next to the arrow is the "Wisconsin Addiction Recovery Helpline" logo, which includes a phone icon and the text "Call 211".
- In the center, the text reads: "You deserve a life free of addiction." and "Text your ZIP code to 898211".
- On the right is the 2-1-1 logo, which includes the text "Great Rivers 2-1-1" and "Get Connected. Get Help."



Billboard advertisement for Never Use Alone. The billboard features a white background with a grey rectangular area containing the following text and logos:

- On the left, a small left-pointing arrow.
- Next to the arrow is the phone number "(800) 484-3731".
- In the center is a red heart logo with the text "NEVER USE ALONE" and a heartbeat line.
- To the right of the heart is the website "www.NeverUseAlone.com".
- Below the grey area, the text reads: "No Judging, No Shaming, No Preaching, Just LOVE".

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

4B

Activity	Program/ Section	Brief Description	Contact Person	Attach- ment
Foster Care Events	Family & Children's (FC)	The Permanency Resource Unit is busy with summer activities to support and connect foster/relative caregivers. In July, the Loggers will host La Crosse County Foster Care at their game on July 1, 2021. They donated tickets to foster/relative families so they could come out as a family and enjoy the game. The La Crosse Interstate Speedway Races are also hosting a La Crosse County Foster Care event on July 10, 2021, and they donated tickets to foster/relative families. We are also coordinating a pool party for our foster/relative families at the Onalaska Omni Center Pool on July 25, 2021. We are so thankful that we can once again offer community activities to recognize our foster care program and bring together our foster/relative caregivers.	FC Assistant Manager Lila Barlow 792-0630 lbarlow@lacrossecounty.org	No

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

June 8, 2021

County Board Room

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Tina Tryggestad, Noelle Weber-Strauss, Jamie O'Neill, Maureen Freedland, Tom Jacobs, Susan Waukon, Laurie Logan
MEMBERS EXCUSED:	Kim Cable, Ebony Hyter
MEMBERS ABSENT:	None
OTHERS PRESENT:	Steve O'Malley, Jane Klekamp, Jason Witt, Audra Martine, Paula Silha, Carol Drury, Aron Newberry, Tammy Gensch, Lorie Graff, Ryan Root, Kristi Matz, Lanae Nickelotti

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Tina Tryggestad called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS**A. May County Board Action**

The two resolutions, Collaborative Crisis Youth Grant and the Dental Pain Management Grant, passed unanimously.

B. Board Members Report on Conference / Meetings / Workshops

None

C. 2021 Governor's Foster Care Awards

Supervisor Jacobs and his wife Maxine were recognized as recipients of the Governor's Foster Care Award. This award was presented to the Jacobses on May 17th for their service as foster parents for 35+ years and fostering over 100 children during that time. Jason Witt also commended the Jacobses for being instrumental in training for Trauma Informed Care practices to staff, birth parents and others in the community. This Committee is very proud and happy to honor Tom and Maxine. Congratulations!

D. Economic Support Specialists & Case Managers Week

This is in recognition for the outstanding support that the ES specialists provide to the community. One of every six residents are touched by Human Services, many through the Economic Support Services section.

E. Public Budget Hearing on Human Services and Health Department 2022 Budgets on July 6, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. in County Board Room 1700

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

BOARD EDUCATION**A. Policy, Practice, People of Human Services - Economic Support**

Lorie Graff, Manager of the Western Region for Economic Assistance (WREA) Consortium as well as Economic Support (ES) in La Crosse County, shared the partnership with which ES has been involved. La Crosse County Human Services ES has been the lead agency for the 8-county economic support consortium since Wisconsin shifted to a consortia model in 2012. Under this model, it is required to operate a call center in administering programs such as Foodshare, Medicaid, caretaker supplement (SSI), BadgerCare Plus, childcare assistance, and energy assistance. Mindful that there are certain populations who are best served through more face-to-face interactions, La Crosse County ES has experimented with program partnerships to improve access and service. In 2016 ES partnered with Justice Support Services (JSS) by designating one specialist (Kristi Matz) to be physically located in JSS and available to meet people involved in the criminal justice system.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

June 8, 2021

Page 2

Kristi spent a number of years in JSS doing this work. She shared her responsibilities of assisting those individuals, particularly those exiting the jail system, to ensure they have medication, health insurance and how to maneuver the healthcare system, and Food Share upon their departure to support their success in the general community. She also shared her work on partnerships throughout the community in helping individuals transition successfully into society.

Based on the success of this program through JSS, Lori shared that a pilot program has recently started in Integrated Support & Recovery Services. There will be a economic support worker located in this department that will be able to assist customers directly to eliminate the need of scheduling an appointment. A success story has been shared in the packet.

B. Vaccination Planning Update

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-data.htm#download>

Aron Newberry, Health Department COVID Vaccine Coordinator, gave an update on the vaccination status and the planning going forward. Aron discussed highlights of the accomplishments since January for COVID vaccines and what things look like for future clinics. Aron thanked all partners who have assisted with the scheduling and site facilitation.

Audra shared that she has been impressed by the work, time and energy of employees in finding community partners willing to assist.

DIRECTOR REPORTS

A. Health Department Written Director's Report

B. Human Services Written Director's Report

MOTION by Weber Strauss/O'Neill to approve. **Motion carried unanimously with two excused – Cable, Hyter**

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes

1. Health and Human Services Board 5/11/21
2. Family Policy Board 5/3/21
3. Criminal Justice Management Council 4/21/21
4. Integrated Support & Recovery Services Advisory Council 3/17/21

B. Department Reports

1. Human Services Vendor Audit Report
2. Human Services 2020 Annual Report can be viewed at this link:
<https://www.lacrossecounty.org/humanservices/docs/Annual%20Report%202020.pdf>

MOTION by O'Neill/Weber Strauss to approve. **Motion carried unanimously with two excused – Cable, Hyter**

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS: None

ADJOURNMENT TO THE NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD TUESDAY, July 6, 2021

MOTION Supervisor Jacobs/Freedland to approve. **Motion carried unanimously with two excused – Cable, Hyter**

The meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

June 8, 2021

Page 3

Disclaimer: The above minutes may be approved, amended, or corrected at the next Committee meeting. Lisa Perry, Recorder

CRIMINAL JUSTICE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**MAY 19, 2021****MEETING HELD VIA: ZOOM****LINK TO RECORDING:**

https://wicourts.zoom.us/rec/share/97Saz0aC4NaHFv0BgMw_LsvWjAWtn9xqZhgmzDVdGk3iik7PKV6vqsZotIEumm6E.DZD9eW0TZNS0J0dm

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Judge Horne, Tim Gruenke, Captain Avrie Schott, Margaret Larson, Jean Young, Sutha Veerasamy, Jeff Wolf, Tom Jacobs, Araysa Simpson, Monica Kruse, Jason Witt, Tina Trygestad, Andrew Alvaro-Rasmusson, Troy Harcey
MEMBERS EXCUSED:	Jayne Rifenberg, Toya Reynolds, Keonte Turner
OTHERS PRESENT:	Mandy Bisek, Sara Wasserberg, Jim Verse, Mike Tighe, Brad Williams, Jenna Theler, Olivia Herken, Eric Timmons, Joella Striebel, Jane Klekamp, K Stein

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Tim Gruenke called the meeting to order at 5:01 pm via Zoom.

APPROVAL OF APRIL 21 MINUTES OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

MOTION by Horne / Larson to approve the April 21, 2021 minutes of the Criminal Justice Management Council. **Motion carried unanimously**; Rifenberg, Reynolds, Turner excused.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment

CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT: (Subcommittee Report Attached)

Monica Kruse presented the following information:

Recommendations & Summary Report – Creation of a Civilian Oversight Board
La Crosse County CJMC Subcommittee Report 2021

Proposal: CJMC to create a formal subcommittee tasked with finalizing a plan for implementation of a county-wide Civilian Oversight Board

"The American Medical Association (AMA) recently released its organizational strategic plan to address racial justice and advance health equity, which included naming chronic over-policing and police brutality as one of many symptoms of structural racism."

<https://www.canva.com/link?target=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ama-assn.org%2Fsystem%2Ffiles%2F2021-05%2Fama-equity-strategic-plan.pdf&design=DAEeqjWxvyI>

What is a civilian oversight board?

A civilian oversight board can be defined as an agency staffed with and comprised of civilians charged with investigating civilian complaints of police misconduct, providing resources to community members experiencing police violence, and facilitating transparency and accountability in local policing.

General Recommendations:

- The Board should include CJMC members and municipality representatives (elected officials, survivor advocates, subject matter experts, directly impacted community members, criminal legal system researchers, civil rights and justice-focused practitioners)
- The Board should be tasked with meaningful oversight and not merely provide recommendations (advisory)
- The Board should provide assistance, support, guidance for community members
- The Board should be guaranteed protection from harassment by law enforcement officers and unions
- The Board's information, resources, and communications should include translations into Hmong, Spanish, and ASL when applicable
- The Board should function independently

Guidance from Madison Police Civilian Oversight Board's Keith Findley

- Include people most impacted
 - Expect pushback and challenges
 - Include a variety of viewpoints and perspectives on public safety and policing
- "My own view was that if one of our goals is to find a way to bridge the divides between those who are hostile with police those who feel that police do not hear them, the worst thing we could do is shut them out of this process." He said. "In order to build those bridges we had to make sure that they were there and I kind of saw this not as a challenge to the police so much as a gift to police, because we are giving them a mechanism for engaging actively with members of the community, including members who feel otherwise distrustful and hostile to them."*

Our Process

- Initial Task: We are tasked with preliminary research and exploration of existing policing oversight models and frameworks. We focused on bodies formed to investigate, increase accountability, and improve transparency.
- Research: We drew from an article in the Seton Hall Law Review written by Udi Ofer of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)
<https://www.canva.com/link?target=https%3A%2F%2Fscholarship.shu.edu%2Fcgi%2Fviewcontent.cgi%3Farticle%3D1572%26context%3Dshlr&design=DAEqjWxvyI>
- Community Input: As a subcommittee, we received written input from community members regarding the formation of an oversight board. We also held a virtual listening session, where community members shared thoughts and perspectives.

Why We Must Create a Civilian Oversight Board

- Clearly documented and persistent national, statewide, and local patterns of racial inequities in policing
- Abuses of power cause distrust, resentment, and fear of police violence
- Some smaller municipalities within our county have no existing mechanism of oversight
- Current methods of 'oversight' are internal and no independent accountability process is yet in place

Key Components of Effective Oversight Boards:

- Board membership and professional/personal backgrounds are diverse and justice-focused
- Transparency and accountability
- Board is given a broad scope for complaint review
- Independent investigative authority
- Regular audits of policies, practices, internal culture

- Independent and sustainable funding
- Due process protections for involved parties; insurance of civilian protection from police harassment
- Ease of public access to reporting and support

QUESTIONS AND CONVERSATION FROM COUNCIL:

Gruenke - clarifying that those on current subcommittee would not be those that would make up the next committee that creates this citizen oversight board

Kruse clarifies that CJMC could elicit interest on who might be interested in being part of the creation of this committee.

Gruenke asks, sense of how active this board might be? Subcommittee has had a lot of input from community members that had adverse acts happen to them. Unsure how many would come forward to the committee. Sited ideas of how to make citizen complaint process more accessible.

Gruenke - Considering the number of details listed that need to be figured out, what is the reality of how long it might take to create this oversight committee, considering this subcommittee's research and recommendation process took over 1 year.

Kruse - suggests, realistically, creation could take just as long if not longer.

Horne - what is the interplay between this body and Police and Fire Commission?

Kruse - believes it should complement one another, exist side by side, and potentially be looking at different things, such as citizen complaints.

Horne - clarifies what authority might exist for this oversight committee.

Kruse - next committee may need to reach out to Madison to get more guidance on this area.

Striebel - in the state of WI the oversight board would not have statutory authority, but rather make recommendations regarding discipline. More importantly, board would be available to citizens to navigate the process on how to make a complaint and be supported in that process.

Striebel - also comments on the membership of the subcommittee that explores setting up the oversight board would be those listed in the power point (i.e. mayors, County Board, etc.)

Horne - asks whether those familiar with police training might be a part of this board.

Horne - asks about subpoena power and if there is authority for this.

Kruse - references literature that this is important to have the ability to bring in witnesses.

Gruenke - shares that Keith Findley used Madison as an example of a site that does have this authority.

Alvaro - clarifies that the committee will dive deeper into the issue of disciplinary power.

Wolf - asks for clarification about those that are listed to be a part of oversight board vs.

Keith Finley's recommendations to not have law enforcement a part of the board.

Kruse - clarifies that there should be no current law enforcement involved on board.

Wolf - clarifies about confidentiality recommendations for citizens who make a complaint as this may be difficult to navigate given open records laws.

Wolf - clarifies discipline authority lies with Sheriff

Wolf - comments on recommendation for matrix to outline fair discipline as complex given circumstances.

Wolf - clarifies comment made on quotas - doesn't generally exist any more

Wolf - comments that this is a complex undertaking. States it is a lot of work to put together for potentially not a lot of complaints.

Schott - thanks the subcommittee for their work.

Schott - agrees with Wolf on the complexity

Schott - asks will the subcommittee continue to follow through with the survey completion to determine if this aligns with recommendations. Wants to ensure we are serving the La Crosse Community to the best of our abilities.

Kruse - clarifies that current subcommittee has completed its task. Next step will be to create a committee that will design the oversight board. Hope and expectation is that this next committee will have the survey information when it is complete to bring back to CJMC and incorporate into the work.

Alvaro - regarding the survey, hopes it can paint the picture of what our community wants.

Striebel - comments on Wolf's statement of 1 use of force complaint, which outlines an example of a reason for need for this oversight board. Striebel has heard of 5 complaints through the time on this subcommittee. Important these complaints are making their way to law enforcement leadership to be aware.

Veerasamy - comments on the argument of complexity around the creation of this oversight board. Pushback by police members of council speaks to the need to have this board. Of all the things that CJMC has talked about, maybe this is the one thing we are getting right, given the pushback. Perhaps this board is preventative in nature for police.

Gruenke - seconds Veerasamy's comments to say that having a place for citizens to trust and turn to when they have concerns. Conduit between the community and the police for those that are afraid to go to the police is helpful

Schott - comments on the board being a place for citizens to go to assist them in walking through the formal process, and support. Board can also offer suggestions or ideas to the police on how they could do different, train better, engaging communities, building relationships, etc.

Simpson - comments that we want to determine what we want this board to look like.

Board that assists citizens in the complaint process vs. true oversight board like Madison. Authenticity and respect is important – don't get that if we don't understand our purpose or scope.

Theler - seconds Simpson's comments and question. How do we ensure we do not have a "weak board" if we don't have authority?

Kruse - this needs to be more than advisory.

MOTION:

Kruse: CJMC establishes a committee, approved by CJMC and Co Board, tasked with research and creation of a Civilian Oversight Board.

2nd: Larson

DISCUSSION:

Schott – hopes to have surveys available to guide this work for this committee. Suggests tabling until we have this information to move forward.

Simpson – Confusion around wording when we use "committee" to create a "committee/board". Also supports having all information available (surveys) before moving forward.

Alvaro – Current subcommittee has reached its completion and passing along to the next body. Next formal committee should pick the work up as soon as possible so it doesn't go stagnant, which could mean working with UWL to have the survey information available as soon as possible. Pausing may be detrimental to the process. Committee could begin researching additional information on statutes, blueprints, etc.

Kruse – Committee will likely want to conduct their own surveys, listening sessions, etc.

Found in current subcommittee that the results of the survey were not necessary to make their recommendations for the CJMC tonight.

Schott – Clarifies task of current subcommittee

Kruse – Clarifies subcommittee's task was to research and better understand whether CJMC should recommend the creation of a Civilian Oversight Board.

Gruenke – clarifies the motion is to create a larger committee that will further research the details required to create the Civilian Oversight Board.

Kruse – confirms Gruenke's comments

Wolf – what if there isn't buy-in from a jurisdiction? Would that be a task of this current committee to research this as a County wide model?

Kruse – heard from Onalaska, Sheriff, and others, but did not hear from all municipalities in the County. Kruse clarifies task of this current subcommittee was to research what an oversight board could look like.

Simpson – ensure clear language in the motion

Simpson – clarifies that this committee will better define the scope and authenticity of the board that is created

Horne – clarifies language and intent of motion. Comments on the benefit of creation of a board such as this for the marginalized members of our community to have a voice.

Credibility in this board for making recommendations to those with authority. Supports the research needed around authority and principles of the board that are supported.

VOTES

In favor- 11

Opposed – 0

Motion passes

Next agenda – bring ideas for who might be nominated to serve on committee

CITIZEN MEMBER RECRUITMENT STATUS:

Bisek – updates the council that Angel Lee has chosen to leave the Council

Kruse – updates the council on status of recruitment process. With Angel, we have 3 positions open (2 are specialized positions, 1 with mental health advocacy, 1 with victim advocacy) 14 citizens stepped forward with interest. Of the 14 have narrowed to 5.

Ask citizen members to be a part of the interview process of future members.

Horne – any thought been given to the gap Lisa Kruse left with specific specialization in data collection, analysis, and research. Feels it is important to have that background attached to the Council in some way.

NOMINATIONS OF CJMC VICE CHAIR:

Kruse nominates Araysa Simpson for Vice Chair

Jacobs seconds

Simpson appointed Vice Chair

AGENCY UPDATE REPORT REVIEW:

Kruse updates the Council that the County Board passed a resolution declaring Racism as a Public Health Crisis. Felt the need to get to work right away and established a committee and had first meeting to create a racial equity plan for La Crosse County. Will report to Council on the status of this.

Witt updates Council that with Audra Martine leaving Human Services to become Director of La Crosse County Health Department, he has appointed Mandy Bisek as Deputy Director of Human Services.

INFORMATIONAL / MISC:

Young introduces new DOC Sex Offender Supervisor Sara Wasserberger joining the meeting.

Kruse highlights Chief Ashbeck's departure from the Council

Gruenke comments that he represented the Coulee Region Chief's Association. Chief Ashbeck will go to the Chief's Association to ask for a volunteer to replace him.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Gruenke asks Council to think about anyone they believe would be an asset to the committee that will be formed as discussed in the above motion.

ADJOURN: There being no further business, Chair Gruenke adjourned the meeting at 6:29 pm

Disclaimer: The above minutes may be approved, amended or corrected at the next committee meeting.

Recorded by Mandy Bisek

**Recommendations & Summary Report
Subcommittee on Creating a Civilian Policing Oversight Committee**

Proposal: We propose the Criminal Justice Management Council create a formal committee to move forward with finalizing the plan to create a county-wide civilian oversight board.

Framing the conversation:

The American Medical Association (AMA) recently released its organizational strategic plan to address racial justice and advance health equity, which included naming chronic over-policing and police brutality as one of many symptoms of structural racism. See: AMA Equity Strategic Plan (<https://www.ama-assn.org/system/files/2021-05/ama-equity-strategic-plan.pdf>)

A civilian oversight board can be defined as an agency staffed with civilians charged with investigating civilian complaints of misconduct by police officers. It gives civilians a meaningful voice in discipline of officers - changes the relationship between police and civilians, provides an external check on police.

General Recommendations:

This committee should be made up of CJMC members, representatives of the municipalities in the county – mayors, village board members/presidents, county board members, city council members, victim advocates, representatives of disproportionately impacted communities, subject matter experts, criminal legal system researchers, representatives with legal, civil rights and law enforcement expertise. It's important that this be an oversight board, not just an advisory committee.

This oversight board should be charged with providing assistance, support, and guidance to community members who wish to file complaints against police officers in order to help them navigate the process. The members of the committee creating the oversight board, as well as the eventual Civilian Oversight Board members, must be guaranteed protection from harassment by law enforcement officers and law enforcement unions.

All information/communication originating from the Oversight Committee must include translations into languages prevalent in La Crosse County communities – Spanish, Hmong, etc.

The Civilian Policing Oversight Committee should function independently and separately from the existing Police and Fire Commissions. Civilian members should be provided a variety of reporting options, as well as confidentiality of reports.

Guidance from Keith Findley of Madison's Police Civilian Oversight Board

It's important to keep in mind that this committee should include people impacted by adverse encounters with police, as articulated by Keith Findley of the Madison Police Oversight Committee.

During the period in which the creation of the board was being discussed in Madison, there was pushback to the idea from people who assumed it would be filled with 'police haters,' Findley said. But he reiterated that it was valuable that the board include members who might be considered hostile to police.

“My own view was that if one of our goals is to find a way to bridge the divides between those who are hostile with police, those who feel that police do not hear them, the worst thing we could do is shut them out of this process,” he said. “In order to build those bridges we had to make sure that they were there and I kind of saw this not as a challenge to police so much as a gift to police, because we are giving them a mechanism for engaging actively with members of the community, including members who feel otherwise distrustful and hostile to them.”

From: [Madison Police Oversight Board Offers Template for La Crosse – The La Crosse Independent](#)

Our Subcommittee Process

The task of the CJMC Policing Subcommittee on Creation of a Civilian Oversight Board was to explore existing model civilian oversight boards and make recommendations regarding the establishment of such a committee in La Crosse County. We focused on civilian boards with powers to investigate police misconduct, suggest and supervise discipline when misconduct is determined and implement mechanisms to monitor existing systemic problems. A recurring theme was the importance of board independence from police departments and politics, with board membership selected by civic and community organizations, with a fiscal source independent from the police budget.

The suggestions for creating a civilian oversight board cited here are derived from a summary of articles, but draw mainly on [Getting It Right: Building Effective Civilian Review Boards to Oversee Police by Udi Hofer, American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey](#)

We gathered community input in a variety of ways including requesting feedback, perspectives, lived experiences etc. through email submissions, as well as holding a virtual listening session for community members to share their thoughts.

Why independent oversight of local policing is necessary

- Unjustified deadly force against civilians is a documented pattern in U.S. policing, as well as persistent national, statewide, and local racial disparities in impact
- Mundane transgressions and abuses of power that create resentment, lead to lack of trust and cause cumulative damage
- Need for an agency or unit within police departments charged with reviewing data to discern patterns in policing practices that reveal broader problems
- Traditionally, civilian oversight boards – like La Crosse’s Police and Fire Commission - have reported to the police commissioner who makes formal disciplinary determination – this sets them up for failure
- Current methods of oversight are internal with no formal, independent accountability process

Greatest barrier to structural improvement = most oversight boards do not have disciplinary authority.

Key components of effective Civilian Oversight Boards

- Board majority nominated by civic organizations (remainder by mayor and lawmakers). Nominees' backgrounds might include legal, civil rights, social justice, racial equity, criminology, social work, and/or justice-centered professional and personal experiences.

- Transparency and accountability are essential.
- Broad scope to review complaints - excessive use of force, abuse of authority, unlawful arrest, unlawful stop, unlawful searches, stop and frisk, sexual assault, discourtesy/disrespectful behavior, offensive language, theft, discriminatory behavior.
- Civilian oversight boards must have independent investigatory authority - subpoena power, which is important to counteract the 'code of silence' (officers refusing to testify against other officers, refusal to cooperate with investigators, etc). The Blue Wall of Silence treats any reporting on a fellow officer as an act of betrayal.
- Ensure discipline sticks - make board findings binding for the head of the police department, use meaningful pre-negotiated discipline matrix to determine punishment.
- Audit policies and practices - make formal recommendations of policy reforms, review underlying policies that may allow abuses, such as quotas. Discern developing trends in the district - [high rates of juvenile arrests](#), for example. Grant ability to make policy recommendations.
- Provide secure funding - ensure funding is not dependent on politics. Budget should be sufficient to finance essential personnel – which may include an executive director, investigators, attorneys, analyst/auditors, overhead.
- Due process protections for all parties involved in review and complaint process - including safety insurances for civilians against harassment by police agencies, individual officers, and professional police associations
- Public access/reporting - it should be easy for the public to file complaints via a website, in-person, email, phone, fax. Office hours should allow for maximum availability; monthly public meetings, public hearings, quarterly/annual reports with data on policing practices, complaints, etc.
- Smaller communities/municipality Police & Fire Commission laws

A weak civilian oversight board is worse than none at all, because it gives an illusion without substance and pays lip service to transparency.

References

https://www.apha.org/policies-and-advocacy/public-health-policy-statements/policy-database/2019/01/29/law-enforcement-violence?fbclid=IwAR0P5G1Nq_MgBIpTJ599qbSQxybJ4cbPFnjYuSSEPxyY55xOp-gdjQErtOU

<https://www.ama-assn.org/system/files/2021-05/ama-equity-strategic-plan.pdf>

<https://www.oaklandca.gov/topics/reimagining-public-safety#about-the-taskforce>

<https://www.npr.org/2020/11/07/931806105/across-the-country-voters-approve-more-civilian-oversight-for-police>

<https://www.lacrossecounty.org/humanservices/docs/JJA-DMC%20Full%20Report.pdf>

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER:

5B1

MEETING DATE:

7/6/21

**EXCEPTION ANALYSIS/REPORT
TO THE LA CROSSE COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES BOARD**

DEPARTMENT: Human Services Department X INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

SECTION: Contract Unit

SUBJECT: Vendor Audit Policy Step #3 Notification

PREPARED BY: Chris Sander FILING ID: _____

REVIEWED BY: Jason Witt IMPLEMENTATION DATE: 1/1/2021

Background:

The Human Services Vendor Audit Policy states “As La Crosse County Human Services enters into Steps 2-4, information will be regularly forwarded to the La Crosse County Health and Human Services Board”.

Step 3 of the Vendor Audit Policy states “If the Provider’s Audit report is not received by 365 days after the Provider’s year-end, the Provider will stop receiving payment for services until the Provider provides La Crosse County Human Services with the audit report.”

Exception:

No exception to the Vendor Audit Policy.

Analysis

The following vendor is out of compliance with the policy and is having payments held until the audit is received.

Audits Needed:

Blackberry Hill – (provides CCS residential services). An engagement letter was received from the auditors and the audit is being finalized. It is estimated to be completed by August 2021.

Action Needed:

No action is needed by the Health and Human Services Board at this time.