



LA CROSSE COUNTY
Health Department
Nationally Accredited

CHIP Progress Report

April - June 2024

Health Priorities

The Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) includes 3 health priority areas. Our community created the goals that we work on each year. The Health Department puts together a community-driven action plan to address the greatest needs in La Crosse County.



Behavioral Health Vision

Build a community that prioritizes protective factors for positive childhood experiences and resilient communities.



Healthy Environment Vision

Collaborate for solutions that build healthier and more accessible neighborhoods where people are connected to what they need where they live.



Access to Care Vision

Grow a system of care that represents and supports underserved peoples to get the right care at the right time.

Behavioral Health

The Behavioral Health Goal has three objectives. Over time, the work aims to improve mental health and decrease substance use, suicide, and self-harm. This quarterly update describes the activity from April through June 2024.

Progress: What has been done?



Opioid harm-reduction work

- The Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) team has **reviewed 12 cases** in the last 6 months.
- The Alliance to HEAL workgroups are actively **working on implementing 13 recommendations** that came from the OFR team.
- Health Department staff continue their efforts with Narcan distribution. **195 doses** have been distributed this quarter. Staff have held **4 Narcan trainings with 80+ attendees**.
- Fentanyl test strip distribution is new to the Health Department this year. **100 fentanyl test strips** were distributed this quarter.
- Health department staff have made **46 referrals** to community-based dental care for non-traumatic dental pain.
- Staff hosted the **WI Dental Pain Protocol stakeholder meeting** with representation from Mayo, Gundersen, Scenic Bluffs, program staff, and LCHD staff. Attendees learned more about the program, current dental pain data, and program challenges.

Mental health and substance use prevention at work



Suicide Prevention Signs at Cass St. Bridge



Drug Takeback Day

Behavioral Health (cont.)



Self-harm and suicide prevention work

- The Suicide Death Review Team continues to meet monthly. They have added **1 new partner** and reviewed **1 new case**. The group meets each month to discuss recommendations.
- The Suicide Prevention Initiative has received **4 recommendations** from the review team: Increase safe storage of guns, create harm reduction kits, educate about 988 Crisis Line, and reduce stigma about suicide through community artwork and awareness.
- The team has been working on creating a list of evidence-based recommendations.
- The SDRT is working with all **3 college campuses** in the area. They are now communicating more and combining their efforts in mental health and suicide prevention. New relationships are being created with **K-12 schools** as well.
- Health Department staff and SPI partners advocated for the **suicide and crisis lifeline (988)** to be added to 3 existing signs on Grandad's Bluff and 3 new signs to Miller Bluff. All of the signs have been installed on the bluffs.
- Health Department staff and SPI partners have also been advocating for suicide prevention signage to be installed on Cass and Cameron Street bridges. The bridge signs are in the process of being installed and **2 of the 9 signs are already installed**.



Culture change around substance use and mental health

- Tobacco prevention staff have been researching ways they can continue their work with the FACT group on **social norming strategies** once school is back in session in the fall.
- Health Department staff have begun **environmental scans** for Delta 8 products to gain a better understanding on where they are being sold, how they are being advertised, and what age restrictions are being implemented by local retailers.
- City of La Crosse Police Department has been completing **alcohol compliance checks** for almost a year. More police departments are looking to start checks in the coming months in Onalaska, Bangor and Holmen. There is interest from all county municipalities and the sheriff's department on completing checks and creating a safer alcohol environment for our county.

Healthy Environment

The Healthy Environment Goal has three objectives. Over time, the work aims to improve housing, food access, and opportunities for physical activity. This quarterly update describes the activity from April through June 2024. No current work has been started on housing to allow for collaboration and alignment with Pathways Home.

Progress: What has been done?



Year-round access to healthy food

- An interactive **Community Garden and Food Resource Map** was developed by UWL students and LCHD. The final resource is now available [online](#) for residents and agencies to use. Partner agencies are posting a QR code that links customers to the resource map.
- Health department staff hosted a Food and Nutrition Partners meeting in April. The meeting focused on **networking and connecting** food agencies to others working in the same areas.



Increase opportunities for active transportation

- Safe Routes to School (SRTS) staff have distributed **model language** for schools to use in handbooks and policy that supports walking and biking in and around schools.
- May was a busy month for SRTS staff as they celebrated **National Bike Month** and the end of the school year. They supported schools with bike rodeos, helmet and pedestrian safety education, and Walking School Bus activities.
- The La Crosse Library hosted a summer kick-off this June with **over 600 families** joining them. SRTS brought education materials, coloring sheets, and some fun raffle prizes to encourage safe walking and biking this summer.
- SRTS staff are building relationships with community partners to enhance walking and biking education. This year's new relationships have been with **libraries and police departments**.

Encouraging healthy food and physical activity



Safe Routes booth at Library event



Food Resources and Community Gardens

Access to Care

The Access to Care Goal has three objectives. Over time, the work aims to improve relationships, communication, and community-centered services. This quarterly update describes the activity from April through June 2024.

Progress: What has been done?



Build relationships and increase community engagement

- The **La Crosse Smiles** program provided 117 exams and x-rays for two elementary schools. Over 40 students were in need of additional treatment and **over 70%** have already received their follow-up dental care.
- LCHD staff are developing relationships with **Community Health Workers** and are focused on providing better access to families with low vaccine completion.
- Nursing staff are working with the Coulee Region Immunization Coalition to organize an **educational day** where providers come to learn more about vaccine hesitancy and **how to improve vaccine uptake**.
- Hmong Breastfeeding videos have been viewed **475 times** so far and will be highlighted during National WIC Breastfeeding Week as part of a national campaign.



Build organizational health literacy

- The health literacy goal for 2024 is to revise at least half of the pages by the end of the year. **Over 20%** of the Health Department website pages have been revised using the **new health literacy standards**.
- Staff are learning more about public health campaigns and how to create materials that are easy to read for the intended audience.



Provide health services in community spaces

- Social workers are **collaborating with the Street Med Team** to provide services to individuals at Salvation Army, Cameron Park, and other community locations. The goal is to meet people where they are at and help them be better connected to services.
- Public health nurses are now offering **fluoride varnish and lead screenings** for children. Marketing for new services is being sent to community partners, WIC families, and through upcoming back-to-school events.