

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

October 2022

Activity	Program/ Section	Brief Description	Contact Person	Attach- ment
WCA Annual Convention	Administration	<p>La Crosse County Human Services participated in the Wisconsin Counties Association's Annual Conference in September by presenting during two breakout sessions. Human Services Director Jason Witt joined the Associate Director of the Wisconsin Association of Family and Children's Agencies (WAFCA), Emily Coddington, in presenting on the issues of Children and Youth with Complex Needs and the Families First Prevention Services Act. Statewide needs and local approaches were highlighted.</p> <p>The partnership between La Crosse County and La Crosse City Police providing Crisis Co-Response was highlighted by Crisis Program Supervisor, Sam Seefeld, along with Captain Avrie Schott of the La Crosse Police Department at the break-out session: Review & Reform Wisconsin's Mental Health System.</p>	<p>Director Jason Witt 785-6095 jwitt@lacrossecounty.org</p>	No
Dementia Awareness	Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC)	<p>The Remember Project one-act plays are back! These plays are designed to open conversation about the societal and personal issues surrounding dementia. All community members, with or without a connection to dementia, are encouraged to attend these free plays, Fortune Cookies and/or Steering into the Skid. Refer to attachments for additional details or call the ADRC at 608-785-5700.</p>	<p>ADRC Manager Carissa Pagel-Smith 785-6172 cpagel@lacrossecounty.org</p>	Yes
COVID Public Health Emergency (PHE) Status	Economic Support (ES)	<p>The next target date for the 60-day notice of the Public Health Emergency (PHE) ending is mid-November for a January end date. Following the end of the PHE, a number of policy waivers implemented for income maintenance (IM) programs during the pandemic will be rolled back over the following 12 months. The Department of Health Services (DHS) is calling this 12-month rollback period the 'Unwinding'.</p> <p>Some of the most important impacts to IM programs following the PHE ending include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ending of the Emergency Food Share allotments. During the PHE, eligible households have received the maximum monthly Food Share benefits for their family size. Following the end of the PHE, these emergency Food Share benefits will end. Households will receive an amount of Food Share calculated based on their family size and income. • Eligibility Reviews & Health Care terminations. During the PHE, eligibility renewals were suspended, and the only reason an individual's healthcare coverage could be ended was upon the member's request, death or if the individual moved out of state. Once the PHE ends the eligibility reviews will resume and will be staggered over a 12-month period to balance workload. Those ineligible for Health Care following their renewal will lose their coverage at the end of their renewal month. 	<p>ES Manager Lorie Graff 738-2410 lgraff@lacrossecounty.org</p>	No

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Care premium payments reinstated. During the PHE, health care premiums were suspended. Following the PHE, impacted members will again be required to make monthly premium payments to retain health care coverage. • Reinstatement of Drug Testing Requirements. During the PHE, drug testing requirements for members who were convicted of a drug felony in the past five years was suspended. Following the PHE, drug testing requirements will apply to all new FoodShare applicants who have had a drug felony conviction within the last five years. Existing FoodShare members who had the drug testing waived at their initial application during the PHE will be required to complete Drug testing at their next review. • Student Eligibility exemptions removed. During the PHE, specific exemptions were created to allow certain students to become eligible for FoodShare. Following the PHE, these specific exemptions for student eligibility will be removed and student eligibility policy will be reinstated. 		
Child Welfare and the Courts Conference	Family & Children's (FC) -Child Protective Services (CPS)	A team from the county virtually attended the Child Welfare and the Courts: A New Way Forward Conference September 22-24th. The focus of this year's conference was on the state child welfare transformation as part of the requirements under the federal Families First Prevention Services Act. The conference focused on policy initiatives, legislative changes, and promising strategies in child welfare and youth justice.	FC Manager Tracy Puent 792-5507 tpuent@lacrossecounty.org	No
Foster Care Events	Family & Children's (FC) -Foster Care Events	In October, the Permanency Resource Unit will be recognizing foster and relative providers that have been active in caring for youth in our community. This year due to COVID restrictions, we were not able to hold our annual banquet, so instead we are delivering cupcakes to each foster parent's home and presenting them with a framed certificate of recognition for their years of service. The continued dedication of foster and relative caregivers to keep children in our community is so vital as it helps children stay connected with their biological family as well as continue to provide support once the children are returned home. If you know a foster or relative caregiver, be sure to thank them and let them know how appreciated they are.	FC Manager Tracy Puent 792-5507 tpuent@lacrossecounty.org Lila Barlow lbarlow@lacrossecounty.org	No
Parent Peer Support Specialist	Integrated Support & Recovery Services (ISRS) -Crisis Unit	Earlier this summer, the ISRS Crisis Unit was awarded funding through the Collaborative Crisis Intervention Services to Youth (CCISY) grant. One of the services offered is Peer Support for Families. Peer services for families can be instrumental for connecting families with community services, can increase engagement, and can help families feel understood and supported. Peers focus on the strengths of the parents and keep the services person-centered and welcoming. Through the CCISY grant, the peer support will be focused on supporting families in crisis that have not been previously engaged in the mental health system or have a youth detained in an inpatient health unit.	ISRS Manager Christin Skolnik 785-6019 cskolnik@lacrossecounty.org ISRS Assistant Manager Anneliese Skoda askoda@lacrossecounty.org	No
Training	Justice Support Services (JSS)	The OWI and Drug Court Treatment teams both attended National Drug Court Institute trainings. The OWI Treatment Court team attended a training focused on participant tracks to ensure participants are receiving the correct amount of treatment and oversight based on risk and needs. The Drug Court team attended a two-day racial equity training. Both teams are	JSS Manager Tonya Van Tol 785-5815 tvantol@lacrossecounty.org	No

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		utilizing the technical assistance provided at these trainings to set goals and begin the work of reviewing current practices to ensure both courts are engaged in evidence-based practices.		