

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

4B

Activity	Program/ Section	Brief Description	Contact Person	Attach- ment
Temporary 15% Increase in Food Share Benefits	Economic Support (ES)	In December, Congress approved a temporary 15% boost to the Food Share maximum benefit amount. This change will be in place from January 1 through June 30, 2021. This new assistance, in response to the financial struggles brought on by COVID-19, is in addition to the emergency Food Share benefits that have been issued since last March. The new maximum month Food Share benefit for a household of three is \$616.	Lorie Graff 785-6061 lgraff@lacrossecounty.org	No
Crisis Unit	Integrated Support & Recovery Services (ISRS)	The second supervisory position that was added as part of the 2021 Human Services Budget has been filled. A warm welcome to new Crisis Supervisor, Angie Smith. Angie has been a part of the Crisis team both as a mobile crisis responder and social worker for the past 10 years. She brings with her a passion to help others and eagerness to begin working collaboratively with our Human Service staff and community partners. Angie will join Sam Seefeld in co-leading the crisis team within the section.	Christin Skolnik 785-6019 cskolnik@lacrossecounty.org	No
Crisis Unit	Integrated Support & Recovery Services (ISRS)	We are in the last 6 months of the current cycle of our Collaborative Crisis Intervention Services to Youth (CCISY) grant. The 1.5 Mental Health Specialist positions that were hired due to this grant have been busy building connections within the community and within our own Human Services programs to help support youth and their families who are in crisis. Looking ahead, we are eager to get back into schools where we hope to be a thoughtful constant within the framework of supporting students. Equally exciting, is the recent notification from the state that our CCISY grant will be renewed for another year of funding. The ISRS Crisis team will bring this renewal forward in the Spring/Summer 2021 through Resolution to the board.	Christin Skolnik 785-6019 cskolnik@lacrossecounty.org	No
Supervisory Transition	Justice Support Services (JSS) – Adult Services	Anne Patton has accepted a supervisory position within the Justice Support Services (Adult-Focused) unit of JSS. Anne is replacing long-time supervisor Becky Spanjers, who recently retired from her role. Anne brings 14 years of experience with JSS having previously been our Drug Court Coordinator. JSS is excited to have Anne in this new role.	Anne Patton 785-6280 apatton@lacrossecounty.org	No

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2020 Annual Inspection	Justice Support Services (JSS) – Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF)	La Crosse County Juvenile Detention Facility received another glowing inspection from Brad Hoover, Detention Facilities Specialist from the Office of Detention Facilities. As highlighted in the attached report, despite the difficulties that the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic brought to congregate care settings like our Juvenile Detention Facility, La Crosse County JDF remained focused on the utmost care, safety, and program and philosophy enhancements for the youth in our facility.	David Steinberg 785-5542 dsteinberg@lacrossecounty.org Mandy Bisek 792-4275 mbisek@lacrossecounty.org	Yes
2021 Youth Justice Protective Factors Study	Justice Support Services (JSS) – Youth Justice (YJ)	<p>The Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF) has requested La Crosse County Youth Justice take part in a multi-state study funded by the National Institute of Justice focused on “Optimizing Supervision and Service Strategies to Reduce Reoffending: Accounting for Risks, Strengths, and Developmental Differences.” This study will prove highly beneficial to La Crosse County’s Youth Justice team as they philosophically deepen their work with youth and families in our community through the use of Functional Family Case Management Practices, which highlights natural protective factors within a youth’s life. The study is due to kick off in April 2021 and the Youth Justice team is excited for the information their participation in this study can bring to deepen their knowledge and impact on youth in their care.</p> <p>Further details on the goals and benefits of this study can be found in the attached overview document.</p>	Phil Stegemann 386-6048 pstegemann@lacrossecounty.org Mandy Bisek 792-4275 mbisek@lacrossecounty.org	Yes



Wisconsin Department of Corrections

Governor Tony Evers | Secretary Kevin A. Carr

Office of Detention Facilities

January 29, 2021

Superintendent David Steinberg
La Crosse County Juvenile Detention Facility
300 Fourth Street North
La Crosse, WI 54601

Re: 2020 Annual Inspection

Superintendent Steinberg:

On December 17, 2020, the annual inspection of the La Crosse County Juvenile Detention Facility was conducted pursuant to WI Statute 301.37(3). The inspection compared the facility and its operation to applicable state statutes and Department of Corrections Administrative Code Chapter DOC 346. This inspection consisted of a tour of the facility; interviews with administration, staff and youth; review of inmate youth files; a review of the policy and procedure manual; and a review of facility records and documentation.

The maximum rated capacity of the facility is 15. On the day of the inspection, there were 6 youth held in the facility.

Improvements since Previous Inspection

- Superintendent Steinberg was appointed to the Governor's Juvenile Justice Commission.
- Funds have been appropriated for the upgrade of the juvenile detention facility.
- New point system for CORE residents has been implemented.
- Music class has been added by the school district.
- COVID-19 protocols and PPE have been put in place.
- A full-time social worker for short-term detention has been hired.
- Sex offender therapy programming has been implemented.
- DRAI assessment tool has been implemented for all detention youth.
- Computers are being used for all virtual visits.

Summary of Jail Operations

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, operation has been very different this year as new procedures regarding COVID-19 protocols have been put in place. Although most of the programming continues on a daily basis, some programs such as Pet Therapy and Crossfire programming were temporarily suspended as a precaution due to COVID-19 concerns.

A change from last year's inspection is video visitation was implemented this year with great success. Superintendent Steinberg has stated that this practice will continue moving forward as it provides more access for youth to visit with approved individuals.

Programs

The La Crosse County Juvenile Detention Facility continues to provide many programs in which the youth can participate. The following is a list of programs the facility provides to both male and female youth:

- Education is provided five days per week through the La Crosse Area School District
- Aggression Replacement Training (ART)
- Moral Recognition Therapy (MRT)
- Crisis Group
- Pet Therapy
- Current Events
- Planned Parenthood
- CPR & AED Training
- Crossfire nondenominational religious group and mentoring
- AODA group
- Individual psychotherapy
- Family therapy
- Community outings
- Job coaching
- Late Night
- The Good Fight Club
- YMCA
- Indoor and outdoor recreation

Inspection findings:

- There were no violations noted during this year's inspection.

Approval

The La Crosse County Juvenile Detention Facility is approved by the Department of Corrections to hold juvenile offenders with the maximum capacity of 15.

I wish to thank you and your staff for their assistance, cooperation and professionalism during the inspection process.

If you have any questions regarding the inspection results summarized in this letter or if I may be of any assistance regarding correctional matters, please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad Hoover", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brad Hoover
Detention Facilities Specialist

cc: Greg Bucholtz, Director-ODF
File

Optimizing Supervision and Service Strategies to Reduce Reoffending: Accounting for Risks, Strengths, and Developmental Differences

Investigators: Gina Vincent, UMass Medical; Jennifer Skeem, Univ of Berkley; Josh Weber, CSG Justice Center

Funded by the National Institute of Justice

Project Overview:

This study is designed to inform juvenile probation agencies about how to prioritize their use of limited resources to improve youths' success (meaning reducing reoffending). The study focuses on integrating risk-need-responsivity and positive youth development approaches for supervising and serving youth of different ages.

- *Goal #1 – Identify the Protective Factors Most Strongly Associated with Reduced Reoffending to Inform Supervision Practices:* Develop research-based strategies that will guide probation agencies in their assessment and use of both risk and protective factors to plan more effective supervision approaches.
- *Goal #2 – Examine the Value of Strengths-Based vs. Risk-Reduction Services in Promoting Youths' Success:* Assess what types of services and supervision practices result in the greatest gains for youth and what practices are most effective for youth at different ages.
- *Goal #3 – Build Data-Tracking Capacity to Accurately Measure Recidivism/Success:* Work with states to build their capacity to gather data on protective factors, service usage, and reoffending in a way that matters to their agencies and informs decision-making.
- *Methods:* The investigators are partnering with three states (Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and Virginia) to collect and analyze deidentified, youth-level data and partnering with a minimum of four probation departments/counties per state to have new youth who come into contact with the system complete brief, protective factor self-report questionnaires alongside their risk-needs assessment.

What Would be Involved for Participating Jurisdictions/Probation Departments?

- Incorporate and administer several short self-report questionnaires that measure protective factors for completion by all youth at intake (or when the risk/needs assessment is conducted) for a minimum 6 months.
 - The questionnaires measure youth's pro-social identity, engagement in pro-social activities, social skills and social support, and self-control and self-efficacy
 - Youth can receive a link to complete these questionnaires online. If youth are still coming to the office, we can provide a touch screen tablet that would enable youth to fill out the measures during intake.
- Engage in monthly coordination calls with the investigators to discuss the administration of the questionnaires, data collection issues/quality, and overall project activities and timelines.

Benefits to Participating Jurisdictions/Probation Offices and States:

- Training for staff on the potential benefits of protective factors and how these can be measured;
- Presentation of jurisdiction-specific study findings to agency leadership and staff at project completion to help departments to tailor their supervision and service approaches to youth of different ages with varying needs and strengths.

- Development of an action plan for the state to revise agency policies, procedures, and resource allocation strategies to improve the use of risk/needs assessment, protective factor, service utilization, and recidivism data in a manner that can shape case planning and continuous quality improvement.

Selection Criteria for Jurisdictions/Probation Offices:

- High volume of youth intakes
- Completion of the risk-needs assessment pre-disposition or earlier
- Method of documenting the services youth receive and when (e.g., start and end dates)
- Evidence of good inter-rater reliability on the risk-needs assessment or agreement to permit the investigators to test the inter-rater reliability of staff