

Human Services Director's Report
To the Health & Human Services Board
March 2022

Activity	Program/ Section	Brief Description	Contact Person	Attach- ment
Income Maintenance Overpayment Policy Changes	Economic Support (ES)	The Department of Health Services (DHS) is implementing changes to overpayment policies for income maintenance programs. FoodShare client error and agency error overpayments and health care recoverable overpayments will primarily be limited to a 12-month lookback period from the date of discovery. An overpayment claim threshold is also being implemented. FoodShare agency error and client error claims and health care recoverable overpayment claims will no longer be created if the amount of the claim is less than \$500.	ES Manager Lorie Graff 738-2410 lgraff@lacrossecounty.org	No
CW Legislation	Family & Children's (FC) -CPS	The subsidized guardianship bill passed in the legislature and the Governor signed the bill in February. As a result, the Department of Children and Families (DCF) has requested release of the funding under the 13.10 process. What this means is that all current and future subsidized guardianships will now be funded through the State of WI/DCF instead of through counties, similar to how adoption assistance is provided. Subsidized guardianship is a form of permanency for children and provides the caregiver, typically a relative but could also be a former foster parent if child was placed in their care for at least 2 years and has a substantial relationship, with monthly financial assistance to care for the child(ren) until they reach 18 years of age. As of January, the La Crosse County Human Services Department was supporting 26 subsidized guardianships. Our expenses for subsidized guardianships have totaled approximately \$250,000 annually.	FC Manager Tracy Puent 792-5507 tpuent@lacrossecounty.org	No
Foster Care Event	Family & Children's (FC) -CPS	The Permanency Resource Unit held a "Win a Date Night" event in February for our foster and relative care providers. We acknowledged the fact that doing foster care can be incredibly rewarding, but it can also cause a great deal of stress on the family unit, as well as the marriage or partnership, as there is an almost two-thirds higher likelihood for divorce for couples that choose to foster or adopt. We encouraged everyone to look at several assessment tools, that were available through links that we provided, to have some honest dialogue or conversations about enriching their relationships while fostering. Those that participated in the event were entered into a drawing as we gave away 4 gift cards to local restaurants.	FC Manager Tracy Puent 792-5507 tpuent@lacrossecounty.org	No
Promotion of Crisis Services	Integrated Support & Recovery Services (ISRS)	In February one of our Mental Health Crisis program supervisors, Sam Seefeld, took the opportunity to engage with local media to share information about Crisis and other mental health services. Sam spoke with the La Crosse Local Podcast and WIZM La Crosse Talk PM. He talked about mental health services and how to get help. Sam's interviews can be accessed via the following links: https://lacrosselocal.com/e-241-sam-seefeld-la-crosse-county-human-services . https://omny.fm/shows/la-crosse-talk-pm/ending-the-be-a-man-mentality-when-it-comes-to-men You can talk to a mental health professional 24/7/365 at 784-HELP (4357).	ISRS Manager Christin Skolnik 785-6019 cskolnik@lacrossecounty.org	Yes