

**LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PLANNING MEETING  
PROCEEDINGS; MONDAY, MARCH 07, 2011**

The La Crosse County Board of Supervisors Planning Meeting was held on Monday, March 07, 2011 in the Administrative Center, Room B410. The County Clerk, Ginny Dankmeyer, took attendance. 25 supervisors were present when Chair Steven Doyle called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. and those otherwise present, excused or absent are noted in the roll call detail:

<b>District Name</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
1 Richmond, Andrea	Present
2 Geary, Ralph	Present
3 Feehan, Bill	Present; Excused at 08:09 PM
4 Johnson, Jai	Excused
5 Konkell, Bradley	Absent
6 Billings, Jill	Present
7 Plesha, Roger	Present
8 Freedland, Maureen	Present
9 Hampson, Sharon	Excused
10 Wood, Margaret	Present
11 Kader, Audrey	Present
12 Flood, Bridget	Present
13 Brockmiller, Bill	Present
14 Medinger, John	Present; Excused at 08:26 PM
15 Mach, Beverly	Present
16 Sebranek, Gerald	Present
17 Meyer, Donald	Present
18 Johnson, Tara	Present
19 Keil, Robert	Excused
20 Bina, Donald	Present
21 Manthei, Dennis	Present
22 Ebert, Ray	Present
23 Gamroth, Tammy	Excused
24 Pfaff, Leon	Present
25 Schroeder, Jeffrey	Present
26 Burke, Vicki	Present
27 Pedretti, Marilyn	Present; Excused at 06:52 PM
28 Doyle, Steve	Present
29 Kruse, Monica	Excused
30 Spiker, Charles	Present
31 Ferries, Dan	Present
32 Benrud, Arlene	Excused
33 Berns, Jim	Excused
34 Wehrs, Tina	Present
35 Bilskemper, Joe	Excused

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

### COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### County Board Chair Report - Steven Doyle

- Supervisor Conference Reports
  - Supervisor Wood attended the Healthiest County 2015 Health Summit at the Lunda Center. The breakout sessions were chronic disease prevention, injury prevention, mental health and infectious disease prevention. They plan to have La Crosse County the healthiest county soon.
  - Supervisor Bina attended the RCD (Resource, Conservation, and Development) meeting. The funding on the federal budget has been completely cut out of the Obama budget and they might not get it back. There is enough in the budget to work for the next year or two. Changes will be coming at the State and Federal level.

#### Administrator Report - Steve O'Malley

#### PROCLAMATION RE: MARCH 2011 - HUMAN SERVICES AND FAMILY COURT MONTH

**WHEREAS**, staff who work in the Human Services Department and Family Court of the county literally “touch” thousands of lives every day who are in need of temporary or longer term assistance to meet their basic needs or to adjust to transitions in their families; and, **WHEREAS**, citizens who rely on county human services and family court programs range in age from pre-birth to over 100 years of age; and, **WHEREAS**, county human services programs are designed to protect our most vulnerable populations which include children, adults and children with disabilities, the aging, and people dealing with mental illness; and, **WHEREAS**, to serve and help individuals in need, county human services professionals routinely enter homes and travel to other locations in the community, at times facing volatile situations and safety risks; and, **WHEREAS**, Family Court and Mediation and Family Court Services strive to maintain the dignity, safety and security of families going through difficult transitions; and, **WHEREAS**, the individuals and the entire community benefit from the investment in lives that human services and family court professionals make every day; and, **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the La Crosse County Board does hereby proclaim the month of March 2011 as Human Services and Family Court Month and urges all citizens to join in recognizing the valuable contribution of Human Services and Family Court staff.

Motion by V. Burke/M. Wood to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 26 ayes, 1 absent - B. Konkol, 8 excused - A. Benrud, J. Berns, J. Bilskemper, T. Gamroth, S. Hampson, J. Johnson, R. Keil and M. Kruse.

- Update on Obesity Prevention Program and Complete Streets policy: The largest single grant La Crosse County has received was in the area of Public Health. There will be more to come in regards to the Complete Streets Policy as it is brought through resolutions in the April cycle for PWI, Planning and Development and Health and Human Services. A video was shown on a man who weighed over 500 pounds and lost the weight by riding a bike.

PowerPoint presentation titled “Communities Putting Prevention to Work”: Media campaign-Get Active. The grant has three components: farm to school, the nutrition piece of it; safe routes to school and after school activity programming which is the physical piece of it; and then the community piece of it which is nutrition, physical activity balance and also trying to expand the 500 club so healthier restaurants. Footsteps to health are a grocery store program trying to get people to purchase healthier fruits and vegetables. Wellness warriors are a healthy vending program. In regards to the physical activity, they are trying to get more people moving. They are looking at improving bike pedestrian infrastructure in our community so more people can bike and walk safely. Also, they are interested in

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working with worksites to have active commuting programs so people do not have to take their cars to work. Strong seniors are another component that they are trying to find ways to encourage and increase physical activity among seniors. Social marketing campaign started in February. The tag line is "Get Active Causes Community Change". The goal is to increase community demand for a healthier lifestyles and community environment. Harvest Moon Advertising is working with them on putting the campaign together for TV, radio, print and the website, [getactivewisconsin.org](http://getactivewisconsin.org). They are trying to build excitement and demand for a healthier community environment. A favorable quote, "People will change their behavior to reflect their environment, if you want healthier people, create healthier environments." School section has 2 components. The farm to school is the nutrition piece. The goal is to incorporate local foods into school meals. They are trying to help local farmers get their produce into local schools. It is a win-win situation. They are getting fresh fruits and vegetables into schools and allowing farmers to sell their produce. September through February, 5535 lbs of local vegetables were placed in four local school districts. The price of produce paid to local producers was approximately \$8,500. This is great partnership with the local agricultural community. They try not to promote organic so no one is excluded, but majority tend to be already. They also are trying to strengthen the school wellness policies. The other school component is the safe routes to school program. In 2007, they received a small safe route to school grant to work with three schools. However, this grant has allowed them to expand to 13 schools in La Crosse County. Each school has a liaison and the activities are wide. Each must have a walking school bus, an adult leads the bus from a point several blocks away and walks children into school and have supervision to school. The routes are chosen to be safe. The first 3 years of the program worked with Franklin, Hamilton and State Road. The changes in number of kids walking/biking increased Franklin 4%, Hamilton 9%, and State Road 7%. Now, with more schools, they are expecting a much greater number of kids biking to school. Many schools did continue to have walking school bus through winter once a week. The schools that did not have the walking available offered other school activities. Also, they have two after school program contracts with YMCA. The YMCA does most surround care in La Crosse area and The Boys and Girls Club. They have incorporated 30 to 60 minutes/day of physical activity into their day to keep kids active and assure they get some physical activity. The community piece is working with Gunderson Lutheran to expand the 500 club. One of the important pieces is to have healthier food choices in restaurants. The average American eats out four times a week. If we are going to eat out that much, we need healthier options available. In March 2010, they had 29 members with 256 menu items for the 500 club. Since this was started Kwik Trip, Logan High School, and Wine Guyz now have 500 club memberships. We met our goal of increasing members by 50% and continue working on this. We are expanding the Footsteps to Health at grocery stores. There was a pilot program that began in 2009 in three Festival Foods. The purchase of fruits and vegetables went up 8% and it was a success. With the grant, the program was expanded to two Quillin's and Hansen's in West Salem. They are hopeful in that the new Festival Foods will continue with the program. The program has encouraged people to purchase more fruit and vegetables. The Wellness Warriors program is another nutritional piece. It is a healthy vending program which was started a few years ago through Stansfield Vending. It started with 63 machines in county with 683 healthy choices. A healthy zone was created for the machine to better see the healthy choices. The vending machine supplemented price of healthy items with cost of unhealthy items. When healthy items are pointed out, sales increased. The increase was from 27% to 31%. The basement vending machine used only by employees went from 45% to 51%. Strong Seniors program is to increase physical activity opportunities for seniors. Activity classes were started at three senior sites as part of a pilot. It has been quite successful and hopeful to keep it going and expand it. They are interested in improving the bike-pedestrian infrastructure. They want to

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increase the number of short range projects and want to work with 15 work sites to implement activity computing programs. The last piece is a policy piece, Complete Streets Policy. Complete Streets components you can see as sidewalks, bike lanes, disable accessibility ramps and sidewalks, and transit stops they would like to see. Complete Streets are safe, comfortable, and convenient for everyone, regardless of age or ability. The way it used to be; smaller street and slower speeds and was easier back then to walk and bike to places. Now, we have 5-6 lanes road, high speeds, and greater distances which makes it more difficult to cross. Incomplete streets impact health. They are too dangerous to cross on foot and do not accommodate wheel chairs. In La Crosse, we have 1000 miles paved roads and only 12 miles of bike trails. Incomplete streets create barriers for physical activity. Only 35% of adults get regular physical activity and 33% do not participate in any physical activity. 55% of Americans would rather drive less and walk more. Young professionals want compact communities they can walk in. Complete Streets provide more physical activity. Complete Streets include bump outs and sidewalks, median island, curb cut ramps, sharrow bike lanes, shared bike parking lanes and paved shoulders. In the rural setting, 14' travel lane is a complete street. Obesity is a growing problem. The United States spent \$147 billion annually in healthcare costs related to obesity and Wisconsin spent \$1.5 billion annually. The projected cost is expected to be \$6.7 billion by 2018. On average, obese adults incur \$1,429 extra dollars in healthcare per year. If you take \$1,429 multiply it by the population and the obesity rate, the figure is \$42 million in additional expenses in La Crosse County. However, 50% is paid by Medicare. Today, 1/3 of our nation children are obese and one of the causes is due to limited physical activity. Streets that provide dedicated space for bicycling and walking helps kids to be physically active. Today's children are likely to have shorter lifespan than parents. It is our personal responsibility to be physically active; however, we are less encouraged with busy highways. People are more active and less obese in communities with complete streets. CVC recommends that we adopt Complete Streets Policy to prevent obesity. Build it and they will walk and ride. Complete streets are going to be safer streets. From 2000 to 2008, there were 679 pedestrian and bicycle accidents with 9 fatalities. Complete streets will improve safety for all. Complete streets create safe routes to school. Complete Streets is looking to the future. It could take 10-15 years to complete network. Complete Streets have been adopted at Federal level and State level. Complete Streets direct planners, designers, engineers, and public works personnel to design better roadway plans which are eligible for more Federal, State and transportation enhancement money, which makes safe county roadways which cost less. Last year in Wisconsin, \$6 million was available for transportation enhancement. Alaska was awarded \$839,000 of the transportation enhancement and used for bike and pedestrian accommodations and revitalize their downtown. West Salem received \$575,000 to redo their downtown pathways project. It does not cost more to build roads correctly. Complete streets decrease obesity and save money, improve safety for all, create safe routes to school, sell La Crosse to the best and brightest, and save money for La Crosse as safety improvements are required. Administrator O'Malley stated that many committees will have resolutions policy recommendations coming through in the next month regarding Complete Streets.

- Report on Impact of Governor's Budget Proposal:  
Most cuts identified so far are in 2012. There are major impacts to clients and community members in a number of issues. Over the next several weeks this will become clearer. The budget document is still being analyzed and clarified. One of the major portions of the budget is shifting responsibilities to the counties without funding and not eliminating responsibilities. Most dollar cuts will be 2012-2013. There is significant financial impact to our communities and to our departments that serve the needy.

Noreen Kuroski has been monitoring the area of elderly in particularly the transportation area. MTU transit and elderly transportation is part of the Governor's

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budget. There is a movement to move elderly and disable transportation from the Department of Transportation, DOT, over to Human Services. Then, it would compete with the other programs and it could end up with no elderly and disable transportation. However, there is a need for transportation for people that have physical needs or by choice do not drive anymore but need to go to grocery store, doctor appointments and visit family. Transportation keeps them mentally and physically active in community. Otherwise, they end up in nursing home or assisted living prematurely. Wisconsin is set to lose \$46.6 million in federal funding in transit due to collective bargaining being eliminated. They will also lose federal capital assistance. This would be a \$2 million in cuts to La Crosse MTU according to Keith Carlson. This would cause severe and large cuts in services and increase in fairs. For the senior population looking at SeniorCare, popular prescription company, is easy to use and they understand it better than Medicare Part D. For Senior Care a person pays \$30 a year. 92,000 seniors are on Senior Care statewide. It would cease to exist in a year, half due to Governor Walker's budget. Homestead tax credit is frozen. No Cola (cost of living) increase for the last two years. No increase in Social Security based on the cost of living. Seniors fixed incomes are stannic, but still pay same thing we do for gas, heating, groceries, etc. Short term savings will increase long term costs. The population of those 60 years old will double within 20 years. Aging unit is already experiencing increased demands for our services. Strap funding will be affected by collective bargaining clause.

Jason Witt and his staff gave a presentation on the most significant change to Human Service. Several proposals in the Governor's budget that impact Human Services and two of them are income maintenance and family care. Income Maintenance (IM) has greatest impact on people we serve and family care has been a long tradition to La Crosse County. The Governor is proposing that income maintenance administration be transferred to the state. Income Maintenance programs are foodshare (food stamps, 11,831 La Crosse recipients), medical assistance which provides access for those who otherwise could not afford health care, and BadgerCare, health insurance program, which provides health care coverage to those who do not have it, In La Crosse County, about 18,000 are receiving some form of assistance under this. La Crosse County Human Services duties are Economic Support, Family & Children, Mental Health & Recovery, Chemical Health (Justice Sanctions), and Aging & Disability Resource Center. Economic Support interviews and assists clients for eligibility for the programs. They assist clients in completing applications, re-asses for eligibility based on changes, focus on customer service, time lines and accuracy. Workers are certified Income Maintenance Workers under federal criteria. They have enormous case loads. We have done a good job and have received Service Recognition and numerous awards and recognition for our work. Under the Governor's budget proposal, the proposal is a cost saving proposal. It is estimated they would like to save \$48 million in statewide in this area and decrease 270 staff positions from the county level. IM will be transferred to the state according to the proposal. First, the cost efficiency partnership is being abandoned. It is a partnership with eight counties to cut costs. La Crosse County was a pilot for a regional ESS change center which take calls from clients that are already on assistance and things have changed for them. The idea is that if you combine in a regional way you can do the same job in a specialized way with less staff. This helps lower cost; however, this has been cancelled under budget. Statewide administration of IM is being privatized and centralized with increased reliance on automation. A new state income maintenance unit is being created at the state level in Madison which is creating 131 new positions being added to the state workforce. In addition, up to 1000 new positions will be contracted through HP Enterprises Services, a contract vendor, who currently processes for BadgerCare. Few of these would be deployed locally and most of it would be centralized. Contracted staff that is not IM certified would gather and process information and then send it to the state unit to the IM certified. This would take

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jobs from highly skilled certified workers to lower skilled non-certified workers. Up to 26 positions currently in La Crosse County could become obsolete. County funding allocations for IM are being cut and overmatch is being seized through reductions in county community aids. The reasons for concern are potential loss of jobs, loss of local accountability, and a risk that the state will not be able to deliver on effectively administering IM services with its new model and the impact of fragmentation of the services. Currently, the County has the physical capability to walk the clients to the different departments to sign up for benefits in the same building. Once the clients receive MA benefits the County gets the revenue back to offset services. The opportunity costs to La Crosse County of not pursuing equally effective cost savings approaches like the change center. In summary in IM area, the potential of 26 job losses, the \$143,000 losses in administrative allocation revenue and \$50,000 annual loss in future projected change center revenue, and the undetermined amount of loss in clients MA offsets due to poor State execution and fragmentation.

Dean Rupert spoke about FamilyCare. As of January 2011, 56 Wisconsin counties are participating in FamilyCare. The promise for La Crosse County was that there would be no more waiting lists. Only as result of attrition will new members be allowed to enroll according to the Governor's Budget. La Crosse was full entitlement since April 2002. The local managed care providers are Western Wisconsin Cares, WWC. WWC separated from La Crosse Human Services as of October 2008. In 2010, Aging & Development Resource Center, ARDC, enrolled close to 40 people per month from La Crosse County. Economic Support determines the eligibility for FamilyCare and has been big part in the success of the pilot program. In 2009, when the state implemented BadgerCare core, they were not able to process in a timely manner. The state came to La Crosse County and other counties for help to process the applications. The counties processed half of the applications for the state.

- Administrator O'Malley's report on the impact of the governor's proposal and budget repair bill: The reason our tax levy is as low as it is because we work together as a team to maximize non-local revenue sources to control property taxes. Most cuts are in calendar year 2012. The budget repair bill tools proposed are not needed. This continues the past practice of Democratic and Republican administration of shifting cost to counties, ignoring inflation and demand. It avoids responsibilities for State imposed mandates. It also caps property taxes at 0%, which La Crosse County has done 2 years in a row. It is not a reform budget, primarily a political policy document. It is not even thought through as a transition. The most of the impact will start to impact us in 2012 and 2013. In 2012, the shared revenue loss will be 24%, general transportation aid 10% cut, child support 50% cut, youth aids 10% cut (½ in 2011 & ½ in 2012), and a slight increase in basic community allocation; however, that all gets taken away in the takeover of Income Maintenance. Most complicated impacts are in Human Service and Medicaid. The best we can tell are that there are no cuts to nursing homes at this point and no new costs to Solid Waste. However, there are major client impacts in 2011. Budget repair bill is not needed. The premise that we have been sold in the media is that shifting 50% pension costs, limiting wages to CPI and eliminating all bargaining is necessary to match cuts in the local aids and budget. Then, have a 0% operating levy cap. We have been doing this the past two years in a row. It is not about flexibility, but forcing lock step solutions for all. We will meet or exceed targets without the Budget Repair Bill. Counties asked for mandate relief and there is none. This takes La Crosse County back to about 1992 level of shared revenue. Major services and policy changes that are rushed with details poorly considered in the Governor's Budget Reform bill to shift pension cost and eliminate most collective bargaining. It was announced on February 11, 2011, and to start in 30 days with payroll by April 8, 2011. By eliminating collective bargaining, we all need the new requirement for civil

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service system. This also excludes protective service from pension shift, but not sheriff, chief deputy, captains and sergeants. They may not be able to change pension of elected officials. Child support cut loses Federal revenue. There will be major impacts on Human Services and IM clients with little notice. Federal transit funding put in jeopardy (MTU and Elderly). 0% property tax cap plus new construction is not something we have relied on. It recognizes that new tax base lowers taxes for existing taxpayers. Levy history shows new tax base supported 43% of the increase over the past 10 years. In summary of the budget repair and effect on counties, it eliminates collective bargaining except for protective services, sets CPI wages, and health premiums to 12.6% if in State plan. The best estimate of 45% of reduction would be levy savings. This is not a political game. This is impacting real peoples' lives and real services. This will impact union and non-union positions. We must continue to bargain in good faith and work together and there needs to be a transition period.

**ADJOURN**

Motion by G. Sebranek/B. Brockmiller to adjourn at 8:43 PM passed on a unanimous voice vote with 23 ayes, 1 absent - B. Konkel, 11 excused - A. Benrud, J. Berns, J. Bilskemper, B. Feehan, T. Gamroth, S. Hampson, J. Johnson, R. Keil, M. Kruse, J. Medinger and M. Pedretti.

**STATE OF WISCONSIN )**

**COUNTY OF LA CROSSE )**

**I, Ginny Dankmeyer , La Crosse County Clerk, in and for the County of La Crosse, Wisconsin, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Journal of Proceedings of the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors at the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors Planning Meeting held Monday, March 07, 2011 and that it is the whole thereof. IN WITNESS THEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND AFFIXED THE OFFICIAL SEAL THIS DAY 18 OF MARCH 2011.**