

**LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PLANNING MEETING
PROCEEDINGS; MONDAY, MARCH 8, 2021**

The La Crosse County Board of Supervisors Planning Meeting was held on Monday, March 8, 2021 via Microsoft Teams. The County Clerk, Ginny Dankmeyer, took attendance. 27 supervisors were present when Chair Monica Kruse called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. and those otherwise present, excused or absent are noted in the roll call detail:

District Name	Attendance
1 Richmond, Andrea	Present
2 Geary, Ralph	Present
3 Janssen, Barb	Present
4 Freedland, Maureen	Present
5 Mathu, Grant	Present
6 Plesha, Roger	Present
7 Padesky, Gary	Present
8 Isola, Peg	Present
9 Wacek, Dawn	Present
10 Cable, Kim	Present
11 Scheller, Patrick	Present
12 Erickson, Randy	Present
13 Tryggestad, Tina	Present
14 Larson, Margaret	Present
15 Kruse, Monica	Present
16 Ferries, Dan	Present
17 Pogreba, Jack	Excused
18 Weber Strauss, Noelle	Present
19 Cornforth, Rick	Present
20 Doyle, Steve	Present
21 Burke, Vicki	Present
22 Viner, Pamela	Present
23 Nikolay, Matt	Present
24 Hoyer, Kevin	Present
25 Hundt, David	Excused
26 Hesse, Dan	Present
27 Jacobs, Thomas	Present
28 Keil, Karen	Present
29 O'Neill, Jamie	Present

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

County Board Chair Report - Monica Kruse

- CPAC Status Update – Chair Kruse gave an update on the CPAC appointments that will be taken up later in the agenda. Two citizen members/farmers were added and two County Board Supervisors were replaced.
- Supervisor Conference Reports
 - Supervisor Isola noted the WCA Virtual Exchange was held on March 2nd and 3rd. On March 15th there will be a Regional Legislative meeting.

Administrator Report - Steve O'Malley

PROCLAMATION MARCH 2021 - 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**, human services professionals have performed in an outstanding manner during the COVID-19 emergency in maintaining access to services, stepping-up needed informal supports to older adults and others in the community, and working outside their usual roles to meet the needs of this unconventional time; 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 2021 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 K. Keil/V. Burke to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 27 ayes, 2 excused - D. Hundt and J. Pogreba.

- Fire/EMS Service Sharing Study – Presented by Rob Henken, President Wisconsin Policy Forum
 - The study was done to explore fire and EMS service sharing opportunities in the La Crosse County Region. The departments who participated in the study were the La Crosse City Fire, Onalaska City Fire, Shelby Ridge Fire, Holmen Area Fire, City of La Crescent, Brice Prairie EMS, Farmington Emergency Medical Team, and Tri State. Areas that were studied was EMS level and shift staffing, population growth, senior population growth, call volumes, response times, and per capita operating expenditures. Observations noted that some departments having sufficient capacity to respond to normal conditions but may be stretched during times of high call volumes; the growth in the Holmen area will require added fire and EMS capacity; lower level mutual aid in other regions may not be making best use of full time, well-resourced La Crosse department; two-tiered EMS response works well but response times could be improved in the east; recruitment and retention of part time staff becoming more challenging; and three large departments considering new stations. Potential barriers to enhanced sharing would be the wide variation between departments in staffing models and funding. Enhanced service sharing options could produce cost efficiencies and improved services for smaller departments and better mutual aid cohesion. Enhanced coordination could improve service levels and response times. Overall, each of the departments will need to increase spending soon. Collaborative action could achieve at least some desired improvements at a lower cost and a higher level of service than could be achieved by acting alone.

- CARES Act / Routes to Recovery Reimbursement
 - Associate Administrator Jane Klekamp and Finance Director Sharon Davidson reviewed the reimbursement. Wisconsin received \$200 million through Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security ACT (CARES). La Crosse County was allocated \$1,942,516 and received \$2,185,907. The timeline for reimbursement was March 1, 2020 through November 6, 2020.

(119-20/21)

- Reimbursement was used for emergency operations including staff costs, housing (1st round at Econolodge), cleaning and sanitizing supplies, equipment to facilitate telework, medical protective equipment, and testing and contract tracing costs above the State program. Several departments also received additional COVID-19 relief funding. The total 2020 COVID funding was \$6,416,146 for La Crosse County.
- COVID-19 Vaccine and Health Department Update
 - The community vaccination site is opening tomorrow in La Crosse and at the same time the State is opening an online registration site so anyone who wants the vaccine can sign up and will be notified when they are able to get the vaccine. All teachers in the schools will be vaccinated by the end of this week. The Health Department continues to vaccinate and will make a plan on how to vaccinate the hard to reach populations.
 - The Health Department Director position will be posted by the end of the week.
- Update on Econolodge
 - Kevin Burch of Catholic Charities and Anneliese Skoda of Human Services gave an update on the Econolodge. A significant amount of the homeless population was testing positive for COVID and the shelters were being overrun with COVID cases. Families housed at the Econolodge were shifted to a different hotel so the Econolodge could then be used for isolation/quarantine. Individuals who were positive or had close contact were then transferred from the Warming Center and Gundersen Hotel to the Econolodge. Human Services staff were on hand to make sure meals were available and to offer resources.

APPOINTMENTS

Motion by M. Kruse/T. Tryggestad to appoint Monica Kruse, Kim Cable, Peg Isola, Maureen Freedland, Tom Jacobs, Matt Nikolay, Pam Viner, Marilyn Pedretti, Mike Hesse, Kevin Hennessey, Julianna Meyer, Todd Servais, Kathy Allen, Will Kratt, and Larry Sleznikow to the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee for a two year term to expire March 31, 2023 passed on a unanimous voice vote with 27 ayes, 2 excused - D. Hundt and J. Pogreba.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS

- Supervisor Richmond noted the PFAS issues and the County Library located in the Town of Campbell and if the County was helping with well testing.
- Supervisor Cornforth asked for a resolution declaring racism a public health crisis.

ADJOURN

Motion by D. Ferries/R. Erickson to adjourn at 7:18 PM passed on a unanimous voice vote with 27 ayes, 2 excused - D. Hundt and J. Pogreba.

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 8, 2021 and that it is the whole thereof. IN WITNESS THEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND AFFIXED THE OFFICIAL SEAL THIS DAY 10 OF MARCH 2021.