

**LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PLANNING MEETING  
PROCEEDINGS; MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2022**

The La Crosse County Board of Supervisors Planning Meeting was held on Monday, April 11, 2022 in the Administrative Center, Room 1700. The County Clerk, Ginny Dankmeyer, took attendance. 25 supervisors were present when 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chair Kim Cable 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 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	Excused
12 Erickson, Randy	Present
13 Tryggestad, Tina	Present at 06:03 PM
14 Larson, Margaret	Present
15 Kruse, Monica	Excused
16 Ferries, Dan	Present
17 Pogreba, Jack	Present
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**

- Message from Chair Kruse to outgoing Supervisors
  - A video was played with Chair Kruse thanking the outgoing supervisors. Andrea Richmond – 20 years; Vicki Burke – 22 years; Jamie O'Neill – 2 years; Noelle Weber Strauss – 3 years; Barb Janssen – 2 years; Tom Jacobs – 4 years. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Cable presented the outgoing supervisors with a plaque/certificate.

(185-21/22)

- Review New Board Member Orientation and County Board Organizational meeting agendas – New Supervisors were reminded of the Orientation Meeting on Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm. Returning Supervisors are welcome to attend as well. The Organizational Meeting will be held at 6pm on Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Supervisor Conference Reports – none offered.

**Administrator Report - Steve O'Malley**

**PROCLAMATION APRIL 2022 - LA CROSSE COUNTY GOVERNMENT MONTH,  
NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, the nation's 3,069 counties, parishes and boroughs serving more than 315 million Americans provide essential services to create healthy, safe and vibrant communities; and **WHEREAS**, counties provide public health services, administer justice, keep communities safe, foster economic opportunities and much more; and **WHEREAS**, La Crosse County and all counties take pride in our responsibility to protect and enhance the health, wellbeing and safety of our residents in efficient and cost-effective ways; and **WHEREAS**, under the leadership of National Association of Counties President Larry Johnson, NACO is demonstrating how "Counties THRIVE," especially in supporting residents and businesses during the coronavirus pandemic; and **WHEREAS**, each year since 1991 the National Association of Counties has encouraged counties across the country to elevate awareness of county responsibilities, programs and services; and **WHEREAS**, La Crosse County Departments and employees have demonstrated resiliency and dedication throughout the pandemic to provide exceptional service during difficult times. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, that the La Crosse County Board does hereby proclaim April 2022 as National County Government Month and encourage all county officials, employees, schools and residents to participate in county government celebration activities.

Motion by A. Richmond/V. Burke to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 26 ayes, 3 excused - D. Hundt, M. Kruse and P. Scheller.

- Neighborhood Child Care Model Proposal
  - La Crosse School District Superintendent Aaron Engle presented the proposal that the La Crosse School District has created. The proposal includes the problem, why the school district, access, affordability, workforce, sustainability, and the ARPA funding estimate. Dr. Engle discussed the concerns and solutions for each of the topics.
- Overview of County Corporation Counsel Role
  - Corporation Counsel Megan DeVore reviewed the many duties of her department and staff. There are 4 attorneys what work in that department, and they represent all the departments for the County in either an advocacy or litigation role or just in consultation or guidance role. Over 50% of their work done on a day to day basis is with Human Services. Corporation Counsel DeVore also the department head for Child Support Agency and Mediation and Family Court Services. Corporation Counsel gets involved with Child Support cases for the State of Wisconsin to make sure both parents are financially responsible. They also handle all of Human Services litigation cases. Between Child Support and Human Services, they have over 40 court hearings a week.
- Review of Resources for Unsheltered Population
  - Community Organization Services
    - City of La Crosse Homeless Services Coordinator Brian Sampson reviewed the La Crosse Housing Services. Those services include prevention, emergency shelter, transitional housing, and permanent housing. Prevention includes various organizations including the REACH Center, La Crosse Area Family Collaborative, Center for Veterans Issues, Couleecap, and Catholic Charites. Emergency Shelter is provided by the Salvation Army, Catholic Charities Warming Center, YWCA, Karuna, and New Horizons. Currently there are no transitional or bridge housing offered in La Crosse. Permanent and Permanent Supportive Housing includes rapid re-housing through Couleecap or Catholic Charities.

Couleecap has 40 units combined of permanent supportive housing with intensive case management and other services provided. Other support includes the Homeless Outreach Program, Social Security Outreach and Recovery (SOAR), access to work programs, rapid re-housing, energy assistance funds, meal program, voucher program for clothing/household items/furniture, and mental/physical/spiritual health. Permanent Supportive Housing has needs for 103 with only 43 units available. Rapid re-housing has a total need of 168 with only 21 total available units.

- o County Services
  - Corporation Counsel DeVore followed up with where the County fits in with the areas discussed. Many of the individuals who are homeless and have mental health issues or addiction issues are likely eligible or already working with county social workers. Social workers also work with individuals who are housed so it's hard to quantify the dollars spent on just individuals with homelessness. The transitional housing or bridge housing is significantly lacking in the area. Housing has always been a top primary service for a client that is not available.
- Neighborhood Revitalization Acquisition and Demolition Grant Program
  - o Community Development Manager Brian Fukuda updated the Board on the program. There has been considerable success operating the program over the last 6 years with over \$1 million dollars having been invested in grant funding. The program allows people to purchase deteriorating housing within designated neighborhoods and build new housing. There have been 29 projects to date which add over \$29 million in tax base for La Crosse County. \$230,000 is left in funding for the program and they are looking for ARPA funds to continue this program. Funds would not be dedicated just for the City of La Crosse. A resolution will come to the Board at the next meeting.
- Update Status of ARPA Eight Project Areas
  - o Associate County Administrator Jane Klekamp reviewed the status of the eight ARPA project areas. In January 2022, the County Board reserved the allocation of ARPA funding for the following project areas which will require separate approval by resolution of the County Board. The areas include Neighborhood Child Care Model, Bridge Housing for Families, Skilled Trades Training, Hillview Redesign and Rebuild, Green Infrastructure – County Solar, Bridge Housing for Adults, Grants for Housing Redevelopment, Stormwater Infrastructure Grant Fund, and \$500,000 was allocated for Veteran's Programs that the Veteran's Service Office is working on a plan.

**SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS – none offered.**

**ADJOURN**

Motion by G. Mathu/T. Tryggestad to adjourn at 8:05 PM passed on a unanimous voice vote with 26 ayes, 3 excused - D. Hundt, M. Kruse, and P. Scheller.

**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, April 11, 2022 and that it is the whole thereof. IN WITNESS THEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND AFFIXED THE OFFICIAL SEAL THIS DAY 12 OF APRIL 2022.**