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LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PLANNING MEETING PROCEEDINGS; MONDAY, JULY 6, 2026

The La Crosse County Board of Supervisors Planning Meeting was held on Monday, July 6, 2026 in the Administrative Center, Room 1700. The County Clerk, Ginny Dankmeyer, took attendance. 29 supervisors were present when Chair Tina Tryggestad 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	Leibold, Kelly	Present
2	Geary, Ralph	Present
3	Pierce, David	Present
4	Allen, Kathy	Present
5	Anderson, Emily	Excused
6	Mathu, Grant	Present
7	Piggush, Beth	Present
8	Isola, Peg	Present
9	Manke, Angie	Present
10	Cable, Kim	Present
11	Scheller, Patrick	Present
12	Erickson, Randy	Present
13	Tryggestad, Tina	Present
14	Duffrin, Steven	Present
15	Kruse, Monica	Present
16	Ferries, Dan	Present
17	Manock, Lia	Present
18	Drazkowski, Joanna	Present
19	McBride, Anna	Present
20	Doyle, Steve	Present
21	Fimreite, Jeff	Present
22	Kovacevich, Joe	Present
23	Carty, Joseph	Present
24	Tweed, Kristie	Present
25	Jacobsen, Dennis	Present
26	Clements, Beth	Present
27	Wuensch, Paul	Present
28	Rothering, Ron	Present
29	Schlimgen, Ken	Present
30	Mader, Dillon	Present

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: County Board Chair Report - Tina Tryggestad

- Chair Tryggestad gave an update on how proclamations make it on the agenda.
- Supervisor Conference Reports
 - Supervisor Scheller attended the Harbor Commission meeting and noted the importance of getting funding for the Port of La Crosse.

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- Supervisor Duffrin reminded Supervisors of the Special Election for the Village of French Island tomorrow.
- Supervisor Piggush noted that next week is the Interstate Fair in West Salem.
- Supervisor Isola noted the July issue of the WI Counties magazine has an article on historic sites. She also noted funds are still available for the demolition grants.
- Supervisor Jacobsen noted the bank in Mindoro also has a museum inside.

Administrator Report - Jane Klekamp

PROCLAMATION JULY 2026 - LONG TERM CARE & RESIDENTIAL SERVICES MONTH

WHEREAS, La Crosse County operates two long-term care campuses, Hillview Health Care Center and Lakeview Health Center & Assisted Living, providing essential services to community members in need; and **WHEREAS**, La Crosse County is committed to offering residents and their families affordable, high-quality, person-centered long-term care and support; and **WHEREAS**, both campuses have consistently received high-quality ratings from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, reflecting their strong performance and dedication to delivering exceptional care; and **WHEREAS**, the staff at these campuses demonstrate outstanding professionalism, providing compassionate care and rehabilitation services while upholding the dignity and rights of every individual, including those with physical, developmental, or mental health needs. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the La Crosse County Board hereby proclaims the month of July 2026 as La Crosse County Long Term Care & Residential Services Month and encourages all residents to recognize and honor the invaluable contributions of those who provide high-quality care and support to members of our community.

Motion by K. Tweed/P. Wuensch to approve passed on a unanimous voice vote with 29 ayes, 1 excused - E. Anderson.

APPOINTMENT

Motion by D. Mader/K. Cable to appoint Audra Martine as Director of Long-Term Care Services to begin August 7, 2026 passed on a unanimous voice vote with 29 ayes, 1 excused - E. Anderson.

- Acknowledge Contributions and Retirement of Long-Term Care Director Wanda Plachecki
 - Wanda has worked for the County for over 30 years, with 20 of those years as the leader of long-term care. She was instrumental in the design and construction of the Lakeview Health Care Campus, constructing the MVHS commission, and lead the transformation of the Hillview Campus.
- Long-Term Care Service Overview
 - Lakeview Campus consists of Lakeview Health Center (MVHS) with 50 beds, Ravenwood with 10 beds, Maplewood with 15 beds, Neshonoc Manor with 15 beds, Monarch Manor with 8 beds and Regent Manor with 4 beds. Hillview Campus consist of Hillview Health Care Center with 37 beds, Carrol Heights with 55 apartments, Hillview Terrace with 30 beds, The Oaks with 10 beds and The Evergreens with 39 beds. Prior to the remodel, Hillview had an aging infrastructure that no longer supported modern care practices, large portions of the building under-utilized, layouts that limited flexibility and privacy for residents, and a steadily declining census. Now Hillview has new service models with a planned creation of a dementia crisis stabilization unit, enhanced collaboration with County and community partners, home-like design, modernization, and rightsizing of campus services. Lakeview Campus had a year of renewal and investment by strengthening collaboration and system alignment, advanced evidence-based programming, competency-based workforce, and maintaining and reinvesting in the infrastructure. The Mississippi Valley Health Services Commission (MVHS) was founded in 2008 by 13 member counties. It was created to share costs for high-acuity residents and supports placement for counties unable to serve complex residents. MVHS holds DHS licensure for Lakeview Health Center. Currently there are 320 staff working in long-term care with low utilization of agency staff and a 5 star rating in staffing.

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- Opioid Response Plan Update
 - RISE stands for recovery, intervention, support and empowerment. Opioid settlement dollars were awarded to La Crosse County as compensation for millions in unexpected levy costs resulting from the opioid epidemic. RISE is designated to mitigate the opioid crisis in ways that lower future levy expenditures. RISE was developed from County Board Supervisors, opioid settlement advisory team, alignment with terms of the opioid settlement, and includes a sustainable 10-year use of funding. The three core pillars of the RISE framework are justice support, family strengthening and treatment access. Benefits to the County will include fewer jail admissions, fewer CPS cases, faster access to treatment and support, stronger coordination across systems, and reduced long-term system strain. Year #1 allocation will be \$689,900 split into treatment access - \$84,300, justice support - \$400,600, and family strengthening - \$205,000. Looking ahead, they will continue to implement 18 coordinated action plans, expand housing and treatment access supports, continue cross department collaboration and partner engagement, system coordination, and ongoing evaluation.
- SMRT Overview and Next Steps
 - Deputy Administrator Sara Koopman provided a background on the SMRT Bus. The service was launched in 2012 with 13 routes connecting Prairie du Chien, Viroqua, Tomah, and points in between to the City of La Crosse. It is funded by state, federal and local sources and administered by La Crosse County. SMRT expenses for 2026 are budgeted at \$747,716. Funding for this comes through federal grants (49.89%), local match (37.48%), state grants (7.96%), and fares (4.68%). Local match is at \$280,217 with La Crosse County paying \$227,450, Emplify \$30,000, Vernon County \$15,000, Crawford County \$6,000 and municipalities at \$1,767. Historically, the total local match budget was \$153,000. La Crosse County Board committed to \$30,000/year and in 2025 that went up to \$120,000. In 2026, \$157,000 was budgeted and that is projected to go up to \$227,450. This does not include staff time. Ridership has decreased 26.7% since 2019. Outreach was done in February with all the partners regarding shared financials and ridership data. Monroe, Vernon and Crawford Counties have passed resolutions to provide no SMRT funding after 2026. Emplify will contribute \$30,000 in 2026 but there is no commitment beyond that. La Crosse County would have to cover 100% of the local match for 2027 and La Crosse County tax dollars are primarily serving residents of neighboring counties. Low utilization of SMRT diminishes the economic impact for La Crosse County. Staff recommendation is to discontinue SMRT Bus Program effective January 1, 2027. If resolution passed at the July 16th board meeting, a public hearing will be scheduled and notifications sent to Running Inc and all partners.
- Strategic Plan Review and Next Steps
 - Outcome measure of the Strategic Plan that will have no change include the increase of workforce population, reduction of County facilities and fleet carbon footprint, community being satisfied with County services, and completing the "Pathways Home" plan. Updated outcomes will be to achieve and maintain an employee engagement score of 85% favorable by 2029, collaborate with the MPO to investigate "Multi-County Transit Commission", "Multi-Jurisdictional Transit Commission" or similar organization structure as a means to address mobility barriers experience by residents, and to work with West Salem to implement phased approach to the development of the County Farm. Supervisors with any question, thoughts or changes to these outcomes should reach out to Administrator Klekamp.

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS – none offered.

ADJOURN

Motion by G. Mathu/S. Duffrin to adjourn at 7:41 PM passed on a unanimous voice vote with 29 ayes, 1 excused - E. Anderson.

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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, July 6, 2026 and that it is the whole thereof. IN WITNESS THEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND AFFIXED THE OFFICIAL SEAL THIS DAY 16 OF JULY 2026.