



Department Updates

Circuit Court

Judge James Babler

September is Juror Appreciation Month.

The Wisconsin Courts have designated September as Juror Appreciation Month. This is in recognition of the citizens who have answered the call and completed their jury duty and to highlight the honor and importance of serving on a jury. Barron County Clerk of Court Sharon Millermon and Barron County Circuit Judges James Babler, Timothy Doyle, and James Babbitt have purchased a banner with their personal funds to highlight Juror Appreciation Month. The banner will be displayed in the rotunda of the Barron County Justice Center during the month of September.

Trial by Jury is a right that is protected in both the U.S. and Wisconsin Constitutions. It is also a duty of the citizens who live in Wisconsin to help the Courts protect this important feature of our justice system. Juries serve several important purposes:

1. They decide the facts in a case as presented by evidence and testimony at criminal and civil trials;
2. They provide a means by which community values and sentiments are reflected in the Court process; and
3. They foster the public's acceptance of legal decisions.

Jury duty is one of the primary means by which citizens participate in the work of our government.

There are many individuals within the Barron County court system who spend much preparation and involvement to support the jury trial process. The Clerk of Court monitors the administrative procedures used to create a jury list and summons individual jurors for a trial to make sure the process is fair and efficient and that the jurors are made as welcome and as comfortable as possible. The Judges monitor the trial process to ensure that the jurors are treated with respect, that their time is used wisely, and they are provided with a clear description of the applicable law.



Pictured (left to right):

- Honorable James Babler*
- Honorable Timothy Doyle*
- Sharon Millermon*
- Honorable James Babbitt*

Inside this issue:

Human Resources	2
Office on Aging / Aging & Disability Resource Center	2
Health & Human Services	3
County Clerk	3
Veterans Service Office	4
Technology	4



Human Resources

Rachael Richie, HR Director

<u>New/Replacement Positions</u>				
<u>Position Title</u>	<u>Office/Department</u>	<u>Incumbent</u>	<u>Date Filled</u>	<u>New/Replacement</u>
PT Civilian Correction Officer	Sheriff	Recruiting		Replacement
Behavioral Health/Adult Protection Services Case Manager	Health & Human	Recruiting		Replacement

- The Health Insurance RFP's returned favorable numbers and the current estimate is a reduction of 3.5% for 2012 premiums. The County may review the potential for offering additional health insurance options for employees to choose from during the enrollment period.



Office on Aging / Aging & Disability Resource Center

Charlene Oftedahl, Director

Memory Care Connections is a research program for caregivers living with a spouse with Alzheimer's disease or other related dementia. The goal is to increase the knowledge of the disease and the support for the family caregiver. This in turn benefits the person with dementia and helps to delay the need for nursing home care. Barron County is the state contracted lead for this regional program serving residents in Barron, Rusk, Washburn, Eau Claire, Chippewa, and Dunn Counties. Participants must be open to sharing their experiences as a caregiver, and must have one or more family members willing to take part in a series of meetings with the caregiver and the Memory Care Connections consultant to explore strategies for problem solving and reducing stress. The program consultants will also assist the families in connecting with supportive services and resources in their community. Memory Care Connections has only been fully

operational for 4 months and already has over 30 families participating. Partners include the Wisconsin Alzheimer's Institute at UW-Madison, the Alzheimer's Association of Greater Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Bureau on Aging and Disability Resources, and the ADRCs serving the six counties. For more information contact Gloria Vaughn, the regional program director, at 715-537-6225.

One of the functions of the ADRC is to serve as the single access point for publicly funded long term care for frail elderly and adults with disabilities. In Barron County this includes a choice between (1) Family Care provided through Northern Bridges, an eleven county managed care organization, and (2) IRIS, a statewide program of self-directed care. The 2011 - 2013 state biennial budget includes a cap on enrollments into these long term care programs. This means that the ADRC staff can not enroll eligible individuals until "attrition" occurs in

which someone voluntarily withdraws from the program, becomes ineligible, or dies. There is no ending date for this cap nor any funding set aside to lift the cap, so the cap will be in effect during the entire biennium and beyond, unless the legislature takes action to lift it. The state budget set aside some funding for "emergency/urgent needs" allowing the ADRC staff to enroll eligible individuals in a crisis situation for a limited time until an opening occurs through attrition. However this will lengthen the time that other individuals spend on the wait list with their needs growing, their limited resources depleting, and their care options lessening. As of September 9th there are 105 eligible persons on Barron County's waitlist. One of our biggest concerns is people on this list being forced into costlier institutional placements in order to get their needs met. Prior to the "cap on enrollments" we were allowed to enroll 5 or 6 persons per month until the proposed entitlement date of May 2012 for Barron County.

Health & Human Services

Judy Demers, Director

August

- Completion of the audit for 2010 shows that the Department of Health and Human Services operated under budget in the amount of \$925,000. This is the result of efforts on the part of all managers and staff who have collaborated in the delivery of services for all populations and have created more diverse programming to ensure that adults, families and children can live as independently as possible with less dependence on our system. The expansion of Coordinated Service Teams has afforded the opportunity for more families to benefit from this process whereby formal and informal supports come together to determine the best way to support families to achieve independence from the system. In-home therapies and parent aide services assist in keeping families together reducing out-of-home placements. A philosophical change in the delivery of behavioral health services focuses on recovery providing diverse supports to assist individuals in achieving the highest level of independence and living a productive lifestyle. Accessing federal dollars through the increased use of Children's Waivers and the Community Recovery Services state plan have also contributed to the offset of local expenditures.
- An initial on-site visit was conducted as the start of our participation in the County Data Leadership Initiative for which we were selected. The goal of

the initiative is to assist counties selected for the project to identify types of data that would be helpful in measuring outcomes in their child welfare system. The data identified can be different from county to county, and this will be used as a learning tool for the rest of the state. In reviewing data that is currently available to us through the statewide child welfare (WISACWIS) system, Barron County performs at a very high level of compliance compared to other counties. Three areas in which we have achieved 100% compliance are: 1) caseworker visits, 2) completion of CANS assessments within 30 days, and 3) reunifications within 12 months.

- Directors from the Western Region have met to identify workgroups that are needed in order to operationalize the consortium model for the delivery of Income Maintenance(IM) services. Weekly conference calls will be held with the State Department of Health Services to work through the specifics of development of the new IM delivery system and to develop a contract that is to be in place by January 1, 2012.
- Energy Assistance applications will begin to be taken on each Wednesday beginning October 5, 2011. The heating season during which applications can be taken extends until May 15, 2012. No appointments are necessary for applications to be made on Wednesdays; however, if a time on a

day other than Wednesday is needed, an appointment can be scheduled.

September

- The restructure of Income Maintenance(IM) continues on a very fast track. Cases that are currently with the Enrollment Services Center (ESC) in Madison, will need to be brought in to the counties beginning November 1, 2011. The State of Wisconsin risks losing federal dollars if this transition does not begin promptly. This will create an additional workload for which there is no additional funding. First estimates are that this equates to about 40 cases per month that will be coming in to our county. Training for the processing of Badgercare Core cases will be needed. This is anticipated to be provided in November.
- Applications for IM Consortium are due to the state on 9-30-11. The application needs to designate which county will be the lead agency for the consortium. That county will hold the contract with the state for the entire consortium. A decision also needs to be made as to how the Call/Change Center will be structured for the consortium. The Call/Change Center may be delegated to one county or to multiple counties. In our consortium, Eau Claire and Douglas Counties have experience in providing Call/Change Center services

County Clerk

DeeAnn Cook, County Clerk

Our BCMC group met in mid August. Attendance was very good, especially for a summer gathering. As always, many good ideas were shared. Items for discussion included equipment maintenance, upcoming training opportunities, purchasing of Wislines to share amongst the group, upcoming requirement for grievance procedure and impartial hearing officer, new changes to elections. One of the municipal clerks volunteered to compile all

wage/benefit information for all of the various municipal positions that can be updated every year and used as an ongoing resource. Two other clerks offered to share the spreadsheets they use for tracking poll worker training so other clerks can use the format instead of having to reinventing the wheel. The meetings are always very productive and this type of cooperative effort is common.

Our election equipment vendor will be performing routine maintenance on our equip-

ment this month. Municipalities will again have the choice of bringing their equipment here or to City Hall in Rice Lake. The Technician will do a very comprehensive testing of the machines. This time the battery will be replaced in all of the Edge touch screen machines.



Veterans Service Office

Scott Bachowski Veterans Service Officer

Our Outreach efforts continue to be very successful; since January 2010 we have registered 363 new Barron County Veterans! Alone in 2011 we have registered 101 new Veterans. This is an amazing number Dawn and I are very proud to report.

We now have access to the Virtual VA database. The database allows us to serve our Veterans faster and more reliably by having direct access into the database at the VA Regional Office in Milwaukee. We are now able to look up the status of claims versus having to call and be put on hold for long periods of time.

Nationally and in Wisconsin, the unemployment rate for veterans is higher than the general population. And more veterans could be returning home looking for jobs as 10,000 troops are withdrawn from Afghanistan by the end of this year. The jobless rate for all military vets has been on the rise. In June it was over 13 percent. And the Bureau of Labor Statistics says for the youngest vets, it's even higher, at 28 percent or three times the general unemployment rate. Wisconsin shows similar trends, especially among vets age 18 to 24. The state has held nine of 14 job fairs for veterans this year.

The next fair closest to Barron County will be held in Superior on Wednesday, August 10, 9 am – 1 pm. This event will take place at the Army National Guard Armory, 32 N. 21st Street.

Wisconsin is also the first state in the Midwest to start an apprentice program for vets to learn welding. I am including the program details below:

Veterans in Piping (VIP) Pre-Apprenticeship Program

The Office of Veterans Services (OVS) in the Department of Workforce Development is coordinating the Veterans in Piping (VIP) Program. The VIP program is designed for Veterans, to include Guard and Reserve soldiers, who desire to attend a 20 week pre-apprentice program for welding and rigging. Upon completion of the 20 week training program and associated requirements, the student will be considered a second year apprentice and will be guaranteed a job somewhere in the United States. All efforts will be made by the United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters (UA) to place the new apprentice in Wisconsin. However there is no job location guarantee.

Program Details:

Location:

Camp Douglas, on Volk Field (National Guard Air and Army Base)

Training: 5 days a week (20 weeks)

Cost:

Lodging (\$15.00 per night on Volk Field, \$105 per week) plus any individual food costs. All other costs are paid by the program. (OVS will attempt to work with the WDAs to see if they can provide these supportive services, but we cannot guarantee this; all other avenues to defray these costs will be considered). Lodging is in an Air Guard billets; two person rooms with refrigerator, microwave; TV, dayroom, etc.

Only those **veterans who desire this type of career field** and can financially afford to attend the course should apply. Those veterans with personal issues, family challenges, etc. that would prohibit them from attending all classes **should not** apply.

Background checks will be conducted for each student to include some pre-testing requirements.

Interested veterans can contact DWD's Office of Veterans Services staff or the Barron County Veterans Service Office for further information and assistance in completing the application material. DWD will refer qualified candidates to the UA; who will make the final decision on students that are accepted into each class.

Technology

Mark Koenecke, Director

The Technology Department has been busy working on several projects throughout the summer and is getting ready for a number of projects during the final quarter of 2011.

During quarters 2 & 3 of 2011 a number of projects were being worked on. In the Sheriff's Department the final squads were equipped with computers and printers. All squads are now equipped with mobile data computers allowing officers to query data systems in the field and also issue citations electronically reducing the amount of redundant data entry.

A new E-Mail encryption system was installed during August. This system will go live in the latter half of September. This system allows the county to conform to certain HIPAA privacy laws when communi-

cating via e-mail. This system was purchased entirely with grant funding.

During July a new data backup system was implemented. This system allows for more data capacity along with a more efficient and reliable means of backing up both data and system images. This system was partially paid for with grant funding.

Updates and additions to building surveillance systems have been planned and currently beginning implemented.

Network infrastructure is being upgraded. Many of the Hewlett Packard switches are close to 10 years old. They have performed well over the previous decade and will be replaced with new Hewlett Packard switches. These switches offer power over Ethernet (POE) ports which will enable the county to take advantage of voice of IP capabilities of an upgraded Mitel telephone system in 2012.

They also provide for gigabyte transmission speeds for speeding up normal network traffic.

Testing an upgraded finance system has been on-going throughout the summer with implementation to the new web based system planned for the final quarter of 2011.

Other fourth quarter projects include an upgrade to the Sheriff's Departments TAC-10 information system. This system is also migrating to a web based design. Testing has begun with hopes of a go live data in early October. The TAC-10 system is currently shared with the police departments of Rice Lake, Cumberland and Turtle Lake.

The network will be upgraded from its current Windows 2003 Active Directory to Windows 2008 R2 active directory. This allows the county to stay current and take advantage of features of Microsoft's