

# Department Updates



Barron County, Wisconsin

## ADRC / Office on Aging

### Charlene Oftedahl, Director

Our ADRC helps reduce Medicaid expenditures for long term care. 42% of Wisconsin's total Medicaid budget is spent on long term care (\$2.8 billion). As one of many efforts to prevent or delay the need for publicly funded long term care, Wisconsin Statutes require that nursing homes and assisted living facilities give a copy of an ADRC brochure to all prospective residents when providing initial written information about their facility. The brochure explains "Pre-Admission Consultation" during which ADRC staff can confidentially provide people with unbiased information for making decisions before they move. ADRC staff are experts on housing options and the wide range of available public and private long term care resources. Staff help people explore their choices and compare costs, including the option of receiving services in their home, such as meals-on-wheels, personal care, chore services, etc. It is also impor-

tant for people to know the limitations of government funded programs, such as Medicare and Medicaid, when moving into a residential care facility, group home, or nursing home.

Nursing homes are required to make referrals to the ADRC for residents who would prefer to receive their long term care at home. Upon receiving a referral form from the nursing home, the ADRC is expected to contact the resident within ten days to provide information about locally available long term care options and supports for community living, regardless of whether the individual may be paying privately for care or is eligible for publicly funded programs. The goal is to ensure that nursing home residents are aware of the supports and options available to live in less restrictive settings in the community. There are 450 nursing home beds in Barron County. Approximately 75% of the residents are on Medicaid. On the average it takes about 18 months to ex-



haust private funding. The average nursing home in Barron County costs \$5,225 per month (\$62,700 per year).



## Finance

### Jodi Busch, Lead Fiscal Coordinator

The month of January flew by for Staff in the Finance Department. W-2's and 1099's made it out the door before their January 31<sup>st</sup> deadline, and staff have been very busy juggling 2012 end of the year activities while starting to work in 2013. 2012 remains open until February 15<sup>th</sup> for departments still working with incoming revenues and final accounts payable vouchers.

In the mean time, we are preparing for our annual Worker's Compensation Audit scheduled for February 19<sup>th</sup>, completing year end reporting in several areas, and compiling 2012 preliminary data to prepare for the upcoming County-wide Audit scheduled for May of 2013. In addition, we anticipate the annual Highway Department Audit to occur in late March. After February 15<sup>th</sup>, it's full steam ahead balancing out 2012, preparing audit workpapers, as well as compiling the

fixed asset information. I greatly appreciate my dedicated staff for all of their knowledge and hard work during this busy time; they do such a wonderful job in compiling the financial data for the Audit!

# Health & Human Services

## Judy Demers, Director

The Youth and Family Services Unit will participate in a Quality Service Review (QSR) the week of March 11-15. Staff from the State Department of Children and Families will be on site to conduct the review. Aspects of the review include a review of select cases, direct observation of internal practices, interviews with DHHS staff, and various focus groups to be held that include recipients of services, and community stakeholders such as law enforcement, schools, judges, and service providers. Our last QSR was con-

ducted in 2006. This will be an opportunity to compare results and determine future goals for service improvement.

During its first year of operation, our Great Rivers Income Maintenance consortium achieved an average 94% rate of processing applications in the required timelines. The timeliness benchmark set by the State was at 90% for 2012. This is a significant improvement over the previous system which was performing at a 16% rate of timeliness. The benchmark for 2013 is set for 95%.

The crisis stabilization facility which opened on April 1, 2012, was utilized for 163 days by Barron County, serving 31 individuals. Of the 31 individuals served, 13 of those were diversions from the hospital; 18 were transitional placements for individuals who needed some stabilization after hospitalization. The cost of the stabilization facility is \$320 per day as compared to hospitalization at \$1000 per day.



# Forestry

## John Cisek, Forester

The winter logging season is in full swing on the Barron County Forest. Five (5) sales are currently active. Two selection harvests in the Doyle compartment. One harvest operation in the Barronett Compartment. The completion of the harvest in the Kirby Lake Rustic Campground and an oak shelterwood harvest in the Mikana Com-

partment north of Swamp Rd.

The combined volume of the sales will be an estimated 822 MBF (thousand board feet) of sawtimber and 4,670 cords of pulpwood. Estimated value generated will be \$ 349,653.00.

A selection harvest has been set-up in the Rockman's Woods property. The harvest is intended to remove mature

and high risk timber and release future crop trees.

Forest management on the county forest is done in cooperation with the, and under the guidance of the Wisconsin DNR. Management activities are intended to manage the forest resource on a sustainable basis for multiple uses.

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# County Clerk

## DeeAnn Cook, County Clerk

We are set for the Spring Primary. Three candidates filed for the Justice of the Supreme Court position and the field must be narrowed to two for the April Spring Election. In addition to that state level race, there will be a referenda question on the ballot for voters who reside in the Rice Lake School District. A fairly low voter turnout is expected everywhere besides

the Rice Lake School District where a moderate turnout is expected.

I was invited by GAB to serve on Task Force on Election Administration Workload Issues. The group comprises of 14 Municipal Clerks, 9 County Clerks, a WCA associate, the WTA Executive Director and a rep from Wisconsin League of Municipalities. We will be discussing numerous topic then make recommendations that GAB will

present to their board that will in turn make recommendations to the Legislators. Our first meeting was very productive. Topics for the meeting were provider/relior relationships, WEDCS and four year maintenance. After healthy discussion on each topic, we made our recommendations that had to pass by a 2/3 margin of the group.

# Human Resources

Rachael Richie, HR Director

<b>New/Replacement Positions</b>				
<b>Position Title</b>	<b>Office/Department</b>	<b>Incumbent</b>	<b>Date Filled</b>	<b>New/Replacement</b>
Behavioral Health / Community Support Case Manager	Health & Human Services	Ann Hay	1/2/13	New
Behavioral Health / Community Support Case Manager	Health & Human Services	Tara Mitch	1/2/13	New
Behavioral Health / Community Support Case Manager	Health & Human Services	Angela Stearns	1/2/13	New
Secretary (Part-Time)	Child Support	Sarah Everson	1/2/13	Replacement
Behavioral Health / Community Support Case Manager	Health & Human Services	Melissa Holden	1/7/13	New
PT Civilian Communication Officer	Sheriff	Jordan Hild	12/10/12	Replacement
Secretary	Register of Deeds	DiDi Gilmore-Olson	1/28/13	Replacement
Secretary	Sheriff	Danielle Benson	2/25/13	Replacement
Clerk / Typist (Part-Time)	District Attorney	Donna Hedlund	2/18/13	Replacement
<b>Internal Changes</b>				
Lead Economic Support Specialist	Health & Human Services	Bonnie Roemhild		11/26/12
Assistant Clerk of Court	Clerk of Court	Ann McEwen		12/26/12
Chief Deputy	Register of Deeds	Steff Heffner		1/7/13
Civilian Communication Officer	Sheriff	Kari Dvorak		2/20/13
Civilian Communication Officer	Sheriff	Jordan Hild		3/30/13

- A Wellness Team was created consisting of 15 interested employees. The first initiative the team is undertaking is coordinating fruit for purchase in the break rooms in each building. The response has been very positive!
- The 2012 OSHA illness / injury summary logs have been posted per federal requirements.