



# Department Updates

December 2017

## Health & Human Services

### Stacey Frolik, Director

Barron County Department of Health and Human Services continues along the journey of Public Health Accreditation. A site visit for this process has been scheduled for February 13 and 14th, 2018 as the next step in the process. For more in-depth information on this accreditation process please visit the following website.

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/lh-depts/accreditation/index.htm>

The Child Protective Services Unit has been chosen by the State of Wisconsin Department of Children and Families to participate in the Federal Child and Family Services Review. The re-

view will take place in Barron County the week of April 16, 2018. Seven review teams made up of state and federal reviewers will review in home and out of home child protective service cases which meet a predefined, specified criteria. It is estimated that 16 cases will be reviewed locally.

DHHS is in the process of adding three new staff positions including a mental health and child protective services case manager and a prevention specialist. We hope to have the new staff onboard shortly after the first of the new year. Methamphetamine continues to drive the high number child protective services cases as well as the need for addiction intervention and treatment services. The Criminal

Justice Collaborating Committee recently brainstormed a 40+ point "Meth plan" that will be prioritized and operationalized in the coming months.

Energy/Heating Assistance programming is in full swing. Contact DHHS for more information on how to apply.

As a part of the Governor's State Budget, funding has been allocated to counties to eliminate the waitlists that exist for children in need of long term care services. We were required by the State to submit a plan to eliminate our wait list, which currently has about about 35 children on it. Our plan is to ensure all of these children receive services by the end of 2018.

## County Office Schedule

County Offices will be closed  
 Monday, December 25th  
 \* Tuesday, December 26th \*  
 Monday, January 1st

\*Court Related Offices are open on December 26th

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## Finance

### Jodi Busch, Finance Director

The Finance Department had a very busy fall season focusing on the 2018 budget. At the November 6th County Board meeting, a County Levy was set at \$20,916,813; an increase from 2017 of \$706,718 or 3.5%. Once the budget was approved, it was full speed ahead as the County Apportionment calculations were finalized and sent out to the municipalities and Department of Revenue. Soon after, Levy Limit Worksheets were completed and also sent to the DOR. Next came the setup of the 2018 Departmental Budgets in our financial software system. Did you know that the County Budget is divided up between almost 1400 separate departmental accounts? As you can imagine, it takes a great deal of time throughout the

budget process to enter, calculate, and check, to insure that everything ties out to what was approved. Now with just a few more tasks to complete, we will be ready for 2018.

In addition to preparing and looking ahead to the New Year, we are also looking back over 2017 to begin our year-end processes. CliftonLarsonAllen will be onsite the week of December 11th for their annual preliminary audit visit. By spending a few days here in December, they can take care of some of the more tedious tasks, which will help streamline the audit process when they come again in the spring.

As we move into 2018, we will start reconciling 2017 accounts and prepare the necessary work

papers. W-2's, 1095's, and 1099's will be calculated and sent out in January, and we will be assisting departments with their year-end deposits, payments, and any necessary adjusting entries through February. Late February and March will consist of closing the books County-wide, and in April we will be putting everything together for when the Auditors visit at the end of the month. The whole process of closing the year and preparing for the audit takes several months to complete. The Finance Team will be working together through the winter to insure deadlines are met and all reconciliations are completed accurately.

## Aging / Aging & Disability Resource Center

### Jennifer Jako & Mary Urdike Co-Interim Directors

The ADRC is business as usual. Medicare D open enrollment was October 15 – December 7. You can't just sign up when you want, so it's important to know when you can enroll in the different parts of Medicare. ADRC staff offer assistance to people to evaluate and enroll in a drug plan online. This year, Medicare beneficiaries had 25 drug plans to choose from to find the best fit with their prescription needs in the coming year. The change in plans will take effect on January 1, 2018. Last year we helped ap-

proximately 700 people with their Medicare Part D plans from Oct - Dec. We are on track to exceed that number this year.

The ADRC has been the community partner in a research grant called "Beneficial Bites for Healthy Living." We successfully recruited and taught 39 participants in an 8-week nutrition course in many different communities. The classes were hugely successful with participants reporting major health improvements and overall enjoyment of the knowledge they gained. We will wait until mid 2018 to start receiving data from our academic

partners to see if the program did indeed improve participant's health. If so, we will look to apply for the next round of research grant funding. This would be the first evidenced-based nutrition workshop developed in our Aging Network.

We just held two public hearings for our specialized transportation program. The folks in attendance had good questions and great ideas in regards to our AddLIFE transit program. Transportation continues to be a big need for older adults and persons with disabilities we serve. We provide over 10,000 one way rides each

## Aging / Aging & Disability Resource Center (Continued)

year for medical, nutrition, employment, and social purposes. These rides help people remain in their homes and out of the more costly publically-funded long term care programs. In 2017, our Dementia Care Specialist continued making Barron County businesses dementia friendly. To date, we have trained 11 businesses including 156 employees to become dementia friendly. This initiative makes Barron County more friendly and safe for persons with dementia and their caregivers. Other projects include:

**Breakfast for the Brain** – a program intended for active adults who wish to take part in a brain wellness program. The course uses humor, visuals, puzzles, creative art and much more to keep a persons' brain active. The goal is improving memory, increase memory capacity; work with greater focus, improved mood and living a healthier lifestyle.

**Music and Memory** – music is profoundly linked with personal memories. Even for people living with advanced dementia, music can tap deep emotional recall. There are benefits for the participant as well as the care partners and families. This program is free to Barron county residents living at home.

We reached 237 people through community education on brain health and Dementia 101, along with outreach to the faith community through "A Place in the Pew".

Population projections show that 30% of Barron County residents will be 65 years old and older by year 2030; age is the number one indicator of risk of dementia, therefore, you can see dementia care work will be a priority for our ADRC now and well into the future. DHS and partner organizations are working on a new state plan to help people with dementia, their families, and their communities. The plan will be written during 2018 and carried out over a five-year period starting in 2019. The plan will establish priorities for DHS as it works with partner agencies and organizations across the state to improve the lives of people with dementia and their families. DHS and partners believe that people with memory loss or dementia, family members and people who informally care for someone with memory loss or dementia, and professionals that work with those who have dementia and their families can provide information and ideas that will be helpful to this effort. Before preparing the new state plan, they are asking for assistance from the community. You can help shape Wisconsin's Dementia Plan by taking this survey and giving valuable input: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/dementia/history.htm>

145 participants were trained at 20 health promotion workshops throughout our ADRC tri-county region in 2017. We currently have 32 trained leaders for the 5 different health promotion workshops we offer and 12 of those

are volunteers. We are always looking for folks to volunteer to facilitate. If you or someone you know might be interested, please contact Peggy Schmidt at 6374. The 2017 Caregiver Conference-Celebrate Caregiving: Finding Joy in the Journey was held on October 27<sup>th</sup> at WITC in Rice Lake. We had 22 booths, great topics/guest speakers to provide great information to 144 attendees.

DAYBREAK is completing 24 years of providing services for adults with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia in Barron County. In 2017 we served 28 different individuals and their caregivers. Prospective participants and care partners are encouraged to visit the program to see if it will be a good fit for their loved one. No one has ever been turned away from DAYBREAK if they are unable to pay as we have a couple of funding sources to assist as needed. We are currently seeking a new ADRC Director with the plan to be interviewing in early January. As we move into 2018, our mission continues: "To empower and support seniors, people with disabilities, and their families to ask for help, find a way to live with dignity and security, and achieve maximum independence and quality of life." Staff remain committed to providing the highest level of service to our community and customers.

## Veterans Service Office

### Scott Bachowski Veterans Service Officer

Tami (Assistant County Veteran Service Officer) was invited and attended the White House Veterans Affairs Conference at the White House on November 29<sup>th</sup>. She was invited along with the National County Veterans Service Officers Association as part of their executive committee. They were able to hold discussions with Veterans Affairs Leadership to include Secretary David Shulkin and Deputy Secretary Thomas Bowman, Department of Defense leadership, Health and Human Services Acting Director Eric Hargan, and Department of Labor Secretary Alex Acosta. While there, she was able to meet Vice President Pence, who suggested they take a “selfie” rather than a staged photo. Tami was very thrilled about the photo!

We recently attended our biannual Wisconsin County Veterans Service Officer Association training and business meetings in Oshkosh, WI. We received great training from the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Veterans Affairs employees from the Milwaukee VA regional office, Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Veterans Health Administration, Retirement Services, Social Security Administration, National Cemetery Administration and our own association trainers. This training is required biannually in order for us to meet our continuing training hours to maintain our accreditations through the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs, American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, National County Veterans Service Officer Association and the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

Our veterans’ database company (VetraSpec) will be performing a scheduled, mandatory server upgrade beginning at 8pm EST Dec. 22, 2017. The upgraded server will increase performance and provide us with the most up-to-date security protocols. VetraSpec will be unavailable from 8pm EST Dec. 22, 2017 until 8pm EST Dec. 29, 2017. They will be working hard to perform the upgrade during this time and will do their best to have VetraSpec up and running sooner than Dec. 29, but the possibility exists that the upgrade will take the entire week. They are planning for scheduled downtime Dec. 22 to Dec. 29. They understand this is the end of the month, and downtime inconveniences us, but this is a mandatory upgrade - it must be performed. Their logic in choosing this time frame is that the week between Christmas and the New Year is the best possible time to have scheduled downtime. We should not be affected or inconvenienced by this upgrade.



#### Photo: Left to Right

Vice President Pence

Tami Saleska, Barron County  
Assistant Veterans Service  
Officer

Margaret Garvin  
Ho Chunk Nation Tribal  
Veteran Service Officer

