



Department Updates

Health & Human Services

Judy Demers, Director

Cumberland Healthcare has served notice of the intent to discontinue provision of Behavioral Health Services effective 12-31-12. The reasons cited were increasing costs and low census. There is a meeting scheduled at the Government Center in Barron for September 28, 2012, with other counties in the region to discuss strategies to address this impending gap in service. Representatives from the State Department of Health Services will be facilitating the meeting.

Staff of Barron County's Youth and Families Services

Unit have been invited to be part of a team representing Wisconsin at a training in Washington DC, focused on the impact of victimization and trauma on children and youth and are being asked to provide input on the curriculum to adapt it to the child welfare system. It is truly an honor to be asked to participate in this initiative; our staff are the only county staff to be participating. All expenses are to be paid by the Department of Justice. Karla Broten, supervisor, and Mary Olsen, Foster Care Coordinator, are the two representatives for Barron County.

The Energy Assistance season

begins once again with applications to be taken beginning October 1, 2012. Applications will be taken each day by appointment this year rather than mass applications on Wednesdays as we have done in the past several years.

The Community Health Improvement Plan and Process (CHIP) that was held on 9-26-12, resulted in three priorities being identified for Barron County for which to develop plans that will impact these health concerns. Those priorities are: Mental Health; Alcohol, Drug and Tobacco Use; and Chronic Disease Prevention and Management.

Veteran's Service Office

Scott Bachowski Veterans Service Officer

We will be attending the Veteran's Day Ceremony at the Northern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Spooner on Sunday, November 11th at 1:00 p.m.. The theme for this year's program will be announced in the coming weeks. The cemetery is located on Veterans Way just off Highway 53, three miles south of Spooner, at N4063 Veterans Way. Veterans, veterans' families and the public are invited to attend. The ceremony lasts approximately 45-60 minutes. The ceremony is outdoors so please dress properly as its chilly even in the tent. The planning committee met in August. The planning committee consisted of Matt Bergs, Cemetery Director; Barron County Veterans Service Office (VSO), Washburn County VSO, Polk County VSO, Burnett County VSO and the Douglas County VSO.

We recently attended our biannual Wisconsin County Veterans Service Officer Association

training and business meetings. 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 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.

In September, we addressed the 12th District Veterans of Foreign Wars leadership in Eau Claire at their annual conference. We made two presentations, first to the ladies auxiliary and then to the post leaders. We presented new information to their post service officers to update the leadership on changes in the VA system. We were also referred to veterans to provide assistance and most importantly we re-

ferred the leadership to direct veteran service inquiries to the appropriate County Veterans Service Officer. We concluded our presentation with an extensive question and answer period.

The Veterans Home being constructed by the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs in Chippewa Falls will open later than planned. We are not sure why they have been delayed. The facility was set to open in November 2012 but will now open for residents in February 2013. As of September 26th, the number of veterans preregistered for residency exceeded the number of available beds by 100%. There have been 143 applications submitted for the 72 beds available. Please refer all veterans interested in the home to our office to assist with their application.



Human Resources

Rachael Richie, HR Director

New / Replacement Positions				
Position Title	Office / Department	Incumbent	Date Filled	New / Replacement
ADRC Program Manager	Health & Human Services	Mary Updike	6/25/12	Replacement
Economic Support Specialist	Health & Human Services	Patricia Youker	8/13/12	Replacement
Patrol Deputy	Sheriff	Jeffrey Wolfe	8/22/12	Replacement
Clerk / Typist	Health & Human Services	Sue Ellis	9/10/12	Replacement
Emergency Services	Sheriff	Todd Volk	9/21/12	Replacement
Assistant Clerk of Court	Clerk of Court	Christina Lutz	10/22/12	Replacement

- During the month of October employees were offered flu shots on-site and Safety in the Workplace sessions.
- The employee picnic was a success with over 115 attending!
- Below is a list of employees reaching an employment milestone in 2012:
 - 40 Years - Kristy Peterson
 - 35 Years - Kris Beckwith, Judy Brunette, Mary Dexter
 - 30 Years - Sheree Carr
 - 25 Years - Sue Williams, Sue Richter, Denise Olson, Mark Netterlund, Rick Dreyer
 - 20 Years - Judy Holloway, John Muench, Dianne Bowen, Terri Mikyska, Randy Thoreson, Rita Vanek, Maggie Nelson, City Slayton, Danette Hellmann, Tammy Luther, Dave Nichols, Lisa Long, Lee Davison, Bill Klug
 - 15 Years - Jane Wiggers, Mary Olsen, Lee Stokes, Mary Hogan, Jeff Outcalt, Dan Stanley, Clay Paulson, Heidi Rubenzer, Gloria Vaughn
 - 10 Years - Kristi Blodgett, Deb Mahowald, Charla Kucko, Jim Demers, Chad Lambert, Tim Jersonson, Nichole Thompson, Jason Olson
 - 5 Years - Jean Koltunski, Kim Gogan, Derek Olson, Sue Allyn, Dayna Stellrecht, Holly Hulback, Amanda Delawyer, Erin Richards, Leroy Graese, Dustin Mayer, Mary Ann Bergstrom, April Coyle, Joanne Sweet, Scott Bachowski

County Clerk

DeeAnn Cook, County Board

We are gearing up for the big General Election on November 6, 2012. Due to changes with the Federal MOVE act, the filing deadline for candidates was earlier and all absentee ballots had to be ready much earlier in order to accommodate military and overseas voters.

GAB chose our site to offer SVRS training for clerks who are willing to be providers or want to become self providers for our Statewide Voter Registration System.

Deputy Jess Hodek attended the training and is now certified to use SVRS. Clerks from as far away as Green Bay attended.

County Clerks in conjunction with GAB formed a task force to assess work load. The president of WCCA (Wisconsin County Clerks Association) formed the team and I was asked to serve on it. I was honored to be selected. Much of the business will be conducted via phone conference but if any travel becomes necessary, GAB reimburses for the expenses.

GAB offered a "train the trainer" session for Chief Election Inspectors which I attended. I am now certified to conduct training sessions for Chief Inspectors so that they can become certified. I will survey the clerks to see if a session is needed before the upcoming election. If there is a need and time allows, a session will be offered here and it will be open to new Chiefs and those needing additional training from Barron and surrounding counties.

Highway

Mark Servi, Highway Commissioner

We are working hard to complete our project workload before the weather closes in. We have had a very productive year, completing many projects for our local municipalities, projects on the county system, and state maintenance projects.

Major projects on the county system include reconstruction of the pavement structure on CTH D from CTH O to CTH SS (7.5 miles), shoulder renewal and chip seal on CTH M from STH 48 to the north county line, CTH C from CTH M to CTH NN, and CTH VV from Haugen to the Boy Scout Camp.

We are also in the final stages of the reconstruction project on CTH AA from CTH SS west to 25 ½ Street and CTH SS from CTH AA south for 3000'. This work is being done to strengthen and widen these sections of roadway for the sand mine industry and is being paid for by Great Northern Sands and Chieftain Sand. Work should be completed the week of October 22nd.

The new salt shed project at the Barron Shop site is progressing on schedule and we will be receiving our early fill salt order by November 15th. The additional salt capacity and ability to store salt/sand are welcome additions as we head

into winter. We have also completed the purchase of the Williams property which extends our site south to the railroad tracks.

The rail improvement project continues on schedule with track work and road crossing renewals being completed on both the Barron/Cameron segment and the Cameron/Rice Lake segment. Additional work is continuing from Ladysmith to Cameron and Barron to Poskin. Regular train traffic will begin when the sand processing plant at Poskin comes on line, and we will all need to adjust our driving habits as it has been quite a while since some of these rails have carried trains.

Office on Aging

Charlene Oftedahl, Director

The Barron County Office on Aging was awarded the first ever ElderAce Award for Innovation sponsored by the Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources to honor organizations with qualities and ideals that make Wisconsin's aging network a nationally recognized leader in helping older people stay healthy and independent. Specifically noted was our "AddLIFE" transportation program that earlier this year also received a \$10,000 Star Award from the Beverly Foundation. Transportation is a growing concern as our population ages, particularly in rural areas where isolation is a major threat to independence. The AddLIFE Program, coordinated by Chris Hagen, increases the use of all existing transportation systems by encouraging riders, supporting them throughout their first experiences on transit, and helping them through their fears of unfamiliar systems. The great success of this program has prompted Leslie Fijalkiewicz, manager of our nutrition and transportation programs, to implement some changes

to our current senior bus and van service, some of which will begin November 1.

Medicare 101 sessions are held monthly by Kim Gogan, Elder Benefit Specialist, on the first Thursday, from 4:30 - 6:30 pm, at the Government Center. Attendance each month has ranged from 25 to 35 persons new to Medicare, or current beneficiaries needing a refresher, or family caregivers. During the session Kim covers Parts A, B, C, and D of Medicare (Advantage, Medicare Supplements, and Drug Coverages). In November she plans to add a second session to educate people on using the Medicare Plan Finder at www.medicare.gov. Each year during the Open Enrollment Period (Oct. 15 - Dec. 7, 2012) Medicare beneficiaries should evaluate their current coverage and needs, including those related to prescription drugs.

In September I had the opportunity to attend the National Home and Community Based Services Conference in Arling-

ton, VA, as a presenter on developing state and national standards for options counseling service provided by staff in Aging & Disability Resource Centers. The ADRC of Barron, Rusk, and Washburn Counties, the ADRC of Northwestern Wisconsin (Polk and Burnett Counties), the ADRC of Brown County, and the ADRC of Ozaukee County were selected for this federal grant out of the 37 ADRCs serving 68 counties in Wisconsin because of our leadership and staff expertise.



Clerk of Court

Sharon Millermon, Clerk of Court

It's that time of year again when the Clerk of Court Office sends out the annual mass jury questionnaire mailing in preparation for 2013. On October 1st, 1501 jury questionnaires were sent out to Barron County residents to fulfill the 2013 jury year. Some County employees and their spouses have not escaped the random selection from the Department of Transportation and have been sent a questionnaire for completion. ☑☑Actually, 1,700 names were

requested from the Department of Transportation, but it is typical that approximately at least 10% of those names will be on an exception list and cannot be included in the 2013 jury pool. Some of the reasons for immediate disqualification are: 1. Individual has a valid driver's license, but will not be 18 years of age in 2013. 2. Individual has served as a juror within four years; and 3. Individual is now deceased.

Not only does the Clerk of Court Office experience an increase in phone calls during

this time of year to answer juror questions/concerns; medical providers also experience an increase in phone calls from prospective jurors requesting medical excuses. Even though it is a time consuming process, we, as citizens of the United States should be proud of our jury system. All one has to do is listen to the daily world news and I believe we all come to the same conclusion that our jury process is the best in the world.

Administration

Jeff French, County Administrator

Invocation:

The invocation has been removed from the Agenda for three reasons:

- A: The potential lawsuit from the Freedom from Religion Foundation
- B: Consultation with WCA Legal Counsel and to avoid a costly and protracted legal battle
- C: The limitations on freedom of speech for individuals giving the invocation.

Further explanation: by doing nothing the County would have faced a long, costly and protracted legal battle to continue our long-standing practice. The Courts have held just because a municipality has a history of an invocation, as part of the legislative process, this does not insulate them from legal action. Second, to meet the Court imposed requirements for a non-sectarian prayer essentially what happens is you limit the free speech of those individuals giving the invocation.

All of the above was discussed by the Executive Committee and it was determined this approach was the most palatable.

To date all Committees have reviewed and approved their respective 2013 budget requests which are incorporated into the proposed and published budget.

LCC/Extension:

August meeting: Approved Soil and Water Resource Management Funding, County dollars, for a barnyard run-off project.

September meeting: Approved the use of

\$2,367 dollars for the Chetek Lakes Protection Association for the evaluation of a water sampling survey to be completed on the Chetek Chain of Lakes.

Agreed to reimburse the Red Cedar Lakes Association \$1,750.34 for an informational kiosk at Waldo Carlson Park Boat landing.

Forwarded Sand Lake Management District Boundary discrepancy resolution to the full Board which was approved at the September County Board meeting.

Approved WLWCA conference resolutions provided the increased taxation portions were struck from the resolutions.

No October meeting.

Property Committee:

August meeting: Discussed second floor remodel of Government Center. Approved \$50,000 loan to Barron Sno Bears which was subsequently approved by the full Board. Discussed Traveling Vendor License but agreed Dept. of Health and Human Services inspection process is adequate and took no further action. Discussed and approved \$4,000 from the sale of a camper and canoe, tax deed property, be used to purchase new tables for Veterans Memorial Auditorium.

September meeting: Discussed closing of Cumberland rifle range, currently located at the Hwy gravel and hot mix site, Town of Cumberland. *Note*, at the 10-10 Hwy Committee meeting it was agreed to move the rifle range from its' current location to the County owned Straw Pit located in the Town of Maple Plain. Approved continued negotiations with providers for a new phone system with the understanding that a comprehensive or "fork-lift" methodology will be adhered to.

October meeting: Reviewed preliminary cost estimates to remodel the 2nd floor of the Government Center.

Over the above period of time this Committee has been working on the sale of 12.6 acres of land from the UW Campus site to Rice Lake Weighing Systems. On October 4th the UW Regents voted unanimously to release this parcel of land from the Campus/County lease. Presently we are waiting for the appraisal of the three parcels that make-up the entire sale/swap. I anticipate the final approval of this sale to occur in January or February of 2013.

Executive:

August to October, all action items on the Executive agenda were referred to the County Board for their approval. Essentially over the same time frame this Committee primarily concentrated on the 2013 Budget and the 2013 Health Insurance renewal.

Solid Waste Board:

August to October, approved increasing the stack height to 136feet, this will be done as part of an overall process to renew the current air permit and apply for the option to burn pharmaceuticals along with other waste material. The electrical generation contract between Xcel Energy and the County has been completed and payments will begin for this additional revenue source from 1-1-2013. This has been a lengthy process for a multitude of reasons and complex changes in how the Public Service Commission handles rate changes for municipal owned waste facilities.

Circuit Court

Judge James C. Babler

The Barron County Circuit Judges, James C. Babler, Timothy M. Doyle, and James D. Babbitt are pleased to announce that they have begun holding night court for child support cases. The first night court for child support was held on June 28, 2012. Night court for child support cases is scheduled monthly and is rotated between the three Circuit Judges. The Judges continue to hear child support cases weekly during the day.

This innovation, the first in the state, came about after Judge Babler and Clerk of Court Sharon Millermon attended a conference entitled, "Improving Rural Courts." At that conference, Babler and Millermon learned about a rural county in California which began holding child support hearings at night which led to one-third of the child support cases being regularly heard in night court. Babler and Millermon brought the idea back to Barron County where it was enthusiastically endorsed by Judges Doyle and Babbitt.

The night court sessions were in the planning stages for six months. It involved getting all the players in the jus-

tice system agreeing to participate and to make the specific plans for the program. Judge Babler noted, "It is a testament to how well people work together in Barron County that it was so easy to get the approval of all those involved. Clerk of Court Sharon Millermon and Child Support Director John Muench were especially instrumental in getting all the arrangements in place." The Judges also want to thank Sheriff Chris Fitzgerald and Public Defender John Hinde for their help in establishing the night court sessions.

The extra hours worked for night court is paid to staff in comp time, Babler said. "It's not necessarily convenient for anybody who works here, but we all can see its benefit for the public."

Babler further stated, "The Judges in Barron County are deeply committed to customer service and saw this as another opportunity to provide better service for our citizens. In the past, custodial and non-custodial parents alike would ask if they could appear in court on a date which did not conflict with their work schedules, but at the time it was not possible. By holding night sessions, we are able to allow the litigants their day in court and without having them take vaca-

tion time or time without pay to attend."

The night court for child support is a voluntary program, and any persons wanting to have their cases heard at night need to notify the child support agency whenever a case is scheduled. The designated courtroom for the night's hearings will be displayed on the monitors in the Justice Center. Babler said, "It'll be the only court in session - the one with the lights on!"