

The Voice of Lafayette County Human Services

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Thank Our Heros!

Let's all be thankful and acknowledge what an awesome job Sheena and Missy did on October 13, 2011. Their teamwork and skills saved someone's life, and for that, the agency and individual's family are very grateful.

Sheena received an access call from a client who was indicating suicidal thoughts and who had taken lethal actions but was refusing to give their location. Sheena stayed in communication with the client while relaying information to the Sheriff's Department through Missy. Together, they were able to provide enough information for LCSD to locate this client in time for the client's life to be saved. Thank you Sheena and Missy for doing your jobs & doing them so well!

A heartfelt thank you also goes out to Deputy Ryan Redfearn and Deputy Joan Steinhart of the Lafayette County Sheriff's Department for their hard work and assistance during this life saving event. Great job to all involved!

- Brenda Poss

2011 Governor's Outstanding Adoptive Parent Award

To celebrate National Adoption Month this year, Governor Walker and the Department of Children and Families (DCF) are honoring the contributions of adoptive parents throughout Wisconsin.

It is my great honor to congratulate Steve and Denise Leitzinger on being selected to receive the 2011 Governor's Outstanding Adoptive Parent Award. Steve and Denise were chosen because of their extraordinary commitment to their adoptive children. They provide a loving, caring, supportive environment for their children, and their commitment to our State's adoption program is an inspiration.

Steve and Denise will be honored at the 2011 Governor's Outstanding Adoptive Parent Award ceremony, on Tuesday, November 8th at 2pm at the State Capitol in the Assembly Chambers in Madison. They will be joined by First Lady Tonette Walker and other dignitaries.

Congratulations to both Steve and Denise on being recipients of this award.

- Melissa Wirtz, Social Worker

Welcome to the New LCHS Economic Support Specialist...

JENNY WASLEY-RILEY

Hi my name is Jenny Wasley-Riley and I am the new Economic Support Specialist. I started working at Lafayette County Human Services at the end of September this year. Previously I worked for the Lafayette County District Attorney as the Victim/Witness Coordinator for the last 4 years.

I grew up in Mineral Point and then attended the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. I have a Bachelors Degree in Criminal Justice and a minor in Sociology. I have been married to my husband, Ryan for 8 years and we have 3 sons, Tarrin (7), Taitin (5) and Trigg (1 ½). I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, being outside and reading. I am excited to start this totally new venture and to get to know everyone here.

- Jenny Wasley-Riley, Economic Support Specialist



SBIRT and Leadership

On September 28, 2011, I submitted a training proposal for training regarding SBIRT (Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral to Treatment). SBIRT is an evidence-based, cost-saving, and Medicaid (MA) reimbursable service. Although SBIRT is a non-crisis service, Crisis programs (DHS-34, sub III) are allowed to deliver SBIRT to Medicaid recipients and obtain MA reimbursement for staff who complete required training.

SBIRT is an evidence-based and cost-saving approach which addresses risky alcohol use and illicit drug use. Many people engaged in risky or problem substance use can be helped by SBIRT. The service often identifies and effectively addresses risky behaviors before the problem gets worse.

On October 24, 2011, I learned that our training proposal was accepted and we will be sending 4 staff to this training!

On October 10, 2011, I was able to attend a conference where the theme was leadership for transformation in times of turbulence. The LEAN Government conference presented a variety of conversation and presentation for attendees to learn how to begin thinking and acting out the LEAN tools. These tools help one to consider how our services and processes would benefit from analyzing our systems. Particularly, as we look to improve program areas, we will be better able to use performance data and efficiency tools to support our improvements!

- Shane Schuhmacher, Director

Director's Comments

Over the past couple of months, I have been presented with some obstacles – obstacles ranging from communication breakdown, confusion about a rule and lack of knowledge about a subject to feelings of frustration and helplessness. And, some time ago I saw a cartoon of a dog straining at its leash, barking ferociously at a cat, as if to say, "Just lemme at 'em." The cat wasn't too shabby – actually looked mean – and was at least as big as the dog. All of a sudden in the middle of a ferocious bark, the leash snapped so the dog was free to go after the cat. The dog looked astonished; scared to death. He quickly grabbed the leash, ran back and tied a triple knot. Then, he could again safely strain at the leash and bark his fiery, "Just lemme at 'em."

Every story of an obstacle has a shadow story of aspiration. The obstacle contains yet conceals the aspiration. What you seek is camouflaged in what you fear. I started to realize and reflect (thank you David Krueger) on how the secret hiding in the open is that an obstacle is like a reminder for the aspiration, that is, it reminds you of what you want, but makes it safe to want if you're afraid.

When viewing a scene in a film (you may have done this recently – Happy Halloween) you don't want to see, you cover your face with your hands as if to say, "No, I don't want to look." But then that strong feeling creeps in and you peek through your fingers at what you're drawn to see. The obstacle makes looking acceptable. Sometimes we need an obstacle to free up that strong feeling of wanting to have something or wishing for something to happen.

Pay attention to the obstacles that you construct, especially, to both your spoken language and your internal language. Worry simply holds onto things, as a form of storage. When you find yourself focusing on an obstacle ("I can't find time to exercise", "I can't put away any savings"), reflect on the underlying aspiration or desire.

When you're ready to consider that you create the obstacle, you're also ready to consider the possibility of not creating it.

- Shane Schuhmacher, Director

Emergency Detention and Diversion Update

Recently, Shane Schuhmacher, Brenda Poss, Kris Fleming, and Jean McElhane attended the 15th Annual Crisis Intervention Conference in Wisconsin Dells. The conference content confirmed how our Agency is on the right track (along with other private and public agencies) with our Diversion Program procedures & plans, the issues we face, and the progress we've made.

Simply put, an Emergency Detention occurs when someone presents an imminent and serious danger to the safety to self or others. An emergency detention begins with a 72 hour placement at a mental health facility. Initially, the Boscobel Psychiatric Unit was our primary resource for ED placements. Boscobel closed in 2006. In response to the closure the Agency began using Mendota Mental Health Facility as our primary ED placement resource. In 2009 Mendota was no longer available. Lafayette County then began using Winnebago Mental Health Institute as our primary provider. Long transports, dwindling resources, reduced bed availability in the facilities, and rising costs of care quickly became prompts to many Counties to develop alternative responses and resources to emergency detentions.

The purpose of the Diversion Program is to efficiently keep consumers safe in a short term, least restrictive setting. Once a consumer is diverted, stabilization and ongoing safety planning can be accomplished by system stakeholders utilizing formal and informal community supports. Ensuring consumer safety is the driving force behind every plan.

Another important note – to be eligible for a diversion, the consumer must be willing to cooperate with service providers and to participate in services. If a person is agreeable to participating, the chances of success rise. The benefit to the community based approach to services becomes clear:

- Providing mental health assistance with potential emergency detention assessment
- Selecting the best disposition/care option from available alternatives
- Sharing information (HIPAA compliant), responsibility, and liability
- Saving officer time overall, i.e., less travel, court time, etc.
- Gaining mutual understanding and acceptance through cross training and working more closely together
- Saving precious resources - time, money, and energy - to be used more efficiently
- Reducing the number of emergency detentions (ED's)

Update regarding the ongoing development of our Diversion Program.....

Beyond family and friend support to assist with services. Tellurian and 3 family group homes have been recruited to provide diversion placement services. These resources have been assigned ratings for the levels of care they can provide. A Level 3 Diversion resource has 24 hour staff, first line of sight with the consumer, frequent face to face contact with the clients, and daily contact by an Agency Worker. A Level 2 rating is 24 hour awake staff, first line of sight not required, frequent client contact, and daily contact by an Agency Worker. And Level 1 is 24 hour staff, first line of sight not required, daily assessment for discharge readiness & short stays.

Forms, assessment tools, and protocols have been developed. This information and trainings have been provided (and are available) to Agency workers, Law Enforcement, and Hospital staff. Also, there have been a number of meetings to develop a diversion bed at the Lafayette County Memorial Hospital. Despite the nervousness around doing business in such a different manner than what was previously practiced, most have been receptive to the diversion alternative and in the best interest of the consumer, are willing to explore diversion options.

On call staff has been phenomenal about taking this information and implementing it. We have had a number of successful diversions just this year. Through June of 2011, 9 adults and 2 children had been diverted. A nice side effect is the cost to the Agency & ultimately to the consumer is reduced. This information was stated at a recent board meeting "If the people involved had gone to Winnebago, the costs would have been approximately \$106,590 rather than the \$21,700 it did cost." These cost savings have been realized while maintaining or increasing service from our Human Service Department to the people of Lafayette County. Win-Win for all involved!

- Brenda Poss

A Look At Our Employees...

MELISSA WIRTZ

I grew up in rural Argyle, and went on to attend college completing my Bachelor's Degree in Psychology with a Concentration in Human Services at Edgewood College. While in college I began working part-time for Walden Homes at Sojourn House, a group home for juvenile delinquents. My Social Work Internship was completed at the Mental Health Center of Dane County through their Community Support Program, Cornerstone. In addition, nights and weekends were occupied by waitressing to offset living expenses. After receiving my Bachelor's degree in May 2002, I accepted a full-time position at Sojourn House as an overnight counselor. In the fall of 2003, I began the Community Counseling Master's program at UW-Whitewater. After a year of continuing both the group home position and waitressing as well as attending a master's program I decided it was time for a break. I then relocated to Ocala, Florida in September 2004. There I worked for an agency contracted by the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice. In this position I completed substance abuse and mental health assessments on juvenile delinquents. After starting a family the decision was made to return to native Wisconsin. I began working at Lafayette County Human Services in December 2008 as a case manager in the Family Services Unit. My primary caseload is with children in need of protection or services. I truly enjoy working with families and being an advocate for children.



I live with my husband and our six year old daughter in rural Argyle. Our family has been trying to make the best of county living in rural Wisconsin. This includes attempts at raising chickens. In my spare time, I enjoy spending time with my family, baking, sightseeing and traveling, especially back to Florida. Of course, I am still working on the weekends at a local restaurant. I am also the youth group leader for my church.

- Melissa Wirtz, Social Worker

LCHS Calendar

November 2011

- 4 *Happy 20th Anniversary to Janet George!*
- 11 Closed for Veteran's Day!**
- 13 *Happy Birthday Shane!*
- 14 LCHS Board Meeting, 6:15 PM**
- 16 All Agency Meeting, 11:00 AM**
- 21 *Happy Birthday Dana!*
- 24 Closed for Thanksgiving!**
- 25 Closed for Thanksgiving!**

December 2011

- 6 *Happy 1st Anniversary Shane!*
- 9 *Happy 3rd Anniversary Lauren!*
- 12 LCHS Board Meeting, 6:15 PM**
- 17 *Happy 3rd Anniversary Melissa!*
- 21 All Agency Meeting, 11:00 AM**
- 23 Closed for Christmas Eve!**
- 26 Closed for Christmas!**
- 30 Closed for New Year!**
- 31 *Happy Birthday Dr. Beech!*

January 2012

- 2 Closed for New Year!**
- 6 *Happy 19th Anniversary Kate!*
- 9 LCHS Board Meeting, 6:15 PM**
- 10 *Happy Birthday Kate!*
- 11 *Happy Birthday Susie!*
- 18 All Agency Meeting, 11:00 AM**
- 21 *Happy 14th Anniversary Mel!*
- 27 *Happy Birthday Bobby!*
- 28 *Happy Birthday Kristine!*
- 30 *Happy 15th Anniversary Brad!*
- 31 *Happy 1st Anniversary Jean!*

February 2012

- 7 *Happy Birthday Missy!*
- 8 *Happy Birthday Brenda!*
- 10 *Happy 18th Anniversary Kristine!*
- 11 *Happy Valentines Day!*
- 13 LCHS Board Meeting, 6:15 PM**
- 15 All Agency Meeting, 11:00 AM**
- 18 *Happy Birthday Tammy!*
- 28 *Happy 11th Anniversary Kris!*

HOLIDAY - Word Search

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| CANDLES | CANDY CANES |
| COLD | CRANBERRIES |
| DECEMBER | DECORATIONS |
| FIREPLACE | GINGERBREAD |
| ICICLE | MISTLETOE |
| NOVEMBER | PRESENTS |
| PUMPKIN PIE | SLEIGH BELLS |
| STOCKINGS | STUFFING |
| THANKSGIVING | TINSEL |
| TRAVEL | TREES |
| VACATION | WINTER |



Recipe - Easy Fettuccine Alfredo - Joy McQuaid

Prep time: 15 minutes

- ½ Stick Salted, Sweet Cream Butter
- 8 oz. Cream Cheese (room temperature)
- 1 Cup Heavy Cream
- ½ Cups Shredded Romano Cheese
- 1 Cup Shredded Parmesan Cheese
- 1 tsp. Crushed Garlic
- ½ to 1 Cups Milk
- Dash of Pepper
- Dash of garlic powder
- *Optional – Add Grilled Chicken, Shrimp, Crab, Chopped Green Onion

Boil fettuccine noodles according to box instructions. Your sauce will be finished by the time the noodles are done cooking. In a large/deep skillet, melt butter slowly with crushed garlic. Add Cream Cheese, and slowly melt into butter. Pour in Heavy Cream and add Parmesan & Romano cheeses stirring constantly. When the cheeses are melted, your mixture should have a thick “fondue” type consistency. Slowly add milk. This will thin your mixture and help keep it from “setting up”. You can add more milk if you would like a thinner sauce. Add pepper and garlic powder. Top with chopped Green Onion (optional). Serve immediately over noodles. For a heartier version, add grilled chicken, shrimp, or crab meat.

The Voice of Lafayette County Human Services

LCHS Management

Shane Schuhmacher, Director
 Janet George, Support Unit Manager
 Kate Chambers, ADRC & Economic Support Supervisor
 Brenda Poss, Family Services Unit Manager
 Christine Kelly, Behavioral Health Services Unit Manager
 Kristine Brunkow, Executive Secretary

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