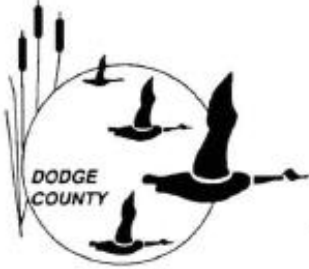


HUMAN SERVICES AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT 2022 ANNUAL REPORT





HUMAN SERVICES & HEALTH DEPARTMENT

199 COUNTY ROAD DF • JUNEAU, WISCONSIN 53039-9512

920-386-3500

Becky Bell, Director

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& AGING PROGRAM
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TRANSPORTATION
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& SUPPORTIVE HOME CARE
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◆ ALCOHOL & DRUG ABUSE
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◆ CHILD WELFARE &
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◆ COMMUNITY SUPPORT
PROGRAM & COMPREHENSIVE
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◆ ECONOMIC SUPPORT
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◆ MENTAL HEALTH
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◆ PUBLIC HEALTH
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FAX: (920) 386-4011

Honorable Dodge County Board of Supervisors
Dave Frohling, Chairman
Juneau, Wisconsin 53039

February 14, 2023

Dear Chairman Frohling and Members of the County Board,

I am pleased to present the 2022 Annual Report. This report provides general information on each of the programs within the Department. You will also find an organizational chart to assist in understanding the structure of the Department. I believe the County Board can take pride in knowing that the Human Services and Health Department offers services which are cost-effective and meet the needs of the residents of Dodge County. Human Services continues to see high costs in child welfare placements including group homes, RCCs, and foster care. Involuntary mental health placements at Winnebago Mental Health Institute (WMHI) continue to come at a high cost to Dodge County. These factors have caused significant impact to our budget and we believe these challenges will continue in future years. The Department ended the year with a surplus due to WIMCR reimbursement received.

I would like to extend my gratitude to Cameron Clapper, County Administrator and the County Board of Supervisors for extending me the opportunity to lead an excellent group of professionals in carrying out the Department's mission. Additionally, I would like to extend gratitude to Alyssa Schultz, Sheila Drays, Angela Petruske, as well as the entire supervisory staff, for their expertise in guiding staff to provide the best services possible.

Sincerely,

Becky Bell, Director
Human Services and Health Department

Human Services And Health Board

County Board Members

Jenifer Hedrick, Chair
Lisa Derr
David Guckenberger
Steve Kauffeld
Marilyn Klobuchar
Jody Steger

Citizen Members

Jennifer Keyes, Secretary
David Godshall
Mary Rosecky

Department Administration

Rebecca Bell, Human Services and Health Department Director
Dr. Royle Eenigenburg, Clinical Director, Psychiatrist
Angela Petruske, Fiscal and Support Services Division Manager
Sheila Drays, Community Support Services Division Manager
Alyssa Schultz, Clinical and Family Services Division Manager

**All Programs and Services are Located in the
Henry Dodge Office Building
199 County Road DF
Juneau, Wisconsin 53039
920-386-3500**

www.co.dodge.wi.gov

Ground Floor:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| ♦Administration | 920-386-3501 |
| Fax | 920-386-4011 |
| ♦Public Health and WIC Program | 920-386-3670 |
| Fax | 920-386-4011 |

Second Floor:

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| ♦Child & Adolescent Services | 920-386-3750 |
| Fax | 920-386-3533 |
| ♦Adult Protective Services and
Long Term Support | 920-386-3750 |
| Fax | 920-386-3245 |
| ♦Economic Support Services | 920-386-3760 |
| Fax | 920-386-4012 |

Third Floor:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| ♦Aging and Disability Resource Center | 920-386-3580 |
| Toll Free | 800-924-6407 |
| Fax | 920-386-4015 |
| ♦Transportation Services | 920-386-3832 |
| Toll Free | 800-924-6407 |
| Fax | 920-386-4015 |
| ♦AODA and Mental Health Services | 920-386-4094 |
| Fax | 920-386-3812 |

Table of Contents

Organizational Chart.....	6
Fiscal and Support Services Division	
Introduction.....	7
2022 Expenditures.....	9
Annual Fiscal Comparison.....	10
Community Support Services Division	
Introduction.....	11
Aging and Disability Resource Center/Aging.....	13
Aging, Transportation, and Nutrition Programs.....	14
Adult Protective Services/Long Term Support.....	16
Economic Support.....	19
Public Health.....	22
Clinical and Family Services Division	
Introduction.....	34
Outpatient Mental Health	35
Crisis Services.....	37
Community Based Programs	39
Child Protective Services Intake	42
Child Protective Services Ongoing.....	45
Child and Adolescent Services	47
Court Services Programs	
Impaired Driving Court (IDC) & Drug Treatment Court (DTC)...	50

Dodge County Board of Supervisors

Human Services and Health Board



FISCAL AND SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION

Fiscal & Support Services Division Angela Petruske, Division Manager

Audit Compliance Officer

Vacant

Medical Records Clerk

B. Justmann

Accounting Technician

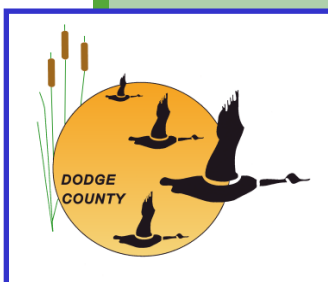
F. Bruyette
Vacant

Medical Billing Specialist

L. Baumgartner
C. Bunker
S. Nelson
K. Twardokus

Fiscal Assistant

C. Begovatz
J. Schmidt
A. Zastrow



FISCAL & SUPPORT

The Fiscal and Support Services Division provides financial and clerical support for the Human Services and Health Department. The Division consists of twelve employees.

The conscientious and efficient performance of dedicated fiscal and support staff is key to the Department's ability to: (1) create and maintain orderly files including electronic files; (2) accurately record and process billings; (3) answer, manage and route inquiries to appropriate personnel; (4) enhance customer satisfaction with prompt, courteous and professional interaction; (5) provide assistance with administration of health clinics and many other services; (6) process and account for financial transactions; (7) monitor budget and contracts and (8) meet complex and detailed reporting needs for the state as well as other agencies.

Fiscal and support staff utilize a number of State systems in daily operations with many of these being web based applications. These systems are upgraded on a regular basis and are an integral piece in tracking financial and statistical information.

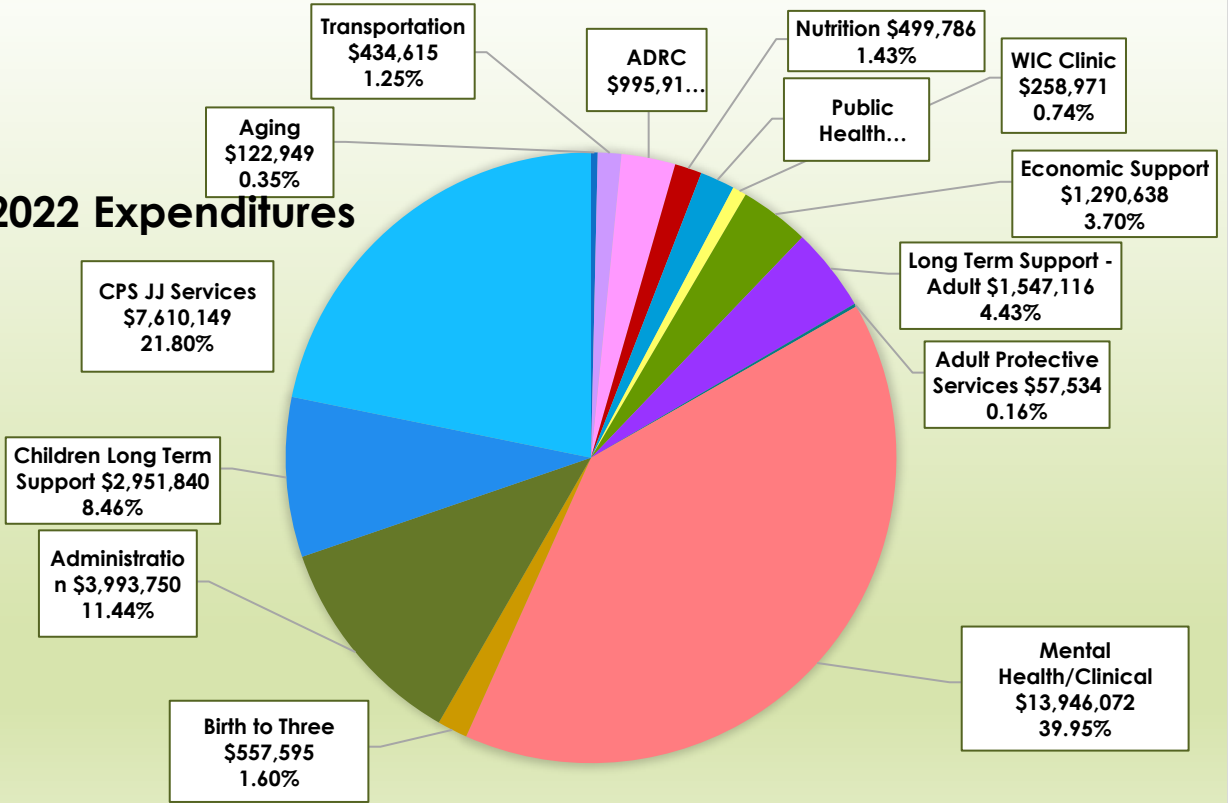
- CARES – Economic Support Database
- eWiSACWIS – Child Welfare Database
- State Data Warehouse – Human Services Reporting
- SAMS – Aging and Nutrition Database
- CARS – Community Aids Reporting System
- Forward Health – Medicaid Program billing and reports
- SPARC – Department of Children and Families Reporting system
- PPS – Program Participation System

The Department will end the year with a surplus due to a WIMCR reimbursement. The Department is over budget in the following programs mental health CBRF, mental health institutions, child institutions, foster care administrative fees, and foster care.

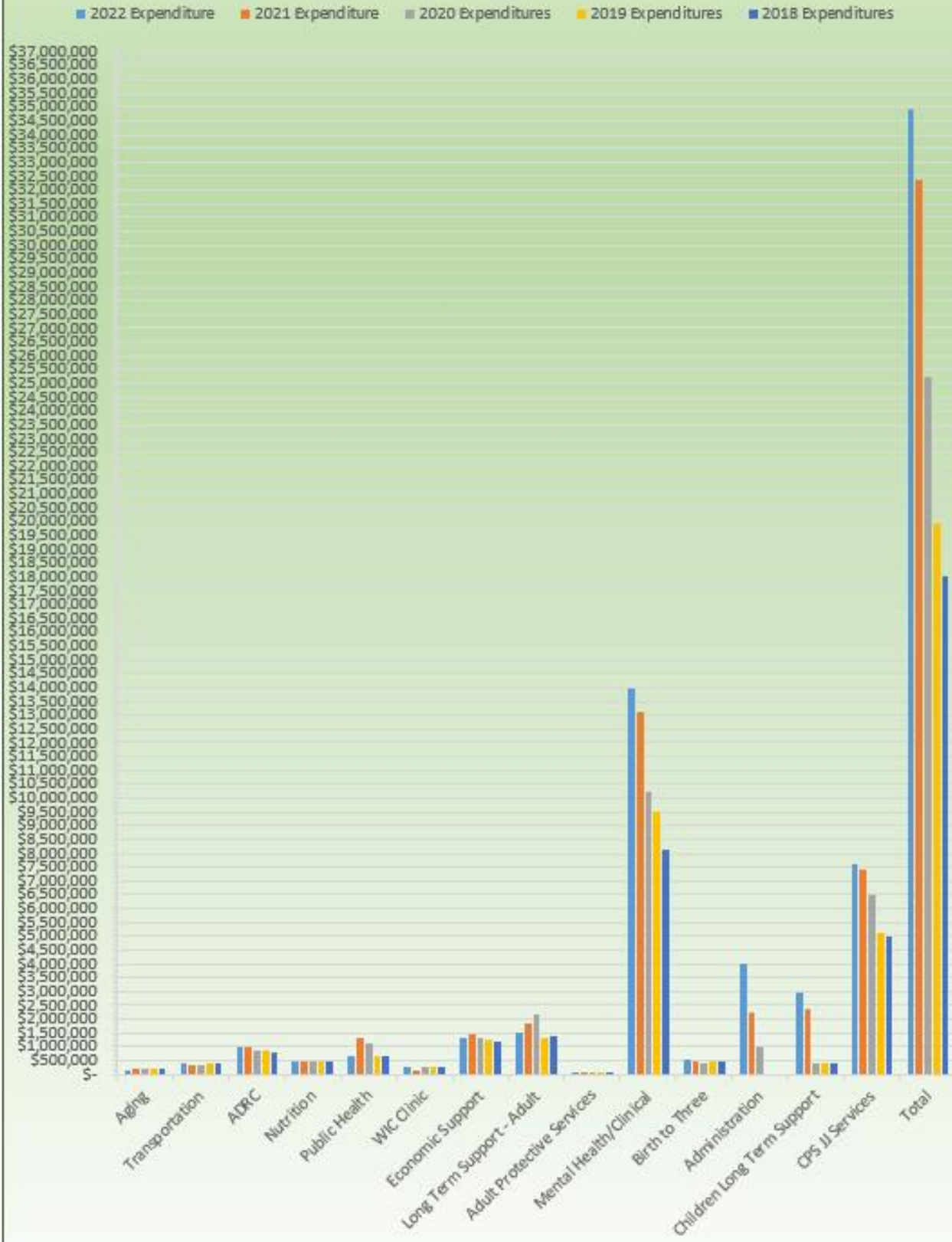
The Fiscal and Support Division seeks to provide excellent customer service to our internal and external customers and meet the complex needs of the populations served.

**Angela Petruske, Division Manager
Fiscal and Support Services
920-386-3504**

2022 Expenditures



Expenditure Comparison



COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION

The Community Support Services Division's goal is to provide essential services and resources to Dodge County residents. In meeting this goal Division staff support individuals with oversight and supervision in personal care such as, dressing, bathing, grooming, housekeeping, and shopping. The Division staff also provide services such as access to BadgerCare, Medicaid, FoodShare, Child Care, transportation, nutrition, immunizations, health education, and prenatal care. Providing these services and resources, the Division strengthens Dodge County by treating its residents with respect and dignity while helping them maintain their health and welfare in the community.

In 2022 as Division staff continued to provide these services and resources to support and maintain Dodge County residents, they also were trying to recover from the altered and increased workload associated with the Covid-19 pandemic. This pandemic transformed the way we do work and led to increased, more complex cases. Staff in the Community Support Services Division realize that how they did their job in the past has greatly been altered by the pandemic and is unlikely to return to what it was before the pandemic. Programs were changed, policies were changed, and Dodge County residents were greatly impacted.

The Community Support Services Division staff would like to thank Becky Bell, Jim Mielke, Cameron Clapper, the Human Services & Health Board, and the full County Board for their continued support as we navigate through some uncharted waters, trying to rebound from the COVID pandemic and the affects it has had on our staff and the work we do. It is greatly appreciated.

**Sheila Drays, Division Manager
Community Support Services
920-386-3767**

COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION

Sheila Drays, Division Manager

Aging & Disability Resource Center	Aging Services, Nutrition & Transportation	Adult Protective Services & Long Term	Economic Support Services	Economic Support Services	Public Health Services
Brittany Borchardt, Supervisor	Jackie DeLaRosa, Supervisor	Paula Becker, Supervisor	Amy Beranek, Supervisor	Renee Lyman, Supervisor	Roman Mullen, Supervisor
D. Coulter J. Eberhardt H. Ehrlich J. Farmer L. Gerritson R. Griesel A. Higgins K. Holland J. Krueger C. McCallum K. Pieper A. Sanborn V. Zimmerman	W. Benedon K. Braunschweig E. DeBlare E. Feuerhammer D. Grosenick J. Johnson J. Leitner G. Maier D. Pasewald H. Rohlinger F. Roethle 7 Dining Center Mgrs	E. Bussian A. Drumm M. Evans S. Gutschmidt E. Schmitz C. Wiersma	S. Bahls A Erkander M. Fitzgerald L. Hoffman M. Reinwald Y. Salazar C. Schultz K. Wegner C. Zwieg	K. Bleecker E. Falcon J. Guerrero D. Hohmann H. Nunez M. Sassamon N. Whitaker A. Williams N. Wissell	M. Bartol A. Crossley C. Fissell B. Gehring-Schultz K. Greenwald M. Meyer R. Plonsky M. Puga L. Rooney J. Schmidt A. Young 12 LTE Contact Tracers
Commission on Aging & Disability Services	Nutrition & Transportation Advisory Committees	Adults-At-Risk Interdisciplinary Team Committee			

Ground Floor, Customer Service Support Specialist,
Kim Gillen

Ground Floor, Customer Service Support Specialist,
Courtney Villwock



Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)

The Aging and Disability Resource Center in Dodge County is an agency within Human Services that provides an array of different programs and resources to help individuals maintain their independence in the home safely and comfortably. Aging and Disability Resource Centers are “information stations” where individuals can obtain accurate, unbiased information related to aging or living with a disability. Some of the many services offered by the ADRC include counseling on options to meet immediate or future care needs, advocacy to cut through problems with benefit programs, health insurance, housing or consumer issues, educational events for the community on dementia, support for caregivers and health promotion classes to support healthy aging.

As COVID rates decreased, the focus of the ADRC in 2022 was to transition services back to pre-pandemic methods. Although the State continued to implement modified regulations, we found that the majority of our consumers preferred in-person, face to face contact. With that being said, we have relied heavily on our client-focused values and continue to meet the consumer wherever and however they feel most comfortable. We have learned to adapt to the changing circumstances and provide support in our office, the consumer’s home, over the phone or via computer. Our in-office visits are starting to align with pre-pandemic numbers and our overall call volume in 2022 has exceeded pre-pandemic levels.

We continue to offer support groups virtually as well as in-person. The Dementia Care Specialist worked with community partners to host a Lewy Body Dementia conference, which was attended by nearly 100 community members interested in learning more about dementia. New this year was the Beautiful Expressions Art Exhibit which featured artwork, created by individuals with dementia held at the Dodge County Center for the Arts.

We have transitioned all of our health promotion programs back to in-person classes and have seen tremendous participation. We were presented with the opportunity to collaborate with some of our community partners to expand class offerings. Staff received training to become a certified Strong Bodies class facilitator. The ADRC was one of 10 agencies in the state to be awarded grant funding through Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging (WIHA) to help support implementing this new program and purchasing equipment, with the goal of hosting our first class in spring of 2023.

The Benefit Specialists fielded over 300 referrals for assistance with things like health insurance and income benefits, with 194 of those being new consumers. The assistance provided by our Benefit Specialists in 2022 resulted in a total monetary impact for Dodge County consumers of \$2,686,250.00!

The ADRC works under the premise of a three year, state guided and reviewed Aging Plan. This plan was reviewed and revised as COVID guidelines changed. We continue to move into the New Year with this plan as our guiding principle.

**Brittany Borchardt, Supervisor
Aging and Disability Resource Center
920-386-3582**

Aging, Transportation, and Nutrition Programs

Dodge County's Senior Nutrition Program

In 2022, the volunteers and staff involved in the Senior Nutrition Program strived to continue meeting the social, nutritional, and overall wellness needs of older adults. With efforts to protect our most vulnerable population, most of the Senior Nutrition Program's congregate meal sites remained closed this year. Dodge County's congregate dining site located at the Watermark in Beaver Dam resumed in-house dining on July 11, 2022. Many of our participants have returned and we have also welcomed so many new faces! Home Delivered Meals continued to be provided and pick-up meals remained popular throughout the county. This year, 39,228 meals were provided to seniors and eligible individuals with disabilities.

The Senior Farmer's Market Voucher program served 219 senior households this past summer. Participants are able to receive a voucher that can be redeemed for fresh fruit and vegetables at eligible Farmer's Markets. This program helps support the nutritional needs of seniors while also providing a financial supplement to our local farmers.

Despite the programmatic challenges surrounding COVID-19 and the emerging variants, our volunteers worked diligently to ensure that meals were delivered to program participants. In 2022, our total volunteer hours were 4,091.



Dodge County's Transportation Program

In 2022, Dodge County's Transportation Program worked diligently to continue to provide essential medical rides. With the restrictions and challenges during the pandemic, our primary focus was transporting individuals to appointments for kidney dialysis, chemotherapy, and radiation. Eventually we were able to offer rides for other categories such as employment and socialization. Volunteer and paid drivers provided 8,006 rides for Senior's and Dodge County residents. Our volunteer drivers alone, drove 163,079 miles and contributed 6,940 hours providing rides!

In November, through Wisconsin Department of Transportation's self-procurement process, we added a brand new side-load minivan to the fleet. The new vehicle was from our 2021 awarded grant.

Without the dedication and hard work of our volunteers, essential programs such as Senior Nutrition and Transportation, would be impossible to administer. To show our appreciation, we had a fantastic volunteer recognition dinner at Old Hickory Golf Club in April. Over 100 were in attendance and we were so honored to be able to spend the evening with such an amazing group of volunteers. Thank you to all of our volunteers for serving the needs of Dodge County residents!



**Jackie DeLaRosa, Supervisor
Aging, Nutrition, and Transportation
920-386-3583**

Adult Protective Services and Long Term Support (APS/LTS)

The goals of the Adult Protective Services and Long Term Support Unit is to: effectively respond to the needs of older adults and adults with disabilities who are victims of abuse, neglect, self-neglect, and financial exploitation; to prevent abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation whenever possible, to promote safety and independence, and to assist individuals to remain living independently within the least restrictive environment, and to prevent, or at least delay institutionalized care for as long as possible. The APS/LTS unit has five Social Workers and one Home and Financial Advisor. The APS/LTS unit provides six primary areas of services to Dodge County residents.

The first area, which is often where the Adult Protective Services Social Workers spend most of their time, is conducting allegations of abuse, neglect, and/or exploitation. Types of investigations that APS social workers respond to include, self-neglect, neglect by others, physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, treatment without consent, unreasonable confinement or restraint, and financial exploitation. Statutorily the Adult Protective Services Unit provides investigations for two categories of individuals. The first category is “elder adult at risk,” which is any individual “age 60 or older who has experienced, is currently experiencing, or is at risk of experiencing abuse, neglect, self-neglect or financial exploitation.” § 46.90(1)(br). The second category, “adult at risk,” is any individual age 18 to 59 “who has a physical or mental condition that substantially impairs his or her ability to care for his or her needs, who has experienced, is currently experiencing, or is at risk of experiencing abuse, neglect, self-neglect, or financial exploitation.” § 55.01(1e). These investigations must begin within 24 hours of receipt, not counting weekends and holidays.

The majority of investigations include individuals who are frail elder, seriously and persistently mentally ill, physically disabled, intellectually disabled, have a neurocognitive disorder, or other like incapacities and are in imminent danger of losing their life, liberty, health or property, through abuse and/or exploitation of them by others, or through their own inability to care for themselves resulting in abuse or neglect. The APS/LTS unit works diligently to balance the goals of protecting individuals from abuse, exploitation, and neglect while respecting the individual’s right to self-determination. The APS/LTS unit often works closely with a wide variety of collaborative partners such as physicians, nurses, paramedics, and law enforcement. The APS/LTS unit assesses each individual’s situation and needs, then develops a case plan to maintain his/her safety, health, and independence.

The APS unit is also responsible for petitioning for guardianship of individuals with intellectual disabilities and who reach the age of majority (18). The unit also petitions the court for guardianships of all other adults who become incompetent related to a degenerative brain/neurocognitive disorder, developmental/intellectual disability, serious and persistent mental illness, and other like incapacities and are unable to make their own decisions, as certified by a licensed physician or psychologist. These referrals usually involve numerous attorneys and court hearings and are coordinated with the Dodge County Corporation Counsel’s Office. In addition, the APS unit is also responsible for petitioning the court for Protective Services, Protective Placements, Emergency Protective Placements, Protective Services Order for Involuntary Administration of Psychotropic Medication, and at times Individual at Risk Restraining Orders.

The remaining three areas are covered under Community Long Term Support are supportive services and include: Supportive Home Care, Case Management, and Home & Financial Advisor Services.

All of the above services are provided only if an individual is not eligible for Family Care program services or during the course of an investigation to provide safety and stability until long term services can be put into place. Supportive Home Care services include light housekeeping, grocery shopping, and assistance with personal cares. These cases are monitored by the unit's social workers to determine continued eligibility for the program.

The unit's Home & Financial Advisor provides a variety of services to our adult population. These services include bill paying, assisting clients with budgeting and becoming better financial managers, meal planning, grocery shopping, teaching meal preparation, teaching and promoting healthy hygiene habits, assistance with obtaining energy assistance, housing options, medical assistance applications, scheduling medical appointments, and any other services that help individuals maintain the highest level of independence and to remain living in the least restrictive setting possible.

2022 Unit Accomplishments & Trends

Interdisciplinary Team - In 2022, the Adult Protective Services Unit once again received Elder Abuse Funding through the Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources, Inc. (GWAAR) in the amount of \$32,199. These funds are to be used on services including, but not limited to, advocacy/legal services, community based aids/services, adult day programming/treatment, emergency response services, medical services, service coordination, placement, respite, staff training, transportation, and victim services. In order to receive this funding, an Elder Abuse/Adults at Risk, Interdisciplinary Team (I-Team) needs to be formed and meet at least four times per year and all reports of abuse and neglect that are investigated are entered into the Wisconsin Incident Tracking System (WITS). The purpose of this team is to provide education and resources for elder and adult at risk abuse. Furthermore, the I-Team reviews Adult Protective Services cases that need or could benefit from an interdisciplinary perspective and approach. The I-Team also discusses systems issues and other areas that team members feel can be improved and then looks for ways to approach and improve those systems. In 2022, the I-team met on February 15th, May 17th, August 16th, and November 15th.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day/Community Education - Every year, June 15th is a date set aside to recognize and focus on our aging population and the problem and prevalence of elder abuse. Our APS unit works throughout the year to provide education to the community regarding elder abuse and abuse of adults with disabilities. Our APS/LTS participated in Senior Solutions Radio show and spoke about Adult Protective Services, which aired in January of 2022. On February 21, 2022, our APS/LTS unit did a presentation regarding Adult Protective Services with staff members from the Mayville Savings Bank. On September 8, 2022, the Dodge County APS/LTS unit partnered with the ADRC of Dodge County, the Beaver Dam Community and Senior Center and sponsored a Common Scams & Frauds Targeting Seniors presented by the Bureau of Consumer Protection within the WI Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection. On October 18, 2022, APS/LTS Unit partnered with the Mayville Savings Bank and sponsored a financial abuse and common scams and fraud presentation at the Tag Center with both APS and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture and Trade Consumer Protection sharing education and information.

Dementia Crisis Response & Stabilization: The Adult Protective Services Unit continued to support and coordinate our Dementia Stabilization Teams and response.

Depending upon the crisis and service needs these teams often consisted of, or a combination of, APS Social Workers, Crisis Workers, Dementia Care Specialist, Caregiver Coordinator, Supportive Home Care staff from Christian Family Solutions, Holders of Hope, and/or Visiting Angels, and a licensed psychiatrist or psychologist. When stabilization in place could not be accomplished we worked with many community partners for placement such as, but not limited to, Clearview, Northview Heights, Marshfield Medical Center Beaver Dame, Marvin's Manor, and The Larson House.

APS On-Call: The APS unit began an on-call system in April of 2022 to consult with Northwest Connections when APS related issues arose after-hours. The APS social workers rotate being on-call weekly from Friday afternoon to the following Friday morning. Our APS unit spent 15 hours on after-hour calls from April through December.

2022 Trends

In 2022, the APS/LTS unit received and responded to 406 referrals of allegations of abuse and or neglect of Adults at Risk or Elder Adults at Risk, Supportive Home Care, outreach, and Guardianships/Protective Placements/Protective Services. The majority of these, 327, being abuse and neglect referrals. There was a slight decrease from 2021 referrals responded to (411). The APS until has continued to have a high caseload size. The average caseload size in 2022 was 302.

As in previous years, the majority of APS referrals were related to self-neglect, financial exploitation, and neglect by caregivers. Approximately 45 percent of the investigations responded to were for self-neglect, 20 percent were financial exploitation, 20 percent were neglect by others, and the remaining 15 percent were physical, emotional, and sexual abuse. Often with financial exploitation other forms of abuse were also co-occurring. It continues to be the goal of Adult Protective Services unit to protect the elderly and vulnerable adults from abuse, neglect, self-neglect, or financial exploitation by investigating and providing and arranging for quality services to stop and prevent further harm while respecting their right to self-determination and helping individuals to remain living in the least restrictive environment to best meet their needs.

**Paula Becker, Supervisor
Adult Protective Services and Long Term Support
920-386-3717**

Economic Support (ES)

Unit Overview:

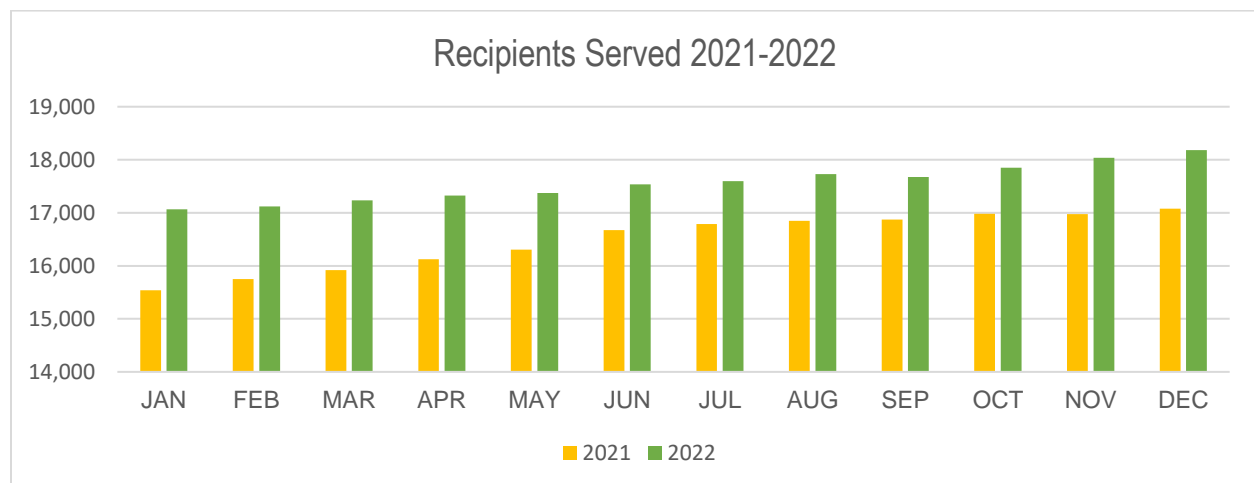
The Economic Support Unit, in partnership with Adams, Columbia, Dane, Juneau, Richland, Sauk, and Sheboygan counties (Capital Consortium), provides assistance to those experiencing financial hardship within our service area.

Economic Support staff determine eligibility and provide ongoing case management services for the following public assistance programs:

Wisconsin Shares Child Care, FoodShare, Medicaid Programs, Caretaker Supplement, and Elderly, Blind, or Disabled Medicaid Programs. The ES Unit also regulates certified child care providers (individuals who provide in-home care for 1 to 3 children) within Dodge County.

2022 Snapshot:

Capital Consortium staff managed approximately 111,000 active cases in 2022. Approximately 10,015 of those cases reside in Dodge County. Our ES team served an average of 17,500 Dodge County residents.



Program Integrity Highlights:

In an ongoing effort to maintain Program Integrity, Economic Support continues to process overpayments, as well as pursue Intentional Program Violations (IPV's) and prosecution in conjunction with the Sheriff's and District Attorney's (DA) Offices. The year-end total amount of overpayments submitted was \$142,634, with paid incentives totaling \$19,453. Incentive payments for the county are calculated at 15% of the paid amount that were determined to be client-error overpayments. They can be payments received from new or outstanding claims. Additionally, fourteen (14) IPV's, included one (1) that was referred to the DA's Office for criminal prosecution.

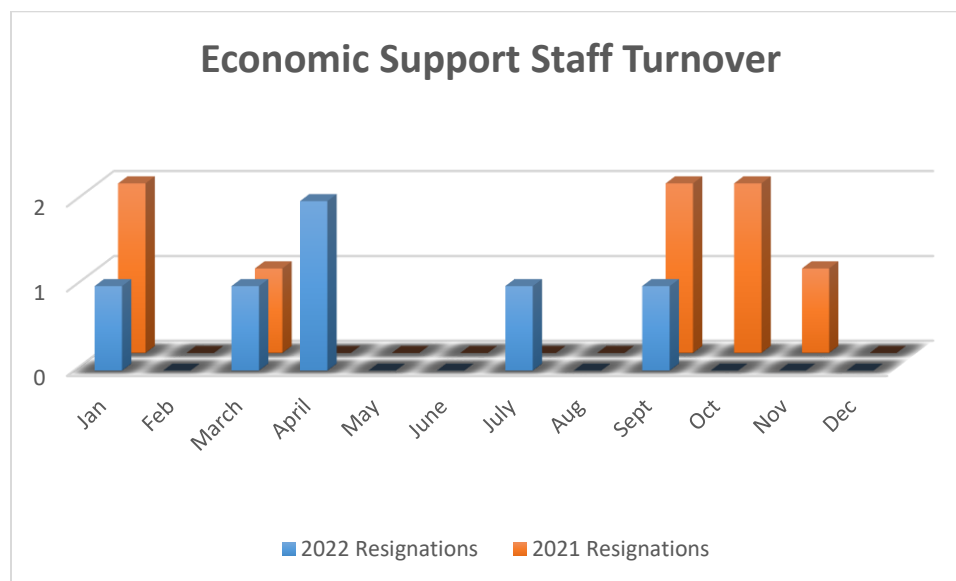
Staffing:

The Dodge County Economic Support staff is managed by Division Manager, Sheila Drays and Supervisors, Amy Beranek and Renee Lyman, and includes:

- Twelve (12) Economic Support Specialists (ESS),
- Two (2) ESS Leads,
- Two (2) Economic Support Assistants,
- One (1) Overpayment/Fraud Specialist
- One (1) Customer Support Specialist

Staffing levels remained in flux in 2022. With a 40% turn-over rate, much effort went into hiring, training and remaining competitive with our surrounding counties. The training program for new ESS is quite intensive and takes approximately 5 months to complete. With a change in the Department of Health Services (DHS) New Worker Training (NWT) curriculum mid-year, our Supervisors and Leads faced many challenges with redeveloping our internal training procedures that is meant to supplement the state's NWT program.

Upon hire, new ESS engage in onboarding as well as pre-requisite training prior to beginning their Cohort with DHS. During the Cohort, workers are introduced to Income Maintenance systems and programs. Leads conduct training opportunities, or labs, to give hands-on experience throughout the Cohort. After the six (6) week Cohort, ESS work very closely with Leads to put their new-found knowledge into practice. Leads are dedicated to hands-on training two (2) days per week during the Cohort. Starting week 7, Leads develop training plans and coordinate with their assigned Consortia duties to support new staff in learning every aspect of their job. By their 6-month orientation, new ESS are expected to be fully engaged in call center and case management activities. Fully trained ESS spend about 75% of their time on the call center. The remaining 25% of their time is spent managing their assigned caseloads, an average of 770 cases each.



The Economic Support Unit remains committed to providing excellent customer service to individuals and families in need throughout Dodge County and the Capital Consortium service area. We are also dedicated to serving our taxpayers by making accurate eligibility determinations for our Income Maintenance programs.

Amy Beranek – (920) 386-3955
Renee Lyman – (920) 386-4825
Human Services Supervisors - Economic Support

PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

MISSION, VISION, AND VALUES

Our **mission** as the Dodge County Human Services & Health Department – Public Health Unit is to promote healthy living, prevent disease and illness, and protect Dodge County residents from injury and environmental hazards by utilizing prevention services, health education, stakeholder collaboration, and coordination with our neighboring government agencies.

Our **vision** is to improve health outcomes and the quality of life by promoting healthy living and providing greater access to health services for all residents of Dodge County.

Our **values** are:

Education – we aim to keep our residents informed.

Credibility – we strive for integrity and honesty in all that we do.

Professionalism – we take our work seriously, and provide a nonjudgmental approach to our work.

Service – we deliver exceptional programs and resources to the public by maintaining a well-educated, highly- skilled workforce.

Respect – we treat all people with respect, compassion, and sensitivity, while recognizing the importance of diversity.

COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH PANDEMIC

While COVID-19 continues to impact our citizens in Dodge County, our public health approach to the pandemic has shifted in 2022. The Dodge County Public Health Unit continues to receive positive COVID-19 test results through the Wisconsin surveillance database. Weekly COVID-19 community levels and community transmission rates are monitored by our public health staff. Due to less restrictive guidance measures recommended by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, we were able to end our COVID-19 contact tracing in April 2022. The Beaver Dam Community COVID-19 Test Site, operated by Curative with support from Dodge County Public Health and Marshfield Medical Center Beaver Dam, closed in July 2022. Testing is still available at local pharmacies and free home test kits are available through the Wisconsin state entities. COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters continue to be available at pharmacies and doctors' offices throughout Dodge County.

Influenza, COVID-19, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) are all highly contagious respiratory infections caused by viruses. In the fall of 2022, we have seen a triple-rise in COVID-19, RSV and influenza cases. It is possible for a person to be infected with multiple viruses at the same time resulting in serious complications and increasing hospitalizations, especially in children. Public health continues to monitor these cases and encourages annual influenza vaccinations to help prevent severe illness.

PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

The Dodge County Public Health Unit programs focus on prevention efforts and improving the health of the community. We provide many mandated services including the control of communicable disease, investigating and resolving human health hazards, health promotion programming, education outreach, and chronic disease prevention efforts. Many programs were adversely affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic, this was in part due to safety measures put in place limiting in-person services and the need for the Public Health unit to shift its focus to the pandemic.

Dodge County Public Health Unit divides its programs and services into four categories:

- 1) Programs for Children: fluoride varnish, infant/child home visits, and blood lead screening.
- 2) Programs for Children and Families: birth packets, car seat inspections/distributions, Cribs for Kids, and First Breath.
- 3) Programs for Women: pregnancy tests, Prenatal Care Coordination, Women Infant Children (WIC) program, and Breastfeeding Peer Support.
- 4) Programs for All Residents: communicable disease, environmental health services, health education, immunizations, public health preparedness, screenings [TB skin tests, blood pressure, vision and hearing], and sharps disposal program.

Programs for Children

- **Fluoride varnish program:** Tooth decay is the most common chronic disease of childhood. Dental caries can affect children's growth, lead to difficulty concentrating during the learning process, and cause significant pain and infection. Access problems, due to socioeconomic disparity, present a high risk for tooth decay. The Dodge County Public Health Unit has four components to its fluoride varnish program: 1) oral screening, 2) anticipatory guidance, 3) fluoride varnish application, and 4) referral to dentists. This program is offered to children who are at risk for dental caries and are also on Medical Assistance, participates in the WIC program, or is enrolled in any school in Wisconsin. In 2022, six children received fluoride varnish services. This was down from 16 applications in 2020. Previously, our program participants were from WIC families. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we saw a large decrease in numbers; WIC families were not required to be seen in-person and were able to utilize a virtual option. Post-pandemic, with new staff and training opportunities, we plan to grow this program in 2023 and later years to reach these high-risk families to provide this important service.
- **Infant-child home visits:** Our infant-child home visits are also known as the TalkReadPlay program. Our target population is birth to three. During these visits we focus on the child's intellectual, language, social, and physical development by using the Parents as Teachers curriculum. Our intent is to promote education to the family and identify any early child developmental delays. We use ASQ-3 and ASQ-2 screening tools to help the family and parents' educator identify any delays in communication, fine motor, large motor, personal-social, and problem-solving skills that the infant may be behind in. At these visits, the nurse is also able to measure the height and weight of the infant, reassure families that their child is developing appropriately, and teach them how to promote their child's learning. We can then refer and update providers along the way. Finally, during these visits, the nurse assists and answers any questions the parents may have regarding breastfeeding. So far, in 2022, we have conducted 111 TalkReadPlay home visits.
- **Lead program:** Lead based paint and varnish exists in many of the Dodge County homes built before 1978. Lead is a toxin, and there is no safe level of lead in the human body. Lead exposure is especially dangerous for children and adolescents. An acute-lead exposure is enough to cause permanent brain damage and negatively affect health throughout a child's life; especially those who are between the ages of one and six years old. To identify exposure levels, children are screened using a capillary sample (finger-stick). Once elevated blood-lead levels are confirmed, a public health nurse monitors the condition of the child by taking a venous sample (blood sample) every three months.

- With continued elevated blood-lead levels, public health nurses will conduct an at-home lead assessment to determine if the living conditions within the family's home are contributing the measured lead levels in the child's blood. In severe cases, the child will be removed from the home until the lead conditions can be remediated. In 2022, 21 elevated lead levels were reported, which resulted in five home visits by either a public health nurse and/or a lead hazard investigator.

Programs for Children and Families

- **Birth Packets:** Dodge County Public Health receives birth reports on newborns born in Dodge County. These reports reflect how the pregnancy was overall, how labor and delivery went, and social-economic factors that could affect the family's life in the future. These reports are utilized to send birth packets to these families, which consist of brochures and information on how public health can benefit their family such as; water kit sampling, car seat safety, our home visiting programs, and a milestone hand out. Each birth report is reviewed by a public health nurse to identify if these families are high risk (possible financial problems, complicated pregnancy or delivery, and lack of support). If they are high risk, the family will not only receive a birth packet, but also receive a call and/or text from a public health nurse to specifically discuss the TalkReadPlay program (described above), offer breastfeeding assistance (if applicable), discuss other areas of assistance that could benefit them, and provide a chance for the family to ask any questions. In 2021, we sent 620 birth packets. So far in 2022, we've sent 486 birth packets.
- **Car seat program:** Currently, two of our staff members are trained as Child Passenger Safety Technicians (CPST). The CPSTs provide education on the proper use of car seats, booster seats, and seat belts to help save lives and prevent injuries and death of children. Properly installed car seats decrease the risk of a fatal injury by 71% among infants and 54% among toddlers. As part of the service we offer, our CPSTs will conduct car seat inspections for families that request one. During these inspections, technicians check the expiration, history, recalls and installation on the installed car seats/boosters. Additionally, our CPST provided Child Protective Services (CPS) with car seat training so families, in coordination with CPS, can safely choose and install car seats/boosters. Funding has been received in the past from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to purchase car seats that can be dispensed to families in need that meet specific eligibility criteria. The Public Health Unit has applied for this grant again to purchase additional car seats and boosters beginning in 2023. One of our future goals is to have additional staff trained as CPSTs to be even more proactive in car seat safety. We collaborate with other CPSTs in the area including Dodge County Sheriff's Department, Juneau EMS, and Jefferson County Public Health. If there is enough trained staff, in 2023, we plan to host a Dodge County car seat event(s) where we can offer car seats/boosters to those who are eligible; this event would be a great opportunity to educate on public health safety. We would like to grow this program over the next few years to get back to pre-COVID-19 pandemic numbers. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the lack of in-person services, our number of services conducted for this program has dropped. Secondly, our Public Health Unit has lost three trained CPSTs and a Public Health Officer within the past year.

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Car Seat Inspections	105	14	25	4
Car Seats Distributed	88	21	18	8

- Cribs for Kids:** As a Cribs for Kids® partner, we provide education and Pack N Play cribs to families to prevent infant sleep-related deaths. During home visits with families, videos, handouts, and questionnaires are used to educate parents and caregivers on the importance of safe sleep for their babies. Pack N Play cribs are purchased with grants or donations from local organizations. In 2022, 13 families were provided with safe sleep guidance and a new crib, an increase from 10 in 2021.
- First Breath:** First Breath is a referral program to connect expecting mothers, mothers who recently gave birth within the last 6 months, and primary caretakers of a child with resources to support them in reducing and eliminating their use of tobacco products. Since July 2022, this program merged with My Baby and Me, which also allows First Breath to help those mentioned above to reduce and eliminate their use of alcohol and drugs. If one would accept this service, a First Breath Health Educator would reach out to the participant by offering high intensity support, low intensity support, caregiver/family support, and long-term engagement to help them make a change to their tobacco, alcohol, and substance use. Due to the merger of My Baby and Me and First Breath, and our focus slowly transitioning away from the COVID-19 pandemic, we only had 2 referrals in 2022. Statewide in 2021, 862 pregnant, postpartum, and caregiving individuals were referred to the First Breath program, which led to zero infant exposure to tobacco smoke in 82% of the referrals. We plan on introducing the referral program to the other departments within Dodge County Human and Health Services to increase the knowledge of this program to others and to refer more individuals who may be interested.
- Water Test Kits:** More than two-thirds of Wisconsin residents use groundwater as their drinking water source and more than 40% of residents rely on a private well. Contamination of private wells occurs all throughout Wisconsin. Safe, clean water is the most essential resource for healthy communities. We rely on clean water for drinking, cooking, bathing and cleaning. Municipal water systems test their water regularly to ensure it is safe, but it is up to private well owners to test their own well water. Dodge County Public Health, with support from the State Department of Health Services, helps private well owners by distributing well water test kits to families with children under the age of six and pregnant women, of whom are among the most vulnerable groups if exposed to contaminated water. Dodge County Public Health is committed to 1) encourage regular well water testing, 2) ensure a confirmation sample has been taken if levels are high, 3) provide advice about appropriate water use, and 4) recommend actions to reduce exposure if levels are high. In 2022, 26 kits were given to families, and 10 follow-up sessions were conducted with subsequent education.
- Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC):** WIC is a supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children. The program helps income eligible pregnant and breastfeeding women, women who have had a baby within the previous six months, infants, and children up to five years of age who are at health risk due to inadequate nutrition. The purpose of WIC is to promote and maintain the health and well-being of its participants by providing education about access to a healthy diet, and by providing participants referrals to other assistance programs, public health programs, and healthcare providers.

In 2022, the average monthly WIC enrollment in Dodge County was 784; this is comparable to 2021, which had an average enrollment of 789.

In 2022, Dodge County WIC maintained modifications to the program, such as remote services, based on guidance from the federal and state WIC offices. Additional modifications were made to WIC services based on federal and state WIC guidance related to the infant formula recall and infant formula shortages starting in February 2022. WIC participants continue to receive updates and guidance on remote participation in the program, formula brand and size substitutions, and additional outreach and recruitment from the state WIC office and local WIC staff. Wisconsin WIC also partners with Medicaid and local providers for WIC recruitment, via a referral system.

In response to federal guidelines and a USDA waiver of the physical presence requirement for WIC participants, families were able to participate in WIC nutrition support and education services while abiding by social distancing recommendations. The waiver is currently in place through July 2023. Remote services have also helped to remove barriers, such as transportation, lost wages from leaving work to come to WIC, etc. Due to these benefits, the Federal and State WIC offices are working on revising WIC policies to provide a more permanent option of remote services, offering online and curbside grocery ordering for WIC foods, and streamlining access to anthropometrics measured by providers at well child checks and prenatal visits. We look forward to seeing these changes improve WIC services for our community in the coming year.

Each summer, the WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) is available for eligible participants from June 1st to October 31st. Each eligible participant was able to receive \$30 of vouchers to purchase local fruits, herbs, and vegetables from WIC-approved farmers. The WIC FMNP program encourages participants to shop locally for produce, while increasing their access to fruits and vegetables. In 2022, Dodge County WIC families spent \$5,114 at local farmers' markets and farm stands. This was a 34% redemption rate, similar to the 35% redemption in 2021. Some obstacles that WIC families face with redeeming their FMNP vouchers include transportation challenges, loss or theft of vouchers, and schedule conflicts, such as work. Despite these obstacles, participants express excitement about these vouchers each year. The FMNP program is mutually beneficial to our local farmers and local families.

Dodge County WIC consistently receives glowing feedback from its participants via a State-designed survey available through the Wisconsin MyWIC app. A few notes from participants throughout 2022:

- "I enjoy doing the online lessons. Very informative and like that you can pick which ones are best for you."
- "Definitely recommend this WIC office to everyone. Couldn't be happier with the customer service and help the employees give."
- "How much I appreciate the WIC program, as a single mom trying to go through school and work this is going to help me a million. So thank you!"

Moving forward into 2023, many changes to the WIC program are anticipated at the federal, state, and local levels. Some of the policy changes being considered include:

- More permanent remote options for WIC participants with barriers to coming into clinics
- Extension of WIC eligibility (postpartum mothers for up to 2 years, children up to age 6 years, etc.)

- Increased flexibility in foods covered by WIC to align with updated nutrition recommendations and accommodate dietary restrictions and cultural preferences, as well as increased value to WIC food packages.
- Ability for families to redeem WIC benefits via online ordering and curbside pick-up
- Troubleshooting within the FMNP program to make receiving and redeem Farmers Market vouchers easier for eligible participants

Programs for Women:

- **Pregnancy Tests:** Dodge County Public Health Unit provides confidential pregnancy testing for women. Upon results of the test, the public health nurse then provides proof of pregnancy and can connect women to support resources and proper prenatal care. Zero pregnancy tests were done in 2022, this was a decrease from three in 2021.
- **Prenatal Care Coordination (PNCC):** Prenatal care coordination is also known as Health Beginning+. This consist of a nurse doing monthly home visits to those that are pregnant to provide them the support and services they need in order to have a healthy baby. During these visits, we provide extra education on fetal development, information about labor and delivery, breastfeeding, and things to expect. These topics are just a few of many educational materials we can discuss during a home visit, these visits are very open to what the family will benefit from/want to learn about. During these visits, we identify possible pregnancy/newborn outcome risk factors before delivery, and we collaborate with their providers if needed. So far in 2022, we have completed 36 Healthy Beginning+ home visits, which is up from one in 2021. Since we have an established relationship with the family before delivery, the family is more open to the idea of TalkReadPlay home visits moving forward.
- **Breastfeeding Program:** Breastfeeding not only provides the best nutrition for newborns, but it also saves the family money during these difficult times. Three of the public health nurses earned their Certified Lactation Specialist certificate (CLS) in September and October. With this training, we will conduct home visits to those breastfeeding in the community who need extra help with breastfeeding. We also hope to help create breastfeeding support groups within the county. Currently the county offers breastfeeding services to only those who are breastfeeding on WIC. Since the training, we have assisted with two breastfeeding support home visits. We plan to add an insert to the birth packets to allow the community to learn about the service we started to offer.

Dodge County WIC promotes and supports breastfeeding through our active breastfeeding program. Research shows there is no better nutrition than breast milk for our first year of life. Breastfeeding provides health, nutrition, economic, and emotional benefits to both mom and baby. This year, Dodge County WIC and Public Health continued its partnership with the Jefferson-Dodge Breastfeeding Coalition to support the local breastfeeding community. The WIC program also looks forward to the additional breastfeeding support that will be offered to families from the newly CLS-certified public health nurses. Expanding breastfeeding resources in the community will improve maternal and infant health outcomes as well as aid families through the continuing formula shortage and inflated formula prices we have seen throughout 2022.

Every pregnant and breastfeeding mother who enrolls in Dodge County WIC has access to our breastfeeding peer counselor, as well as our Certified Lactation Counselor (CLC). Our breastfeeding peer counselor is a mom with experience in breastfeeding, who can provide support and mentorship to other moms on their breastfeeding journey. The WIC CLC provides additional education and support for more complex breastfeeding issues or barriers that may arise. The breastfeeding peer and CLC provide telephone contacts, office visits, and home visits as needed to participating mothers.

Breastfeeding incidence rates of Dodge County WIC participants consistently exceed the state average year after year, as do the rates for breastfeeding duration to 1 month, 3 months, 6 months, and 12 months. These rates also exceed the state’s breastfeeding goals for duration to 1 month and 3 months. In 2022, the American Academy of Pediatrics adopted the World Health Organization’s recommendations for breastfeeding, which is 6 months of exclusive breastfeeding and continued breastfeeding to 24 months of age or beyond.

Breastfeeding Incidence and Duration 2021					
	Incidence	1 month	3 months	6 months	12 months
Dodge County WIC 2022	88.4%	89.2%	76.5%	57.8%	25.6%
Dodge County WIC 2021	79.9%	84.4%	75.3%	51.3%	30.5%
Wisconsin WIC 2022	74.4%	76.9%	58.2%	36.9%	17.7%

The largest decrease in breastfeeding rates occurs between 3 and 6 months. This may be related to most mothers having to return to work after 2 to 3 months of maternity leave, which can be a barrier for continued breastfeeding. This is an area that the Dodge County WIC Breastfeeding Coordinator plans to partner with Public Health CLS staff and the Jefferson-Dodge Breastfeeding Coalition in 2023 for, with hopes of identifying barriers to breastfeeding and increasing awareness of the Break Time for Nursing Mothers Provision of the Fair Labor Standards Act, supporting the development of breastfeeding-friendly employers, and implementing the changes to breast pump access through WIC. The new program for breast pumps provided by WIC was designed by the State Breastfeeding Coordinator, and will roll out in early 2023, making the process more flexible and efficient for mothers participating in the WIC program.

Programs for All Residents:

- **Environmental Health Services:** The Dodge County Public Health Unit deals with a wide variety of environmental issues that arise within the county. Calls include nuisance complaints, housing issues, and water quality issues. Public health staff provide resources and education to individuals with a wide variety of environmental health issues. In 2022, public health followed up on 30 environmental calls; this was a decrease from 37 cases in 2021.

Our new Emergency Preparedness Coordinator has updated the way we track environmental complaints to ensure that data is being submitted and tracked more accurately.

This new tracking method will ensure that all complaints received by our office are being documented and will give us a better understanding of the type and number of complaints being received and handled. We anticipate the number of recorded complaints to go up in the coming years due to the implementation of this tracking method.

Currently in 2022, we have received two recorded complaints against restaurants for mold and improper handling of food. One of the establishments went out of business, the other is a fast-food restaurant in the county.

- **Radon test kits:** Radon is a cancer-causing, radioactive gas that we can't smell or taste. It can get into any type of building, new or old, including our homes, offices and schools where we breathe it in. Radon is second only to smoking as a cause for lung cancer. Testing is the only way to know if you are at risk of exposure to radon. The Public Health Unit receives free radon test kits from the Watertown Radon Information Center to dispense to our Dodge County residents. Testing is easy and free. If radon is detected, there are ways to lower the level to acceptable standards. To date in 2022, the Dodge County Public Health Unit distributed 67 kits to our residents. Looking forward to 2023, the Public Health Unit plans to collaborate with the Watertown Radon Information Center to increase the number of test kits distributed to the community.
- **Health Education:** As of April 2022, Dodge County Public Health has a Community Health Educator staff person. This position is responsible for performing work involving planning, coordinating, assessing and implementing public health programs. These programs may include communicable and chronic disease, nutrition, health promotion, and other health and wellness topics. The Community Health Educator has had a large role in Dodge County's Community Health Assessment as well as the Community Health Improvement Plan. This allows Dodge County to have a better understanding of our greatest needs in order to provide educational programs/resources to meet those needs. Our Community Health Educator has also provided 14 one-hour sessions on Teen Health Substance Abuse Prevention to over 100 local 6th graders. Additionally, they coordinated a Drug Impairment Training for Education Professionals to 26 attendees from the community. Health Education was also provided during local community events, such as fairs, where our Community Health Educator coordinated a "Safety" Theme to fair attendees, mainly children. Health education is also readily available on our social media platforms which are run by our Community Health Educator. Other Dodge County Public Health staff participated in 14 health education events thus far in 2022.
- **Communicable Disease Program:** Communicable disease reports are tracked through an electronic reporting system linking the local, regional, and state public health officials with private physicians, hospitals, and laboratories. This allows the Public Health Unit to conduct prompt follow-up with affected individuals, as well as investigations of possible outbreaks to minimize further spread of disease. Public Health staff educate individuals about illnesses and encourage or ensure treatment (if needed). Steps are continually taken to control and reduce the spread of disease. Telephone calls, letters, and/or face-to-face contacts are used to gather and distribute information. In 2022, Dodge County Public health followed up on 10,017 cases of communicable disease.

Based on the continued high rates of sexually transmitted infections (STI) in Dodge County and poor accessibility for affordable testing in this area, in the upcoming year the Public Health Unit would like to expand testing capabilities with the use of home STI testing kits.

STIs are a burden to the healthcare system both in cost and resources. By having affordable testing available we can improve equity of care, help prevent the spread of STIs and reduce the long-term effects on an individual's health.

- **HIV Partner Services:** This program provides counseling and referrals for individuals with HIV; staff assist with medical resources, notifications, and testing of sexual and needle sharing partners. This is a comprehensive public health strategy for reducing the spread of HIV. Two partner services cases were evaluated by Dodge County Public Health Unit staff in 2022. Testing numbers were decreased due to the COVID pandemic and PS rates were affected as a result. We hope to increase outreach for this program within the coming years.
- **Rabies control program:** As a public health unit, we provide follow-ups for all known animal bites and potential exposures. If a domestic animal has bitten a patron, the animal will be placed under quarantine by either the Dodge County Sheriff or local Police Department, a veterinary service, or our public health team. During an animal's quarantine, the animal must be visited three times by a licensed veterinarian to analyze the animal for potential symptoms of rabies. The patron who was bitten, can coordinate with their doctor and our public health team to determine if a series of rabies vaccinations is appropriate, which is very circumstantial. If the owner of the domesticated animal does not wish to quarantine the animal, then the animal must be euthanized and tested for rabies at the Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene. These measures are taken to prevent fatal cases of human rabies; after the onset of symptoms, rabies is nearly 100% fatal. In 2022, 127 animal bites/exposures were reported to our public health team, and 27 rabies specimens were submitted to the Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene, all of which yielded negative results for rabies.
- **Tuberculosis (TB) program:** Dodge County Public Health provides education, case management, and medications (through the state TB Program), to prevent and control infection and disease caused by tuberculosis bacteria. Anti-tuberculosis therapy is provided to persons with tuberculosis (latent) infection, suspect or confirmed tuberculosis (active) disease, and close contacts of a person with active tuberculosis. In 2022, we provided case management for one active TB disease case, who was incarcerated at Dodge Correctional Institution (DCI). Isolation, medications, sputum collection, etc., were handled by DCI health staff. Our role in this case was to coordinate with the Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene for testing, connecting with the correctional facilities, public health departments, and the state TB program for contact tracing. In 2022, Dodge County Public Health followed up on 19 latent TB infections. Three of these received directly observed medication therapy weekly for 12 weeks and case management through the Public Health Unit.

Top Reporting Disease - Dodge County Public Health Jurisdiction	2019	2020	2021	2022
Sexually transmitted Infections (STI)				
Chlamydia Trachomatis Infection	204	135	195	153
Gonorrhea	14	27	33	13
Food/Water Borne Illness				
Campylobacteriosis	20	11	18	21
Cryptosporidiosis	10	10	8	10
E-coli, Shiga Toxin-Producing (STEC)	9	3	12	4
Giardiasis	3	8	4	5
Salmonellosis	17	17	17	14
Vaccine Preventable (Except Hep C)				
Influenza-associated Hospitalization	43	37	1	57
Hepatitis A	0	0	1	1
Hepatitis B	1	5	2	9
Hepatitis C	31	30	36	16
Pertussis (Whooping Cough)	9	0	1	0
Varicella (Chickenpox)	3	1	2	2
Other				
Lyme Disease (B.Burgdorfer)	16	17	8	6
Carbon Monoxide Poisoning	16	28	13	25
Legionellosis	2	3	2	1
Tuberculosis Disease - Active	0	2	1	1
Tuberculosis Infection - Latent	18	13	18	22
Coronavirus, Novel 2019 (COVID-19) *newly reportable in 2020	*	8,868	9,062	9,508

- Public Health Emergency Preparedness:** The Dodge County Public Health unit continues to create or modify plans, coordinate trainings and exercise, and obtain resources to develop, coordinate, and disseminate information, alerts, warnings, and notifications to the public and incident management responders using a whole community approach. We continue to be a member of the South-Central Wisconsin Healthcare Emergency Readiness Coalition (SCWIHERC) and attended all virtual membership meetings in 2022.

In September of 2022, we hired a new Emergency Preparedness (EP) Coordinator. This position is a state mandated position that is 100% grant funded. Since starting in his new role, our EP coordinator has reinstated the Family Assistance Support Team (FAST), which is response team responsible for helping individuals obtain the basic services needed to thrive when disasters occur.

The EP Coordinator plans to hold a FAST Team deployment exercise, engage our community partners, and work on several emergency preparedness initiatives to benefit the citizens of Dodge County in 2023. We have also secured grant funding to begin work on a project to ultimately train all county employees in CPR and AED use.

- **Health Screenings:** Dodge County Public Health provides various health screenings to residents, such as TB skin tests, blood pressure, and vision and hearing tests. In 2022, 34 individuals participated in TB skin test screening, zero hearing screenings were conducted, and two vision screens were conducted.
- **Immunizations:** Immunization is one of the most important public health victories of the 20th century. Vaccines sharply reduce/eliminate diseases such as; smallpox, polio, measles, diphtheria, rubella, pertussis (whooping cough), etc. We vaccination rates drop, the presence and severity of these illnesses can increase and become a major public health threat.

In 2022, Dodge County gave 134 COVID-19 vaccinations, these numbers include collaboration with Dodge County Corrections. In 2023 DCPH will continue to work with DCI to vaccinate and control COVID-19 spread among inmates.

This year, 90 Dodge County employees and/or their spouses were vaccinated against influenza during our annual employee flu clinics. Additionally, 484 intranasal influenza vaccinations were given to Dodge County students during school vaccination clinics. This year, 16 schools around Dodge County participated in our student flu clinics, servicing ages 5-18. DCPH also assisted in the providing education and vaccination for the Monkeypox virus, competing 15 Monkeypox vaccinations for residents at risk. DCPH continues to vaccinate both children and adults who do not have insurance or are underinsured via the Vaccines for Children program (VFC), and the Vaccines for Adults program (VFA). In 2022, DCPH served a total of 756 immunization clients of all ages, giving 856 vaccines in total. These numbers a significant increase in comparison with pre COVID-19 numbers.

In 2023, our immunization program will continue with VFA and VFC. Immunization education modules and additional assistance will also be added to our PNCC and TalkReadPlay curriculums, as well as be added to all birth packets. We hope to continue building relationships with Dodge County schools, and plan on providing intranasal influenza vaccinations to children aged 2 and up in 2023. We also plan to offer Tdap vaccinations in schools with low numbers and low access to immunizations in 2023.

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Children 0 - 18				
Immunizations	395	313	1,071	609
Clients	238	258	735	519
Adults 19 +				
Immunizations	208	229	14,183	247
Clients	201	218	7,539	237
Total				
Immunizations	603	542	15,254	856
Clients	439	476	8,274	756

- **Sharps Disposal Program:** With our Sharps Disposal Program, we exchange full sharp containers with empty ones for a small fee of \$5.00. We then dispose of the full sharp's bins in a proper manner for the entity that is dropping them off. This program is utilized by both the community and our own department. Diabetes, vitamin deficiencies, and blood disorders are just a few diseases that could cause families to utilize sharps containers on a regular basis in order to stay healthy.
- In our department specifically, we dispose of our full sharp bins from vaccine clinics. This program allows the community to dispose of their sharps in a safe, convenient way. In 2022, we have received 55 full sharps containers thus far, and we've sold 26.

**Roman Mullen, Public Health Officer
Public Health and WIC Programs
920-386-3674**

CLINICAL AND FAMILY SERVICES DIVISION

The Clinical and Family Services Division of the Human Services and Health Department offers a wide variety of services to the children and families of Dodge County, including services for mental health counseling and psychiatry, alcohol and drug assessments and counseling, opioid-specific treatment services, crisis services, community-based case management programs, child protective services, foster parent licensing services, home and financial counseling, supervised visitation services, youth justice services, services to children with disabilities, restitution services, Birth-to-Three services, and independent living skills services. In 2022, this Division was comprised of six units with eighty-five (85) staff members, including sixty-seven (67) providers, four (4) psychiatric prescribers, four (4) nurse case managers, three (3) support staff, six (6) unit Supervisors, and one (1) Division Manager.

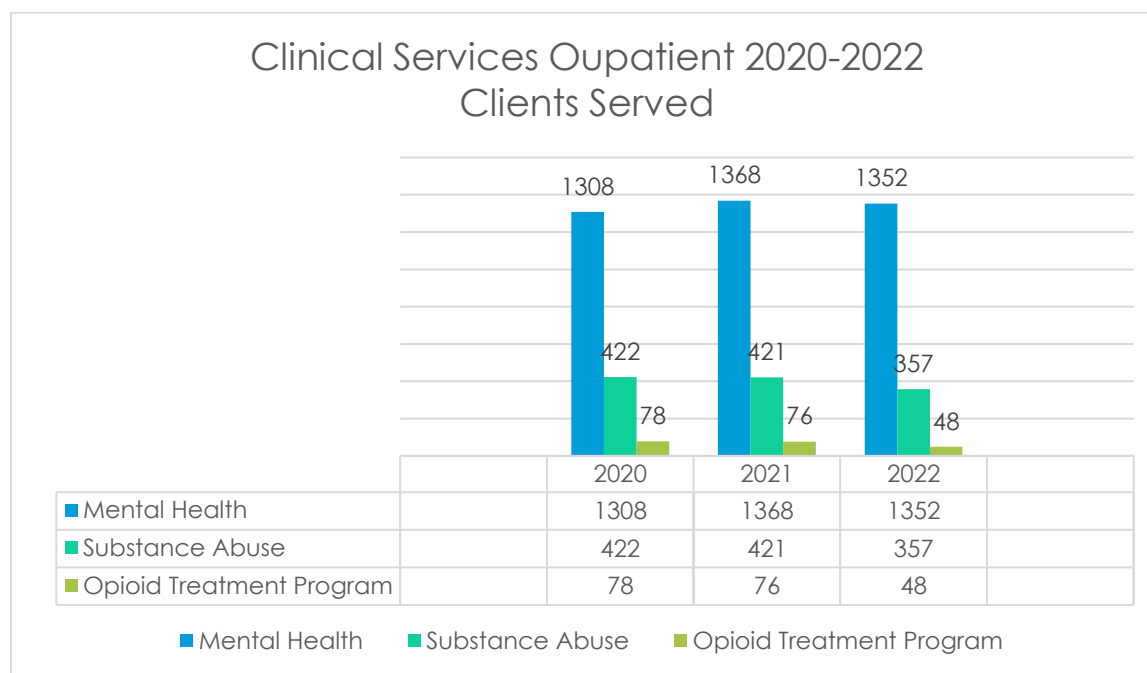
We continuously strive to maintain and improve the quality of services we provide to the residents of Dodge County, while adjusting to the increasingly complex needs of consumers and families, and the challenges of fiscal restraints and a changing economy. Throughout 2022, we have worked to strengthen the collaboration among units and with community partners built over the years. Now more than ever, we recognize the importance of building a team to support the children and families who are struggling in Dodge County during these unpredictable and difficult times. The staff members' dedication to serving the residents of Dodge County, their creativity, resilience, and willingness to keep looking for solutions and finding ways to meet needs, as well as their ongoing support for one another, is truly humbling and inspirational. I am grateful to serve them in the capacity of a manager. I also appreciate the guidance and support given by the Dodge County Board of Supervisors and the Human Services and Health Department Board, which allows us to fulfill our mission of providing high-quality services and supports to the residents of Dodge County. Throughout 2022, we continued to struggle to find appropriate and least-restrictive treatment and placement options for both children and adults in the face of decreasing resources statewide. Continued development of new resources, prevention, and early intervention programming remain our focal points. I am grateful for the high quality work and dedication that all employees demonstrate each day, as well as their professionalism. I look forward to seeing the continued positive direction this agency is moving towards, and proudly share their work with you in these next unit reports.

Alyssa Schultz, Division Manager
Clinical Services Division
920-386-3492

CLINICAL SERVICES UNIT

Dodge County Clinical Services Outpatient programming provides a wide range of treatment options for the residents of Dodge County. The Clinical Services Outpatient unit consists of mental health and substance abuse services. These combined programs are aimed at providing outpatient counseling, case management, and psychiatric services; as well as referrals to detoxification services, inpatient hospitalizations, residential treatment and partial hospitalization programs. Programming within Clinical Services is facilitated by the following providers: 1 Medical Director, 2 Nurse Practitioners (one employee, one contracted), 1 Contracted Child Psychiatrist, 4 Mental Health Therapists, 5 Dually Licensed Therapists, 1 Part-time Mental Health Therapist, 1 Substance Abuse Counselor, 1 Intoxicated Driver Program Assessor, and 2 Nurse Case Managers.

The Clinical Services unit continues to remain focused on providing counseling and psychiatric services to the residents of Dodge County. Clinical staff work in coordination with other Human Services units as well as community partners including local school districts, hospitals, law enforcement and other stakeholders, to provide necessary treatment interventions to maintain a consumer within the community safely. Such collaboration continues to be critical due to the chronicity of mental health and substance abuse issues encountered and barriers with resources faced at times within a rural community.



In 2022, Clinical Services focused on implementing evidenced-based practices to address the ongoing needs of consumers presenting with trauma-related disorders. Identified staff were trained in Seeking Safety and EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing Therapy). Both therapies are aimed at supporting consumers presenting with trauma, and EMDR specifically is one of two therapies recommended for the treatment of Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Expansion of EMDR trained therapists within Clinical Services is a goal for the upcoming year due to the ongoing chronicity of patients seen and the effectiveness of this therapy in treating a variety of mental health conditions.

Clinical Services also became a Narcan Direct Program Provider in 2022. Through the Department of Health Services State Opioid Response Grant, Clinical Services staff were trained as Narcan trainers and administrators.

With this training, staff can provide doses of Narcan free of charge to community members once those individuals are trained in how to administer Narcan. Staff also can administer Narcan to any consumer presenting with a life-threatening opioid overdose to reverse the overdose to save lives. Clinical Services continues to be a significant resource for Dodge County residents in meeting their substance abuse and mental health needs. Service delivery options included both in-person and telehealth treatment. Having flexibility in service delivery allowed consumers, who otherwise would not have received treatment if not physically present, to maintain critical treatment services. In 2022, 1352 consumers received outpatient mental health services, and 356 received substance abuse services.

The Clinical Services Unit also continues to operate the Opioid Treatment Center (OTC) Grant. The OTC program expanded consumer eligibility within the grant, allowing for the treatment of individuals with a stimulant use disorder. In 2022, 48 consumers received case management and substance abuse services through the Opioid Treatment Center. This grant continues provide capacity for more intense, wraparound services to individuals diagnosed with a stimulant or opioid use disorder. In 2022, the OTC program also partnered with the Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) Program, a community-based case management program within the Department, to provide a more extensive array of available array of support and services to these individuals. In summary, Clinical Services remains focused on providing the best care possible to consumers in Dodge County while simultaneously ensuring that programs are running effectively and efficiently with available resources.

**Sara Gaska, Supervisor
Clinical Services Outpatient
920-386-3490**

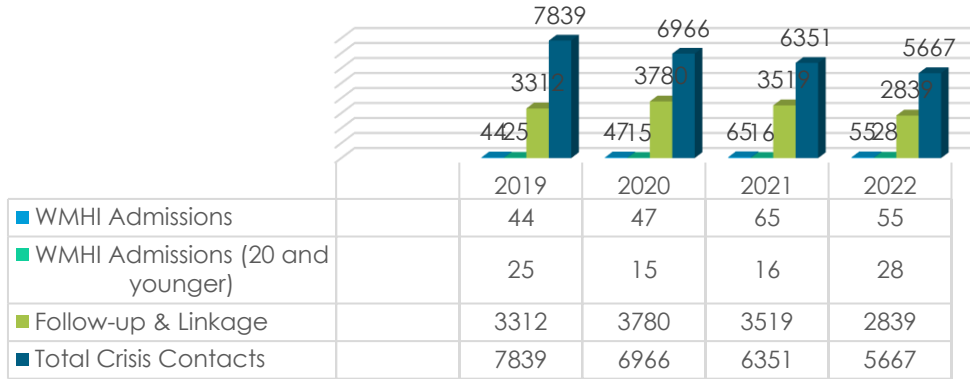
CRISIS SERVICES UNIT

Dodge County Crisis Services Unit continued to provide supportive crisis response services to the residents of Dodge County in 2022. The unit is composed of a Crisis Unit Supervisor and two Master's level Therapists serving as Crisis Response Workers. This team provides all crisis response services during normal business hours, whether individuals are reaching out by phone or in person, or calls are received through contact with collaterals such as law enforcement or hospitals. Crisis staff facilitate crisis intervention counseling, follow-up and linkage services, safety planning, hospitalizations, and emergency detentions as needed. Outside of normal business hours and on holidays and weekends, these same crisis services are provided under contract by staff from Northwest Connections, with follow-up of all contacts by Dodge County Staff and oversight provided by the Crisis Unit Supervisor.

Continuing a trend from 2021, the crisis unit again saw an overall decrease in the number of crisis contacts in 2022. While an exact reason for this is unknown, it is suspected that the nationwide rollout of the 3-digit National Suicide Prevention Hotline (988) could have had an impact, providing individuals with another option for reaching out in times of crisis. Similarly, the number of calls crisis made to follow-up with individuals following a crisis, or attempt to link them with additional services and supports decreased in 2022. In 2021, there were 3,519 follow-up and linkage contacts with 6,351 total crisis contacts; in 2022, there were 2,839 follow-up and linkage contacts with 5,667 total crisis contacts. One area where an increase in services occurred was with the youth population. The total number of crisis contacts with youth increased by 71% from 2021 with a total of 734 youth initial crisis contacts, which equates to 30% of the total initial crisis contacts. There was also a 76% increase in the number of emergency detentions for youth from 2021 (25 youth) to 2022 (44 youth). This is likely the result of a number of factors, including mental health struggles with returning to school full-time, interacting with peers/social media, and increased home stressors, etc.

Crisis staff continue to make it a priority to decrease utilization of Winnebago Mental Health Institute (WMHI) for involuntary admissions whenever possible, and contact in-network insurance providers prior to admission to WMHI. Staff were able to reduce the number of admissions at WMHI from 65 in 2021, to 55 in 2022. Ten consumers had a length of stay over 20 days in 2022, while one consumer had a length of stay of 146 days. Of the 55 WMHI admissions in 2022, four individuals (three youth and one adult) had multiple admissions over the course of the year. In 2021, 16 consumers admitted to WMHI were 20 years of age or younger, while in 2022, that number increased to 28.

Crisis Intervention Services and WMHI Admissions 2019-2022



■ WMHI Admissions				
■ WMHI Admissions (20 and younger)				
■ Follow-up & Linkage				
■ Total Crisis Contacts				

Overall, the crisis unit had a diversion rate of 87%. Diversion represents the number of crisis contacts that did not result in a hospitalization. This is an increase of 4% from 2021. This number will continue to be tracked as a way to measure relative success within the crisis unit. Continuing into 2023, it is a goal of the crisis unit to become more proactive and preventative within Dodge County. This includes regular contact and increased collaboration with community stakeholders (schools, law enforcement agencies, hospitals, managed care organizations, etc.) to establish and maintain positive working relationships, thereby working to prevent crises from evolving into the need for hospitalizations.

**Emily Jorgenson, Supervisor
Crisis Services
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COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMS UNIT

The Community-Based Programs provide an array of services for individuals with mental health and/or substance use issues aimed at increasing independence and overall functioning, and supporting individuals in the community. Staffing for these programs in 2022 included 15 service facilitators, 3 therapists, 2 nurse case managers, and the Community Programs Supervisor.

The Dodge County Community Support Program (CSP) provides comprehensive mental health and case management services to individuals diagnosed with a severe and persistent mental illness. Services provided address the management and reduction of psychiatric symptoms (through counseling and psychiatric/medication services), as well as the individual's full range of unique personal, social, and economic needs. Services are provided almost exclusively in the community, through weekly home visits by a case manager assigned to work with each consumer. The primary goals of the program are to assist clients in gaining and/or maintaining their highest level of independence in the community, and to promote their ability to live successfully outside of restrictive environments such as hospitals and group homes, in the least restrictive environment possible.

The CSP program has seen a decrease in the number of participants over the past few years. The CSP team is continuing to assess all consumers to determine if their needs meet the level of CSP programming, which is more intensive than other community-based programming. Many consumers have been able to transfer into less restrictive programs if CSP is no longer needed. Though the CSP numbers are lower, there is still a need for some individuals with severe and persistent mental illness to become involved in CSP to ensure independent living, rather than being placed in a hospital and/or group home setting. In 2022, only two consumers were served.

The Dodge County Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) Program is a community-based psychosocial rehabilitation program designed to provide a wide variety of case management services, as well as assistance in accessing a variety of other community services and supports through contracted community providers. The program is available to individuals of any age with a diagnosis of a mental illness or substance abuse disorder, who receive Medical Assistance, and who meet enrollment criteria through a state-approved functional screen. Most importantly, the focus is on empowering consumers to take an active role in their own treatment and recovery process, rather than the professionals solely determining what needs are present and how to address them. Services are intended to be consumer-centered and consumer-directed, meaning that the consumer has a choice in the selection of their recovery team, what services they receive, and who provides these services.

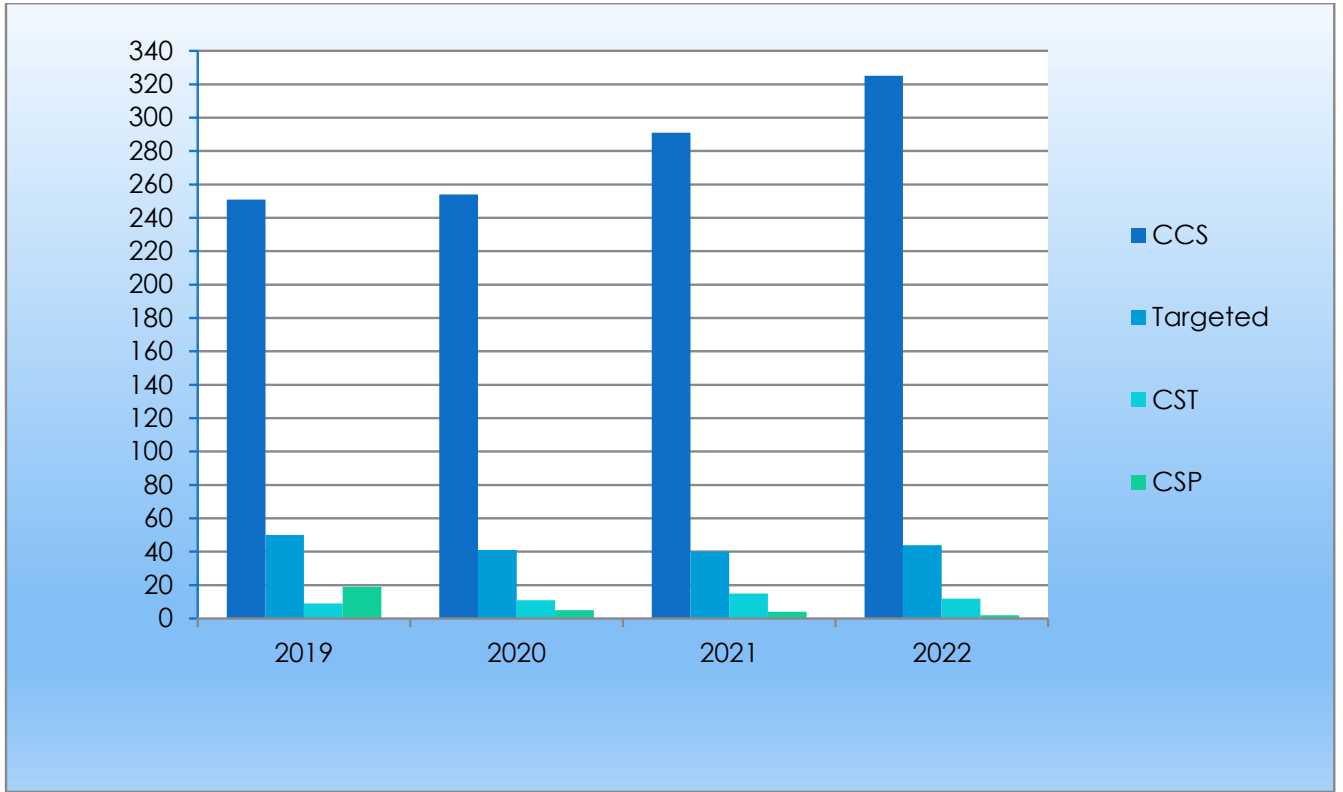
The CCS program continues to see an increase in the total number of consumers served, especially the number of children and adolescents served. In 2022, we continued to increase our capacity by creating a limited term employment (LTE) service facilitator to serve children and adolescents who are enrolled in both CCS and the CLTS (Children's Long Term Support) program (within the Child and Adolescent Services unit). In addition, we created a partnership with Sirona Recovery to dually enroll eligible participants of the grant-funded Opioid Treatment Center program into CCS as well, so as to provide additional mental health and substance use services and support where needed. Overall, the CCS program served a total of 325 consumers in 2022, as compared to 291 consumers in 2021. This program continues function as part of the Lakeshore Recovery Collaborative under a shared services model with Washington and Ozaukee Counties.

The Targeted Case Management (TCM) program is a community-based program to help consumers become connected with resources in the community that they may be unable to access on their own. Case management includes gaining access to or coordinating Medicaid or Badger Care Plus services as well as access to energy assistance, housing, legal advocacy, social services, setting up home care workers, and helping to ensure continued independent living. In addition, targeted case management services follow individuals who are in long-term care group homes to continue to monitor services offered and progress.

The Targeted Case Management (TCM) program continues to serve consumers who remain relatively stable, and continuously assess individuals who have been receiving services for many years to assure they are receiving the appropriate level of care. At times, this means transferring individuals from CSP or CCS to TCM if they no longer require more intensive services, and when appropriate, transferring individuals from TCM into basic outpatient services. In 2022, 44 consumers were served within TCM.

The Coordinated Services Teams (CST) Program, also called the Dodge County Wraparound program, has been active in Dodge County since 2008. In 2022, the CST program served a total of 12 youth, with 5 actively enrolled at the end of 2022. This number is lower than in years past due to more youth being eligible for the CCS program. The CST program services and supports to children and families who are not eligible for the CCS program because they do not have Medical Assistance. Dodge County funds the CST program through state block grant dollars.

2022 Data - Total number of consumers served as compared to previous 3 years:



**Kim Kunz, Supervisor
Community Based Mental Health Services
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CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES – INTAKE UNIT

The philosophy of the Child Protective Services (CPS) Intake Unit is ensuring the safety of children while persevering (where ever possible) and strengthening the family unit. Per Wisconsin State Statutes, children have specific basic needs which must be provided for. These basic needs include: the need for adequate food, clothing, and shelter; the need to be free from physical, sexual, or emotional injury or exploitation; the need to develop physically, mentally, and emotionally to their potential; and the need for a safe and permanent family. Unborn children have certain basic needs, which too must be provided. These needs are to develop physically to their potential and to be free from physical harm due to the habitual lack of self-control of their expectant mothers by their use of alcoholic beverages, controlled substances, or controlled substance analogs. Initial assessment social workers and the Intake Unit as a whole, assess for and ensure these basic needs are being provided. The unit balances its responsibilities in ensuring child safety while simultaneously strengthening and empowering the family. To meet this goal, services need to be available in the form of safety services and treatment services to these families. If these services are not available or are inadequate to meet the needs of the child or the family, the child may need to be placed outside of the home for their protection. The removal of a child from their home is the last option and is route is pursued when there is no option to ensure and control for child safety within the family home.

The Dodge County Child Protective Services Intake Unit consists of one access social worker who primarily answers phones when referrals are called in or meets with people in person should they come into the agency to make a report. If warranted, when receiving a Child Protective Services referral call or a walk-in visit, the access social worker may refer the person to other community service providers, other Dodge County departments, or other services within the Human Services and Health Department. All Child Protective Services referrals are written up by the access worker and provided to the unit supervisor, who will either initiate an investigation by assigning the case to a Child Protective Services Investigator or screen the case out. Cases that are screened out may also be referred to the Community Response Program depending on the information in the access report. The unit has five full-time Child Protective Services Investigators positions on staff. The unit also has a full-time Community Response Social Services Aide who works at developing relationships with community-based services to assist those families that do not meet the threshold for a CPS response, but may need assistance with locating and accessing services. Screening decisions are based on identified safety issues as they are described to the access worker. When a referral is screened in, an initial assessment of the family and the circumstances surrounding the referral is completed. At this point, safety issues are identified which then dictate what type of action, if any, this agency will need to take. The investigating social worker may also make arrangements for services based on the identified needs of the family or work with collateral agencies to assist the family with receiving the types of services needed.

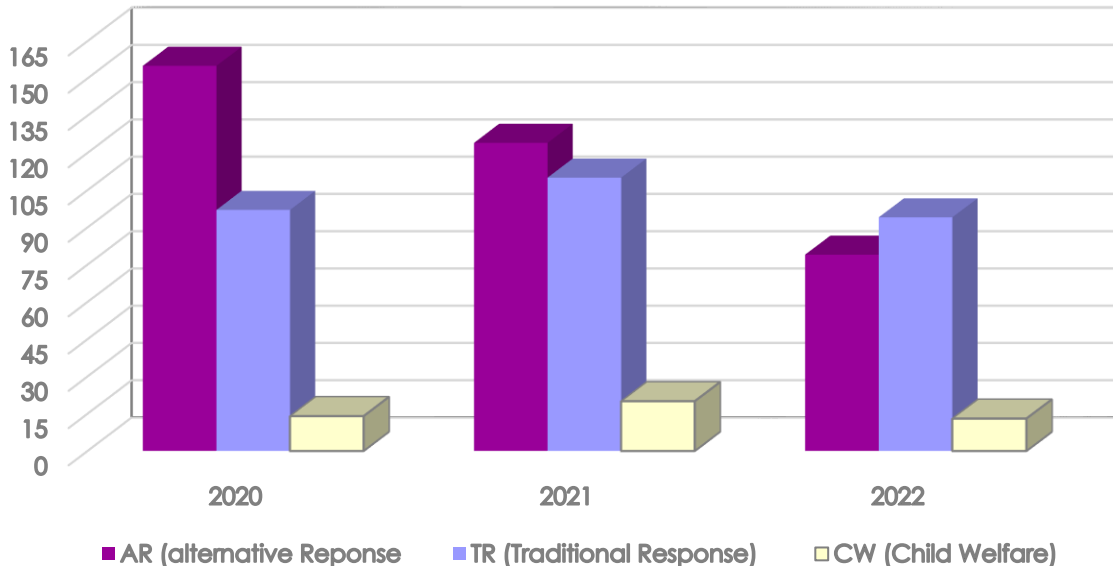
The Child Protective Services Investigator may make the necessary arrangements for placement services if it is determined that a child is in an unsafe situation or safety conditions are identified through the safety assessment, which cannot be managed in the family setting. These investigators work closely with law enforcement agencies, the Dodge County Corporation Counsel's office, and the Dodge County District Attorney's office, as a means of using the legal system to provide safety for the children involved. These investigators may also work with the mothers of unborn children who are at risk due to the mother's habitual use of controlled substances or controlled substance analogs.

The Child Protective Services system is primarily designed to protect children from abuse or neglect. This is achieved through interventions that provide for the management of threats to the child’s safety and through ongoing service provisions that address the changes necessary to ensure that children are safe and families are strengthened and able to protect the children without CPS intervention.

In 2022, the Child Protective Services Intake Unit investigated a total of 173 referrals. Of these referrals, 62 referrals were alleging child physical abuse, 40 referrals were alleging child sexual abuse, 64 referrals were alleging child neglect, and 13 referrals were alleging emotional damage. This total number for 2022 decreased from 2021 when 234 reports were investigated. In 2022, no referrals of unborn child abuse were investigated in comparison to 2021 where 2 referrals of unborn child abuse were investigated. It should also be noted, referrals can include more than one form of maltreatment explaining why maltreatment types are higher than total investigations completed. Of these 173 referrals, 79 were provided services through the Alternative Response model. A total of 94 were provided services through the Traditional Response model.

In 2022, these numbers also included 13 child welfare referrals, involving situations where no specific allegation of abuse or neglect was made; however, there were several concerns or issues present in the referral information that warranted some involvement by this agency. Interstate Compact on Placement of Children (ICPC), Home Studies, Confirming Safe Environments (CSE), and Courtesy Interviews (CI) for other counties or states amounted to 6 referrals.

CPS Investigated Reports



Throughout 2022, the CPS Intake Unit continued operation of the voluntary Community Response Program (CRP) started in 2019, which is designed to help strengthen families, prevent child abuse and neglect, and reduce re-referrals to CPS. CRP is a short-term voluntary prevention program that includes such things as case management, home visits, collaborative goal setting, and comprehensive assessment which helps to identify immediate needs and assist families in connecting to formal and informal resources to meet these needs. The intention of this is to mitigate risk factors while also identifying and building protective capacities of parents and other caregivers.

The family plays a key role in identifying their critical stressors as well as the goals they would like to work towards. In 2022, 412 referrals were made to CRP and a total of 323 families were referred to the program. The number of referrals and the number of families referred is different because the same family can be referred more than one time. For example, the family was referred to CR and did not respond. Another access report was made and the case was screened in. The Initial Assessment Social Worker then discussed the CR program with the family and referred the family. Of those 323 families referred, 39 families accepted services. This is approximately a 12% acceptance rate. In comparison to 2021, this acceptance rate is lower, however there was a 52% increase in referrals to the CR program in 2022.

The State of Wisconsin continues to focus on the Families First Act which targets keeping more families together and reducing the use of out-of-home care. This does not change the responsibility of the Child Protective Services Intake Unit's primary goal of ensuring the safety of children. This focus supports creative brainstorming and supportive services to keep families together while providing intensive services to promote behavioral change and the safety of children.

Alexandria Kreais, Supervisor
CPS Intake Unit
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CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES – ONGOING UNIT

The programs in the ongoing unit consist of Ongoing Child Protective Services, Foster Care Coordination and Licensing, Home and Financial Advisor services, Independent Living services, Restitution services, Parenting services and Supervised Visitation services.

The Ongoing CPS team consists of seven social work positions, and one position staffed in both the Initial Assessment and Ongoing Services units. Staff work within state and federal statutes and standards to coordinate and provide services to families where safety concerns or present danger threats have been identified, placing a child or children at risk of abuse and/ or neglect. CPS Ongoing social workers partner with Dodge County Corporation Counsel, Law Enforcement, schools, families and service providers to support safety for children who have been a victim of neglect and/or abuse.

The Foster Care program includes two Foster Care Coordinators (also social workers) whose role is to recruit, license, support and train all foster parents and homes licensed by Dodge County. The Foster Care Coordinators ensure that foster parents receive a variety of services and supports, both internally and externally. Foster Care Coordinators work to spread the word in the community about the importance of foster care, and to recruit new families interested in providing this valuable resource to children in need of care.

The Home and Financial Advisor assists families with budgeting and money management, self-care and home management, and other activities of daily living skills. The Home and Financial Advisor also provides individual parenting services through the Incredible Years Program, implemented in 2019.

The Independent Living Coordinator provides pre-employment, daily living skills, money management and other skills training services to meet the needs of youth and young adults age 14-21 who have been placed in out of home care for at least 6 months since the age of 14. Services are provided both individually and in a group setting, and are intended to help prepare youth for independent functioning as adults.

Two Social Service Aides also provide parenting services through our Incredible Years Parenting Program, which was implemented in 2019 and is part of our effort to expand prevention services. These aides also provide assistance with supervised visits between children and parents.

2022 Accomplishments

In 2022, CPS focused considerable efforts on learning about and implementing the State of Wisconsin's Family First Initiative, which is guided by the tenet of using teaming and services to prevent removal and promote reunification of children with their family. Four parenting groups were completed in 2022, with the added component of Protective Parenting, along with one-on-one parenting for individuals who could not attend group. The Independent Living Coordinator continued to offer the "Adulting 101" skills training class for teenage youth, and prepared to implement an 8-week class at Dodgeland School. This program will be expanding to more schools in 2023. In the realm of Foster Care, the focus for 2022 continued to be on recruitment and advertising, through signage, radio, and television ads. A purchase was also made for bulletin boards to be displayed in bigger factories throughout Dodge County. These efforts have resulted in more families reaching out with interest in becoming foster homes, and more homes becoming licensed foster homes in Dodge County.

	Total number of families served in CPS Ongoing unit	Total number of kids in out-of-home care
2021	155	88
2022	136	66

Over the course of 2022, the number of children placed in out of home care in Dodge County decreased by twenty as compared to 2021. In 2022, seven Termination of Parental Rights cases and four Guardianships cases were processed in Dodge County. The CPS Ongoing unit meets regularly with the Dodge County Corporation Counsel to ensure that cases are processed promptly, and permanence is achieved for children unable to return home to their families.

2022 Trends

In 2022, staff continued to experience difficulty finding residential facilities to admit children who are in need of this level treatment, due to increased demand for beds statewide, and a decrease in bed availability across the state because of rate-setting changes at the State level. This challenge is not unique to Dodge County, but consistent throughout the state of Wisconsin. Over the past few years, we have had to place several children in out-of-state placements, however as of the end of 2022, there were no children placed in out-of-state care. Another challenge is the rising number of children entering the system with behaviors that parents are unable to control, due in part to the child’s significant mental health issues. It is quite challenging for families and professionals to help stabilize and assist these children and families in a time of need, due to a lack of available resources to assist. This is a trend that will likely continue for the foreseeable future, and requires continuous discussion, creative thinking and planning, and collaboration with partners.

**Lisa Grycowski, Supervisor
CPS Ongoing Services
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CHILD AND ADOLESCENT SERVICES UNIT

The Child and Adolescent Services Unit provides services in two areas: Youth Justice and Children with Disabilities.

Seven licensed social workers provide assessment and case management for youth aged 10-17 who are involved or at risk of involvement with the youth justice system, or have been found to be habitually truant. These workers partner with law enforcement, the Court, the District Attorney's Office, schools, families, and service providers in the community to support accountability, community safety, and positive youth development through the implementation of individualized case plans designed to address criminogenic needs and encourage future success.

As the Public Health Emergency continued through 2022, so did the 2020 trend of reduced numbers of delinquency referrals received in Dodge County and across the state of Wisconsin. The impact of the Public Health Emergency has also contributed to a continuing trend of increased severity of offenses committed by Dodge County youth. This phenomenon may also reflect an appropriate shift regarding referral to Youth Justice based on the severity of behavior sometimes inappropriately labeled delinquent in previous years, and highlight the impact of increased stressors on youth already in need of support. The fact that the number of youth newly referred to Dodge County Youth Justice was less in 2022 than in previous years, and that for the third year in a row Dodge County saw higher rates of recidivism, seems to support that assertion and identifies an area of focus for the immediate future.

Total Number of Referrals	2021		2022			
Delinquency	152		134			
Truancy	56		47			
Prevention/Diversion	43		2			
2022 Referral Demographics						
	AGE					
Delinquency	5-9	10-12	13-14	15-16	17	
Standard Delinquency Referrals	4	24	51	55	-	
Prevention/Diversion	-	-	-	1	-	
Truancy	5-7	8-9	10-12	13-14	15-16	17
Standard Truancy Referrals	8	6	13	12	8	-
Prevention/Diversion	-	-	1	-	-	-

As identified above, the number of delinquency referrals received in 2022 decreased slightly from 2021. There was also a slight decrease in the number of truancy referrals received. Near the end of 2021, the Prevention/Diversion Social Work position was vacated and the decision was made not to refill this position at this time. Instead, this important prevention and diversion work was absorbed into the rest of the unit and has become a part of the team's overall philosophy in serving all youth referred when possible.

In total, the Youth Justice workers served 147 youth in 2022. Of this number, 22% were females and 78% were males. Forty three percent of the delinquency referrals received were for youth who had never had contact with the juvenile justice system before, as compared to 51% in 2021.

Also part of the Child and Adolescent Services Unit are five case managers that work with children with disabilities and their families. Due to high caseloads and the increasing number of referrals, the department added one limited-term employment (LTE) case manager position in October of 2022. These case managers help families obtain services through the Children’s Long Term Support (CLTS) Program and the Children’s Community Options Program (CCOP) waivers, as well as provide information and referral services for families that have children with disabilities. Both the CLTS and CCOP waivers serve children under the age of 18 who have a developmental or physical disability, or a severe emotional disturbance. To qualify for either funding stream, children must have substantial functional limitations in at least two of the following areas: self-care, receptive/expressive language, learning, mobility, self-direction, capacity for independent living, and economic self-sufficiency. Children’s Community Options Program (CCOP) funds are now exclusively used by families of children with severe disabilities to purchase allowable goods or services not funded through other sources, which will enable children to reside with their parents, reduce stress in the family and avoid out of home placement. Eligibility for CLTS and CCOP is determined through the use of a Functional Screen which is administered by the case managers. All services for children receiving funding are managed on an ongoing basis by the case managers as long as the children remain eligible for services, which in many cases is the circumstance until a child’s eighteenth birthday. If a child needs services beyond his/her eighteenth birthday, the case managers assist with their transition to the adult service system.

Per a 2018 state mandate, Dodge County immediately enrolls all children found eligible for CLTS/CCOP services. As a result, the number of children served in CLTS and CCOP has increased dramatically over the last four years, and the size of the team has grown significantly to meet these needs, including more case managers, as well as the development of “dual worker” roles, staff who serve children as the CLTS and CCS case manager when families are eligible for both programs.

	2021		2022	
	CCOP	CLTS	CCOP	CLTS
# Served	83	222	89	309
Waitlist	0	0	0	0

Birth to Three

Birth to Three is a statewide, federally mandated program for children ages 0-3 who are significantly delayed developmentally or have a physical or mental condition that is likely to result in delayed development. Birth to Three programming provides screening, evaluation, and intervention services. Areas of delay may include cognitive development, physical development (fine motor, gross motor, or vision/hearing), speech, language and communication development, social and emotional development, and adaptive behaviors in self-help development. With oversight by Dodge County Human Services and Health Department, the Dodge County Birth to Three program is administered by Green Valley Enterprises of Beaver Dam, WI.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
2021	113	106	108	110	115	123	98	100	103	112	112	102
2022	101	96	115	125	132	145	140	142	143	134	149	135

In 2022, the average number of children served on a monthly basis in the Birth to Three Program was 130, a notable increase compared to last year's monthly average of 109. This is likely attributed to the Public Health Emergency, which has brought an increase in stress and mental health concerns throughout the population.

**Jennifer Scharf, Supervisor
Child and Adolescent Services
920-386-3688**

TREATMENT ALTERNATIVES AND DIVERSION (TAD)

Dodge County continues to utilize Treatment Alternatives and Diversions (TAD) to reduce the negative impact of impaired driving and alcohol and drug addiction in the community. The Drug Treatment Court (DTC) and the Impaired Driving Court (IDC) Programs were established in Dodge County in 2015. The program design is based on the national and Wisconsin drug treatment court models which has proven to advance public safety, reduce crime, and to improve the health of individuals and the community. Both programs promote recovery through a coordinated response to offenders who are dependent on drugs and alcohol. These goals are achieved through a team approach and Dodge County continues to achieve success through the collaboration and cooperation of the Dodge County Circuit Court Judges, the Sheriff's Office and other law enforcement, the District Attorney, the Public Defender's Office, Human Services and Health Department, the Department of Corrections and many other community stakeholders. Currently, Judge Kristine Snow presides over DTC and Judge Martin DeVries presides over IDC.

The DTC Program accepts offenders with nonviolent charges who are assessed to have a high probability to reoffend and a drug or alcohol addiction. IDC accepts offenders with third and fourth OWI convictions. Participants engage in integrated, evidence based treatment and intensive case management services to address their addiction and individual issues such as mental health, employment, financial and family needs and criminal thinking. Their progress toward sobriety and other program goals are strictly monitored through regular court appearances, case management meetings and random drug testing. All participants are on probation and meet regularly with their agents.

The goal of these programs is to positively impact and change the behaviors of persons who have an addiction and who are cycling in and out of the criminal justice system. Many of these individuals have served jail, prison and probation sentences in the past. These traditional sentences have proven to not be effective in helping the person address those underlying issues that led to their criminal behavior.

In 2022, DTC had 5 participants successfully complete the program and IDC had 17 participants successfully complete. The programs take approximately 14 to 18 months to complete. At the time of completion participants will have been subject to up to 180 drug screens, engaged in 30 or more case management visits, 30 or more probation visits, and have completed up to 24 weeks of treatment or more. All of these graduates have demonstrated stability in their sobriety from drugs and alcohol, are employed and/or financially stable, have sober and stable living conditions, and have a recovery support network in the community. Both programs undergo continuous review through the Criminal Justice Collaborating Council (CJCC) formally adopted by Dodge County in August of 2016. The Dodge County CJCC has direct authority over both programs. In addition to direct oversight from the CJCC, the WI Department of Justice and WI Department of Health Services, both of which primarily fund these programs, provide oversight, guidance and serve as resources. Program performance is continuously monitored and this data is used to make specific program improvements and policy changes.

Since 2015, Dodge County has contracted for case management services with JusticePoint, a Milwaukee based non-profit organization which provides evidence based solutions to criminal justice system concerns. Program staff includes three case managers and one Program Director who manage approximately 45-75 program participants per year. The Case managers assess and identify appropriate candidates for the program through screening tools that indicate risk of recidivism and treatment needs.

Participants work with case managers to appropriately identify top needs that will then result in referrals to treatment as well as additional provided resources.

Dodge County Human Services provides participants with a high level of care and they are afforded counseling and treatment tailored to their individual needs, including residential, day treatment, intensive outpatient, and outpatient treatment. Medication assisted treatment (MAT) is also available.

Dodge County has received The Treatment Alternative to Prison (TAP) grant through the Wisconsin Department of Human Services (DHS) since 2015. TAP is another alternative to prison program designed for justice involved individuals who have a substance use disorder (SUD). Dodge County submitted a proposal for the TAP grant through a competitive bid process for another five year cycle and was awarded this contract for 2021-2026. The program continues to screen all arrestees in the Dodge County Detention Facility for treatment needs and connect these individuals to community treatment. In 2022, 265 individuals were seen in the Dodge County jail within 24-48 hours of arrest, 61 were referred for AODA or mental health treatment and the remaining individuals were left with resources based on reported needs. In 2022, 1 individual successfully completed the TAP program and has remained stable in the community without any further arrests or charges.

Additionally, all arrestees are given information about the Opioid Treatment Center (OTC). If the person identifies as an opiate user, the case manager will initiate a referral to OTC for services and Vivitrol which is available through a DHS grant. This Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) grant enables the county to provide the Vivitrol injection to the arrestee prior to release to the community. This intervention greatly reduces the risk of overdose deaths upon release from jail. All of these programs are designed to work collaboratively with community partners and have proven to have a positive impact on public health and safety, recidivism, and the related costs to the community.

Angelica Muñoz, Treatment Courts Program Director
TAD
920-386-4339

Dodge County Human Services and Health Department is responsible for providing care and treatment to children and adults, the frail elderly, individuals with cognitive and physical disabilities, individuals with mental illness, emotional impairments or addictions, and individuals and families facing economic hardship. Wisconsin State Statutes carry the legal authority for services to these client populations and place the policy-making and program implementation responsibility with the County Human Services and Health Board. Funding for the services for all clients groups come from a variety of federal and state sources as well as from county tax levy.

The authority placed with the County is undertaken with the highest level of responsibility to provide the best evidence-supported services for all citizens of Dodge County with full responsibility and accountability to tax payers. The Human Services and Health Board is comprised of elected County Board Supervisors and volunteer community members.

This report highlights the programs and services delivered in three divisions with several units and Court Services Programs as well as provides a fiscal picture of the Department's 2021 expenditures.

If you have any questions about the information in this report, please contact Rebecca Bell, Director of Human Services and Health Department at 920-386-3534.

Dodge County Human Services And Health Department

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2022 ANNUAL REPORT

