



Dane County Department of Human Services

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TO: HHN Committee, other interested parties

FROM: Shawn Tessmann

RE: January Update

A few notes for this month:

As Omicron spreads in the community, it has impacted DCDHS. A number of staff positives have been reported throughout DCDHS in the early days of January.

Due to staffing needs related to the pandemic, we are making some changes at Badger Prairie. To effectively limit the spread of COVID-19, Badger Prairie created a COVID-19 Care area in the Mill Creek Household. This area consists of 11 beds, and six are walled off in order to isolate residents. Currently, there are four residents living in Mill Creek in the regular—non isolation—beds. However, there are five CNAs and four additional part-time staff assigned to this household. In order to effectively manage resources with staff vacancies and illness throughout the facility, non-isolation beds in Mill Creek need to be temporarily shut down so the Mill Creek staff are available to be reassigned in other needed areas of the facility.

The transition to Equus for our homelessness pandemic response is going well. The Equus team was online as of January 1 to take over operations for hotel shelter and the isolation and quarantine shelter.

Finally, we just released a report on Building Bridges you might find interesting. The Dane County Department of Human Services partners with Catholic Charities to administer Building Bridges, a 90-day mental health program for Dane County school district students in 4K through 8th grade and their parents. Across three school years (2018-2019 through 2020-2021) the Building Bridges program has served 11 school districts, 525 unique students, and 763 unique parents/guardians through more than 13,000 contact hours. A recent DCDHS impact report found that for those students who participated: 1) the majority had a statistically significant decrease in functional impairment and 2) nearly 40% of students had improved well-being 6 months after participating. The full report can be found on the [DCDHS Reports](https://www.danecountyhumanservices.org/About-Us/Administration/Reports) web page (<https://www.danecountyhumanservices.org/About-Us/Administration/Reports>), under the header “Building Bridges”.