



Dane County Department of Human Services

Dane County Executive – Joe Parisi
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TO: HHN Committee, other interested parties
FROM: Shawn Tessmann
RE: September Update

It has been a trying and fast-paced last several weeks.

With the emergence of the Delta variant, DOA announced a delay to implementation of our workplace normalization plan to January. Operationally for DCDHS, that means we stay essentially status quo for several additional months. As case counts climb and staff infections get reported, we are constantly evaluating our service delivery structure. We've made a request to the Judges to return to almost all virtual courtroom hearings, as an example. We've also closed the ADRC to walk-in traffic (we remain available by appointment) in response to additional flexibility granted to us by the state to consider local caseloads. We are also scaling back some of our community work where and when we can do so without sacrificing access or effectiveness.

One area specifically to note is that there have been several staff positives reported both among the vaccinated and unvaccinated at Badger Prairie. Staff positives have dramatic impact in how staffing occurs of course, but it also means resident activities are curtailed as we quarantine. To date, there has not been a report of spread among the residents thankfully.

Progress remains steady and strong on all major fronts of the pandemic response including Hotels to Housing, hotel shelter extension, non-profit assistance administration and other initiatives. We are responding daily to new information, guidance and changing circumstances on the ground. As my budget proposal cover letter highlights, the department has or will take on the administration of over \$100 million in COVID initiatives overall since Spring 2020. This is, effectively, a 40% growth in our overall responsibilities. I appreciate the acknowledgement of this feat by yourselves and your colleagues. It does not go unnoticed by staff.

Major effort is placed into the DCDHS budget submittal, of course. I look forward to sharing more about what the department request includes at the public hearing in a couple weeks.

Finally, if you haven't seen it yet, the 2021 Dane County Youth Assessment is available at <https://danecountyhumanservices.org/About-Us/Commissions-Boards-and-Committees/Youth-Commission/Youth-Assessment>

Thank you, as always, for your support.