



Dane County Department of Human Services

Director – Shawn Tessmann
1202 Northport Drive, Madison, WI 53704-2092
PHONE: (608) 242-6200 FAX: (608) 242-6293

Joe Parisi
DANE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

February 11, 2021

TO: HHN Committee, other interested parties
FROM: Shawn Tessmann
RE: February 2021 Update

Below is my update for February 2021.

We're on a path to try to lift up employee voice through quarterly division and annual all-staff meetings. We held our first annual all-staff meeting last week, with more than 150 staff attending. The agenda covered vaccines, strategic planning, 2021 priorities, and other planning items.

We identified over 1,000 DCDHS and POS staff who are eligible for the vaccine last week and people are both registering and receiving the vaccine. I am told we should expect very limited supply through at least the end of February, but hopefully our priority emergency responders will get access. I am also continuing to advocate for other public facing DCDHS staff, including clerical and EAWS/ESS staff who are seeing people in-person.

The TRC eviction prevention application is set to be released next week. We also know that the eviction moratorium was extended until the end of March. DCDHS staff are also working on an RFP to administer future housing and homelessness funding that we anticipate. We hope to release that RFP soon. Finally, the housing team has been working in close coordination with housing and homeless stakeholders to expand hotel and other capacity for those hesitant to seek shelter in light of the extraordinary weather.

A final note for this month is that we have engaged the YWCA on a multi-year approach to have them help us create an equitable organization (this is a specific service they provide to interested organizations, see) <https://www.ywcamadison.org/what-were-doing/race-gender-equity/creating-equitable-organizations/>). We are very excited about this new engagement and look forward to leaning into becoming a better place to work and a more informed service provider.

Thank you as always for your time and support.