

Program Evaluations Conducted by Dane County Board Office

2012- 2024

The County Board rules (§7.13(7)) give the Executive Committee the duty and responsibility “in conjunction with the office of the county board, (to) oversee program reviews and audits conducted by county board staff or contractors, and review the results thereof.” The Executive Committee initiates this process by soliciting proposals for program evaluation topics from each of the County Board standing committees and then making a selection from the topics proposed. The intention of these evaluations is to yield information that the County Board can use to make informed policy and budget decisions regarding the subject programs. Ideally, the Executive Committee selects a topic by the end of the calendar year to allow time for the evaluation process to conclude with findings and recommendations before the County Board submits its budget for the following year.

The County Board Office’s Sustainability and Program Evaluation Coordinator serves as the primary County Board Office project manager and liaison between consultants and stakeholders, and oversees every aspect of the program evaluation from drafting the RFP to final presentation of results.

The following evaluations are in chronological order. Dates indicate the month and year that the evaluation was completed and information in parentheses indicates the key County Board priority area involved in addition to the overarching focus of general policy and process improvement. All program evaluations are conducted through a lens of equity and inclusion regardless of the topic. Completed program evaluation reports are available on the County Board website at: <https://board.danecounty.gov/reports>.

1. Peer Review of the Dane County Lake Level Management Guide for the Yahara Chain of Lakes, 6/2012, (Sustainability/Land and Water)
2. Targeted Review and Assessment of the Overtime Policies and Practices of the Dane County Sheriff’s Office, 8/2012, (Criminal Justice)
3. Dane County Department of Human Services POS Contract Process Assessment, 4/2014, (Human Services)
4. Audit of the Organizational Structure of Land and Water Programs in Dane County, 6/2014, (Sustainability/ Land and Water)
5. Racial Equity Analysis of Dane County Government and Recommendations, 9/2015, (Equity and Inclusion)
6. Program Evaluation of Contracting and Procurement Equity in Dane County Government, 8/2017, (Equity and Inclusion)
7. Dane County Jail Deflection and Diversion Data Analysis and Best Practices Recommendations, 10/2019, (Criminal Justice and Equity and Inclusion)
8. Equity and Access Evaluation of Dane County Parks and Henry Vilas Zoo, 9/2022, (Equity and Inclusion)
9. Workplace Climate Assessment of Dane County Government, slated for completion 1/2024, (Equity and Inclusion)

(over)

NOTE: The Executive Committee selected two additional program evaluations for 2020/2021, which were initiated, but both evaluations were tabled early in the process due to uncertainty and/or changes in board priorities and logistical challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Updated June 2024