



BARRON COUNTY DHHS

2020 Annual Report



BARRON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Annual Report

2020

The past year was incredibly difficult for Barron County Public Health as well as our community. Most of the department's time and resources were devoted to the COVID-19 pandemic response. Even before we had our first case, staff were preparing to respond and keeping local partners and stakeholders informed.

On April 1, 2020 the first positive case of COVID-19 was reported in Barron County. Without skipping a beat, staff stepped up to the challenge. Through large outbreaks at local facilities to some of the highest daily rates in the state, our team displayed exemplary leadership and dedication in their response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Many of our services were affected by the pandemic, so this report may look different than previous ones. Our COVID-19 response is outlined in more detail at the end of this report.

Although this past year has been a trying and overwhelming year for our department, I am grateful for the support of our community and our partners. I am also honored to have a staff that has worked tirelessly over the past year to keep our community safe. I am hopeful that 2021 brings hope, health, and a sense of normalcy back to our community.

Laura Sauve, RN, BSN
Health Officer



**BARRON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**
335 East Monroe Avenue, Room 338
Barron, WI 54812
715-537-5691





BARRON COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH

Mission

*Promoting, protecting, and preserving health
through partnerships with people and communities*

Vision

Everyone living better, longer

Guiding Values

- *We work to ensure health equity*
 - *We promote trauma informed practices internally and externally*
 - *We use collaborative processes to achieve our vision and mission*
- *We lead the community in the use of evidence based public health practices*
 - *We improve programming through quality improvement*
- *We provide an environment of professional growth and satisfaction*

Programs

- Communicable Disease Prevention and Control
- Rabies Prevention
- Immunizations
- Birth to Three Program
- Maternal Child Health
- Women, Infants and Children (WIC)
- Reproductive Health Services
- Environmental Health Services
- Community Health Promotion
- Refugee Health Services
- Emergency Preparedness
- Fluoride Rinse Program
- Car Seat Program
- Community Sharps Disposal

2020 Public Health Staff

DHHS Director

Stacey Frolik

Public Health Program Manager

Laura Sauve

Nursing Staff

Becky Tollers

Brianna Olson

Beth Wood

Kathy German-Olson (retired August 2020)

Nicole Nelson (8/24/20)

Environmental Health

Paul Wilson

Mackenzie Cole

Danielle Buck

Administrative Staff

Taylor Myers

Sue Pruzek

Women Infants & Children (WIC)

Nichole Thompson, Director

Rhonda Siefert

Amber Fiera- Lactation Peer Educator (Jan)

*Amanda Gauthier- Lactation Peer Educator
(Feb-Aug)*

Birth to Three

Heather Boos (Resigned June 2020)

Joyce Pond

Stephanie Hinrichs (08/03/20)

Public Health Specialist

Sarah Turner

Medical Advisor



Dr. Richard Sampson, Mayo Clinic Health System-Northland, became public health's medical advisor in June 2020

The 2020 Public Health Annual report is organized using the 10 essential public health services plus management and governance. These areas align with the 12 domains the Public Health Accreditation Board endorses. The essential public health services are recognized as public health services that all communities should provide.

Essential Service #1: Monitor Health

Monitor health status to identify and solve community health problems

Community Health Assessment: Public Health, along with community partners and residents completed our Community Health Assessment in 2018. A community meeting was held with the community identifying its top three health priorities: Substance Use, Mental Health & Chronic Disease. Public Health continues to collaborate with our health care providers, community organizations, and individuals to improve conditions surrounding these issues. This collaborative process is named *Thrive Barron County: Growing Together in Health*.



Barron County's Top 3 Health Priorities



Substance Use



Mental Health



**Chronic Disease Prevention
and Management**

A variety of methods were used to gather quantitative and qualitative data to identify our health priorities including a comprehensive secondary data collection, a community health survey, key informant interviews, focus groups, and a community meeting.

Essential Service #2: INVESTIGATE

Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community

Barron County Public Health investigates health and environmental hazards every day. Public health uses the Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System (WEDSS). This system allows public health to obtain suspect and confirmed diseases via an electronic database. We also partner with community members, schools, and long term care facilities to share concerns about suspect and known communicable disease cases and outbreaks.

2020 Communicable Disease Trends

In early 2020, COVID-19 caused a global pandemic. This affected much of the work of the Public Health Staff. Barron County ended 2020 with 4,759 cases of COVID-19.

2020 Confirmed and Probable Communicable Diseases

Disease	2016 Data	2017 Data	2018 Data	2019 Data	2020 Data
Lyme Disease	34	59	18	20	26
Ehrlichiosis/Anaplasmosis	27	25	10	10	7
Babesiosis	3	4	3	0	2
Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever	0	0	1	0	0
Disease	2016 Data	2017 Data	2018 Data	2019 Data	2020 Data
Blastomycosis	0	0	1	1	-
Campylobacter	13	20	23	29	17
Carbapenemase-producing carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CP-CRE) Became reportable on 7/1/18	-	-	1	0	-
Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Became reportable on 7/1/18	-	-	1	5	5
Coronavirus					4,759
Cryptosporidiosis	12	9	17	8	7
Cyclosporiasis	0	1	2	3	2
E-Coli Shiga Toxin Producing (STEC)	7	3	10	8	5
E-Coli Enteropathogenic (EPEC)	6	3	12	4	11

Disease	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
E-Coli Enterotoxigenic (ETEC)	0	6	3	1	1
Giardiasis	16	4	5	9	11
Hepatitis C Classification changed in 2016	1- acute 18- chronic	2-acute 14-chronic	1-acute 16-chronic	0 - acute 14- Chronic	1 - acute 12- Chronic
Hepatitis E	0	0	1	0	-
Legionellosis	0	3	1	3	1
Malaria	1	0	1	-	-
Methemoglobinemia	0	0	1	0	-
Methicillin- or Oxicillin Resistant S. Aureus (MRSA/ORSA)	0	1	1	1	-
Mycobacterial Disease (Non- Tuberculosis)	3	7	6	1	5
Parapertusis	0	2	1	-	-
Plesiomonas Shigelliodes	2	0	0	-	-
Salmonella	11	9	8	13	4
Shigellosis	1	0	1	-	-
Streptococcal Disease, Invasive Group A and Group B	7	3	8	8	1
Latent Tuberculosis Infections Became reportable on 7/1/18	29	45	31	18	8
Toxoplasmosis	0	0	0	0	4
Tuberculosis	1	0	2	1	2
West Nile Virus	0	1	0	0	-
Zika Virus Disease	1	0	0	0	-
Sexually Transmitted Infections	2016 Data	2017 Data	2018 Data	2019 Data	2020 Data
Chlamydia Trachomatis	137	116	126	107	99
Syphilis	0	1- Late Latent 1-Secondary	1-Primary 1-Late Latent 1-Early non primary/ non secondary	2- late 3- early non primary/ non secondary	Unknown duration or late- 3
Gonorrhea	4	13	25	22	19

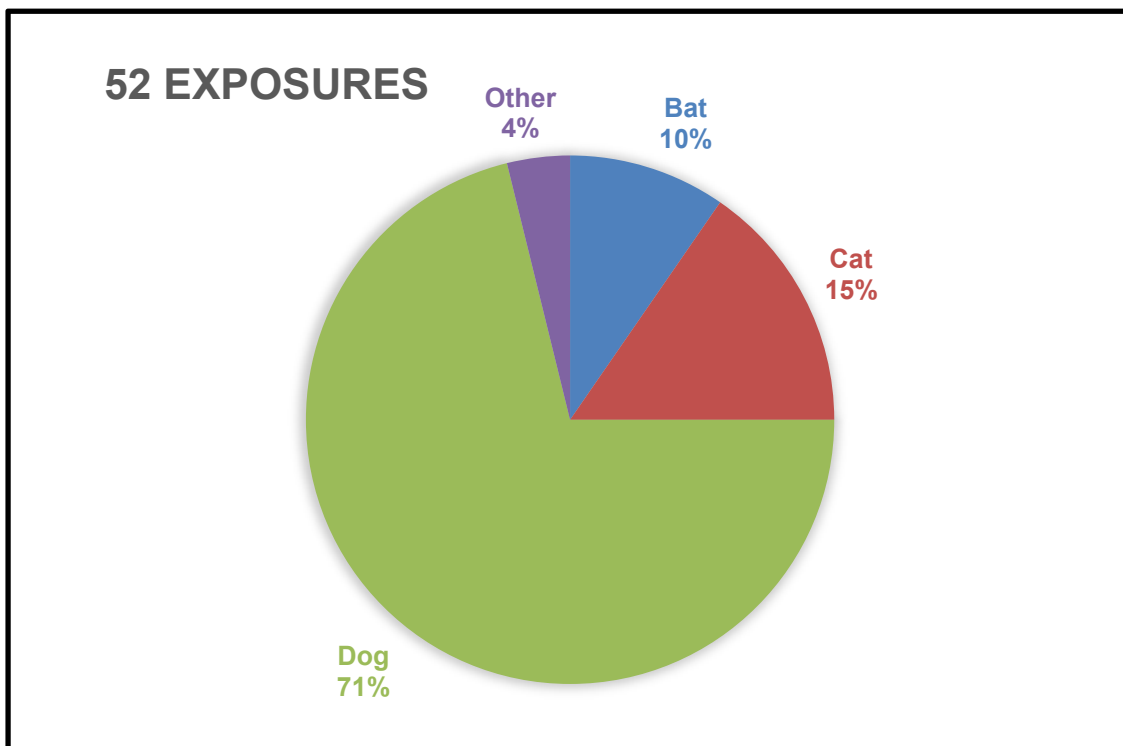
Vaccine Preventable Disease	2016 Data	2017 Data	2018 Data	2019 Data	2020 Data
Pertussis	6	12	10	0	2
Varicella	7	4	2	3	2
Streptococcus Pneumoniae	5	10	5	4	2
Haemophilus Influenzae	2	2	2	2	1
Hepatitis B	1	2-Acute	5-Chronic	3- chronic	1- chronic
Influenza Associated Hospitalizations	21	55	77	26	48

Human Health Hazard Control: Public health investigates complaints subject to the provision of the County Human Health Hazard ordinance. Goals are to protect the health of the public from illness and disease caused by human health hazards.



- 15 health hazard complaints investigated in 2020
 - Investigations included housing, garbage accumulation, hoarding, septic issues, pests/vermin, unsanitary conditions

Rabies Prevention: Public Health works with area hospitals, veterinarians, and our animal control officer to investigate and monitor animal contacts that could transmit rabies.

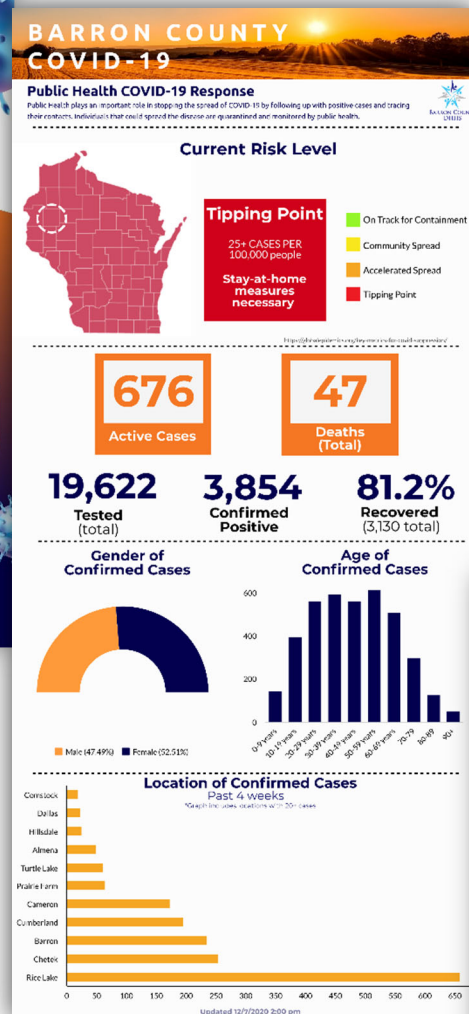
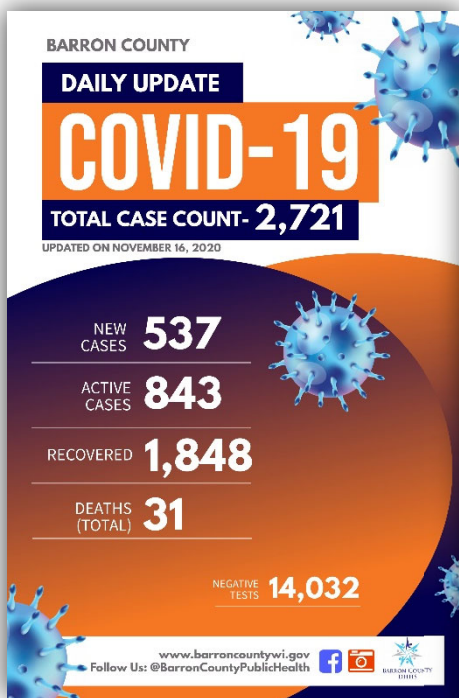


Essential Service #3: INFORM AND EDUCATE

Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues

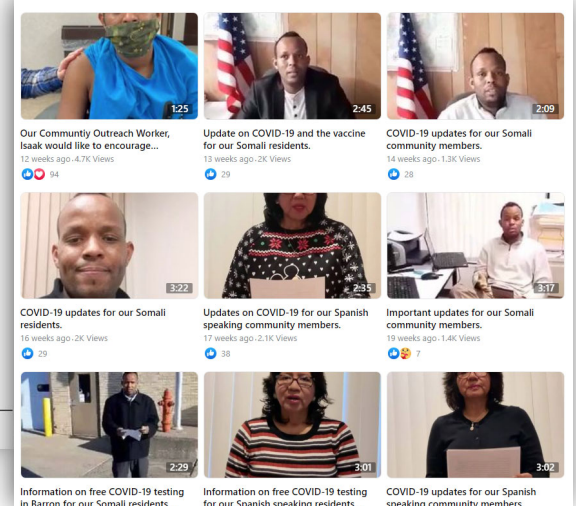
In 2020, Barron County Public Health had to come up with creative ways to connect with residents. Due to the pandemic, all in-person events were cancelled and people were told to stay safer at home. Our team used social media, local newspapers and radio, as well as our partner's networks, to bring important information to the community. We hired two outreach workers through a grant to help us reach our Somali and Spanish communities in the most culturally and linguistically appropriate ways. All information regarding the pandemic was sent out in English, Somali and Spanish.

Staff posted daily updates with COVID-19 numbers to inform the community.



Weekly reports were sent out and posted to social media.

Videos posted to social media from our Spanish and Somali Outreach workers helped communicate up to date information on the pandemic.



Essential Service #4: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Mobilize community partnerships and action to identify and solve health problems

Partnerships

Barron County Public Health programs partner with multiple groups and organizations to share resources and address community health issues.



Thrive Barron County

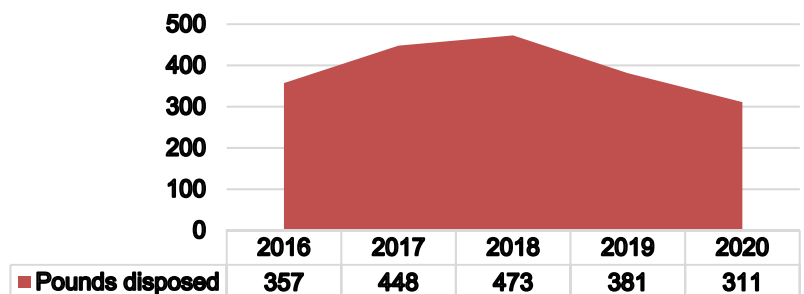
Thrive Barron County is a unique partnership that has been collaborating on health solutions since 2011. Thrive focuses on the top health concerns identified by the community through the Community Health Assessment. Our current priorities are: Substance Use, Mental Health, and Chronic Disease Prevention & Management.

Sharps Disposal

Public health works with area pharmacies to offer residents safe, coordinated disposal of needles, lancets, and other bio-hazardous sharps. Pick up your red container today!

Pick up & drop
off your sharps
containers at
Public Health!

Sharps Disposal



The Barron County Community Coalition; *Where Community & Collaboration Grow* is a network of businesses, organizations and community members working together to create healthier and safer communities in Barron County. The coalition implements youth substance use prevention grants and facilitates the substance use initiatives from the Community Health Improvement Plan. Public Health provides resources and staff time to implement coalition objectives. Highlights of 2020 include; the establishment of a COVID response group. The coalition stepped up to create a workgroup that focused on meeting community needs that arose from the pandemic. They partnered with United Way to create a local COVID-19 relief fund. They also found ways to take their prevention messaging virtual by partnering to host a weekly show on a local web-based news station, DrydenWire.



BARRON COUNTY
COMMUNITY COALITION
WHERE COMMUNITY & COLLABORATION GROW



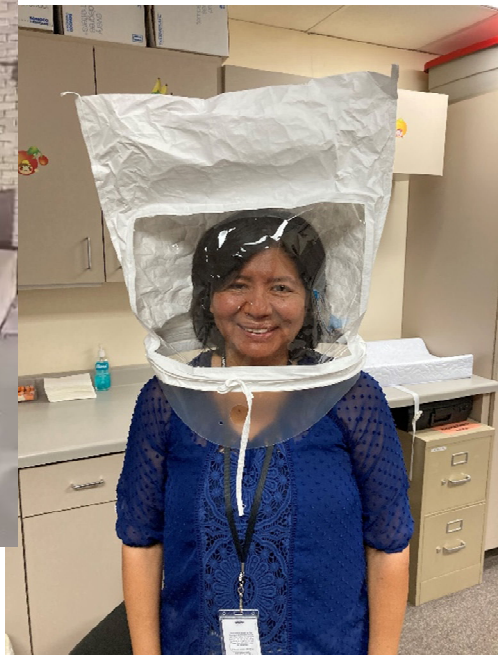
Community Connections to Prosperity is a coalition working to create an understanding of how poverty impacts our community. Public Health is an active member of the coalition. A highlight of 2020 includes the finishing of two tiny homes. These homes will be placed in different communities throughout the county to help address the housing shortage. The local homeless shelter, Benjamin's House will provide case management.

Western Wisconsin Public Health Readiness Consortium (WWPHRC)

The Western Wisconsin Public Health Readiness Consortium is a regional consortium consisting of 13 local public health agencies and 1 tribal health agency. The purpose of the consortium is to work together to develop local capacity to effectively respond to all types of health emergencies including bioterrorism, infectious disease outbreaks, and natural disasters.



The COVID-19 pandemic put all of our practiced preparedness skills to the test. Public Health assisted at multiple testing sites and planned for mass vaccination clinics.



Essential Service #5: POLICIES AND PLANS

Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts

2019-2021 Community Health Improvement Plan

- 1) Substance Use
- 2) Mental Health
- 3) Chronic Disease Prevention & Management

Substance Use



Public Health continues to work with partners and the Barron County Community Coalition to reduce youth substance use, decrease methamphetamine use, and reduce youth and adult tobacco use in Barron County. A sample of 2020 activities included the partnership with a local web-based news station on a weekly prevention program and success in seeking grants to impact substance use including the Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking Grant.

Mental Health



QPR stands for Question, Persuade, and Refer. People trained in Question, Persuade, Refer learn how to recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to question, persuade, and refer someone to help. In 2020, our facilitators were able to train 50 community members.

Chronic Disease Prevention & Management



In spring each year Cumberland Healthcare, Lakeview Medical Center and Mayo Clinic Health System work together with Public Health to offer free “Know Your Numbers” events. In 2020, we unfortunately had to cancel the event due to the pandemic. The group plans to continue the event as soon as it is safe to do so.

Strategic Plan: Public health is implementing its 2017-2021 Strategic Plan which was created in 2016. Overall strategic plan goals: 1) Improve communication 2) Increase collaboration 3) Workforce development 4) Strengthen fiscal & program development

Voluntary Public Health Accreditation: Public health accreditation is a voluntary process that confirms health departments have met nationally adopted standards for services. Barron County Public Health Programs is actively working to meet accreditation standards. Documentation was submitted to the Public Health Accreditation Board and a site visit occurred on December 6 & 7, 2018. From the site visit, a work plan was developed to finalize the necessary documents for before accreditation can be awarded. Due to the pandemic an extension in turning in the work plan has been granted.

Essential Service #6: PUBLIC HEALTH LAWS

Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety

Wisconsin state statutes and county ordinances are written to protect the public. Public health professionals are tasked to enforce laws that protect the public's health.

DNR Well Water Program: Public health is an agent for the Department of Natural Resources to inspect and sample transient non-community wells. The program requires annual testing for bacteria and nitrates for any well that has public access to water for at least 25 people a day and 60 days of the year.

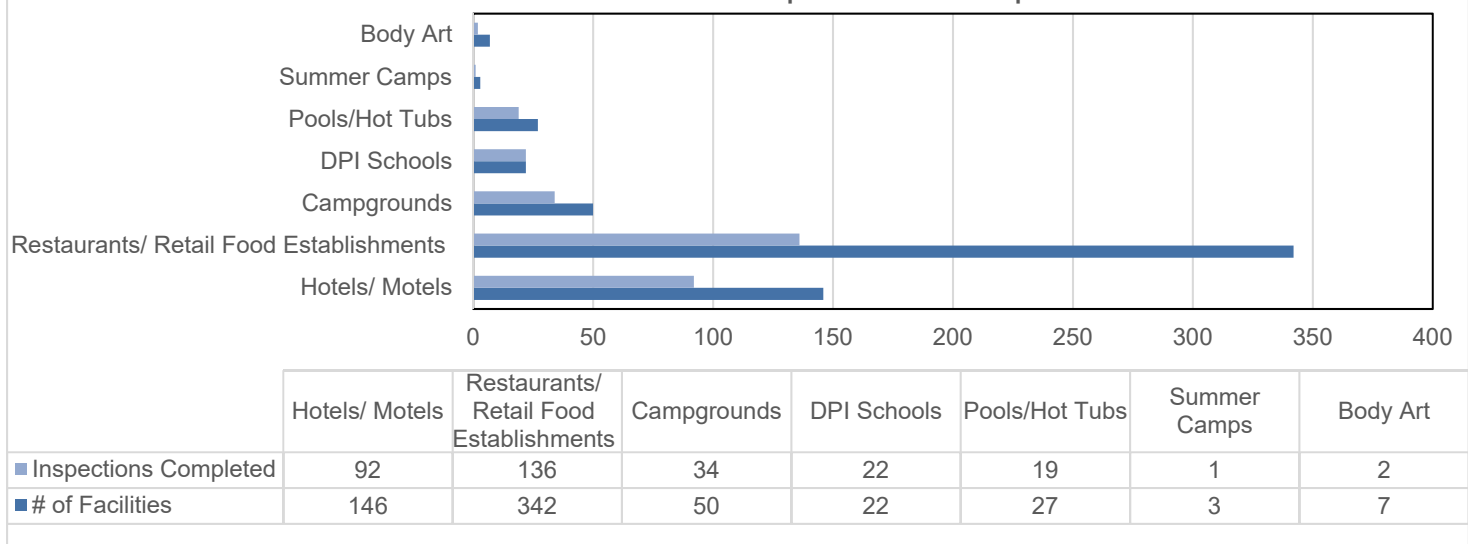
Outcomes:

- All 152 transient non-community wells were sampled
- 36 sanitary survey well inspections were completed



Department of Ag, Trade & Consumer Protection & Department of Safety & Professional Services Agent Program: Barron County is an agent for the Department of Ag, Trade & Consumer Protection to license and inspect retail food outlets, restaurants, hotels, motels, swimming pools, campgrounds, bed and breakfasts, tourist rooming houses, and the Department of Safety and Professional Services to license and inspect tattoo and body piercing establishments. Twenty four facility complaints were investigated in 2020. COVID-19 posed many challenges in this area due to safety concerns of being in close contact and the shutdown of many facilities during the Safer at Home Order, less inspections were able to be completed.

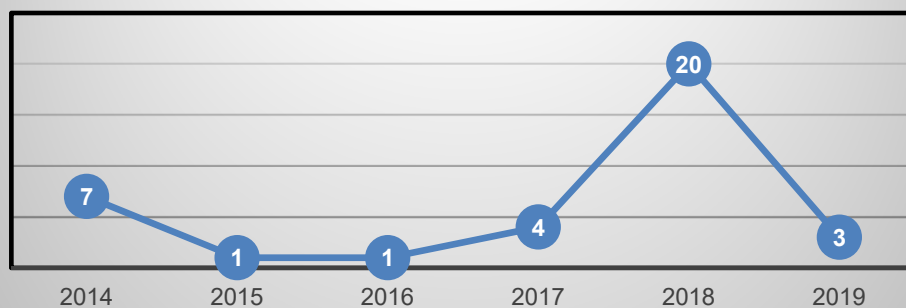
2020 Facilities and Inspections Completed





WI Wins: uses positive reinforcement to reduce illegal tobacco sales to minors. It congratulates local clerks who do not sell tobacco to youth, while educating those who would. In 2019, youth volunteers used their legal identification to attempt to purchase nicotine products. Due to COVID-19, WINS Checks were not completed in 2020.

Barron County Retailers Selling Tobacco to Youth



Alcohol Age Compliance Checks: Due to COVID-19 alcohol compliance checks were not conducted in 2020.

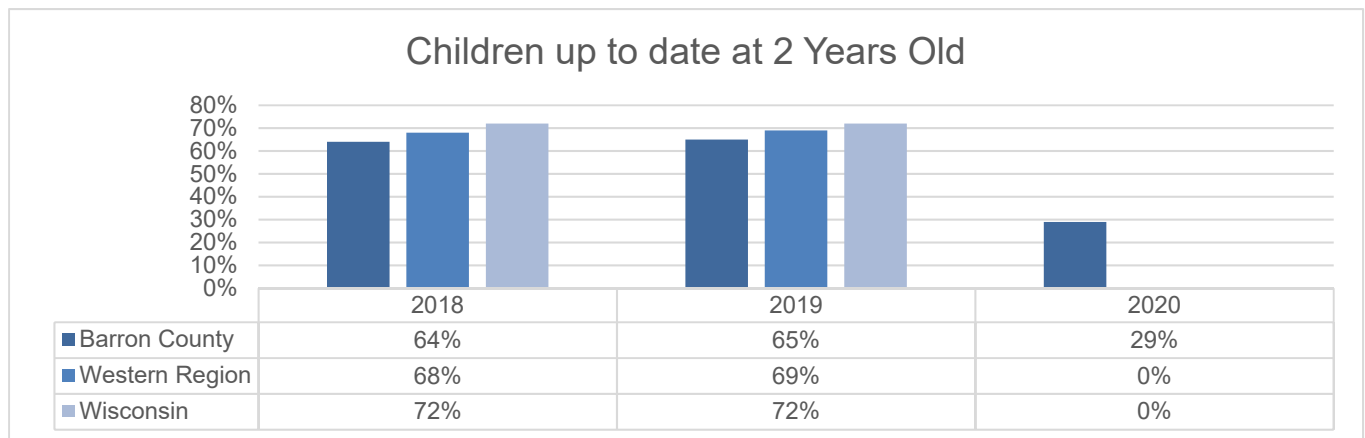
Percent of Barron County retailers refusing to sell alcohol to youth



Essential Service #7: ACCESS TO CARE

Promote strategies to improve access to health care services

Immunization Program: Immunizations are one of the most important public health victories. Barron County's 2020 rate for having children up to date with vaccinations by 2 years old fell dramatically due to COVID-19. State and Western Region data was unavailable at the time of this report.



School Immunization Clinics: Influenza vaccinations are offered free of charge at each school during a 30 day period in October and November each year. These clinics are an important component of influenza prevention and are an important emergency preparedness practice activity. The events allow public health to practice mass distribution in preparation for a public health emergency.

2020 School Based Influenza Vaccination Clinics				
	2020 Number Vaccinated	2020 Total School Enrollment	2020 Percent Vaccinated by PH	2019 Percent Vaccinated by PH
TOTAL	905	6951	13%	12%

Healthy Beginnings +: Services for Medicaid eligible pregnant women with high risk for adverse pregnancy outcomes. Healthy Beginnings + provides services to reduce medical and non-medical factors that contribute to the psychosocial, behavioral, environmental and nutritional factors of high risk pregnant women. Five pregnant women received case management services through the program in 2020.

Reproductive Health Services:

The reproductive health program works to decrease the number of unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections through reproductive health education and direct

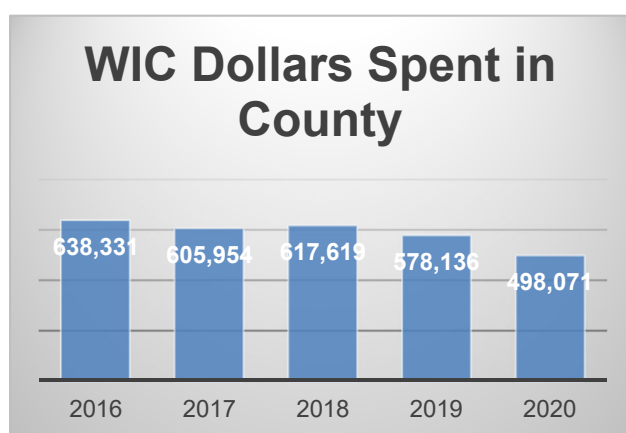
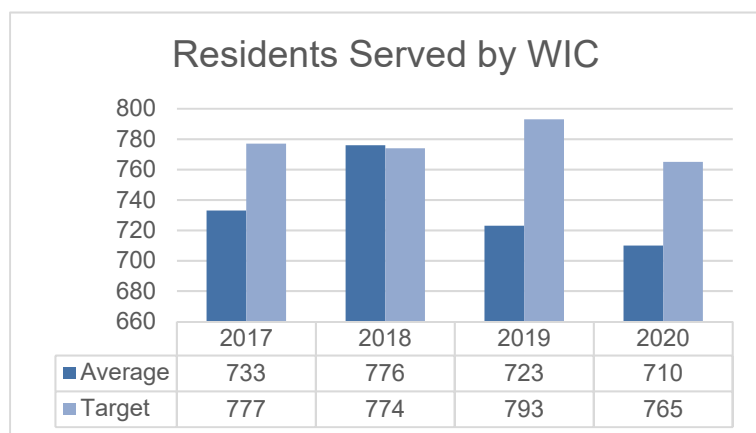


services. We provide low or no cost sexually transmitted infection testing, reproductive health clinical services, and we assist community members in signing up for Medicaid programs, including Family Planning Only Services. In 2020, we provided care for 149 women and 61 men.

Birth to 3 Program: The Birth to 3 Program is Wisconsin's early intervention program for infants and toddlers with developmental delays or disabilities and their families. A federal law, The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, provides a framework for a comprehensive program for coordinating developmental, health, and social services within the family's community. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services oversees the Birth to 3 Program in Wisconsin.

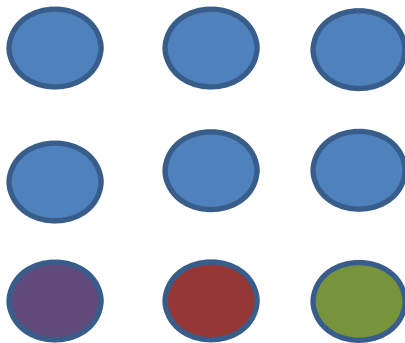
Year	# Referred	# Enrolled	# Referred to schools for continued services at age 3	Total Families Served
2020	115	48	22	101
2019	158	59	25	126
2018	137	47	44	126
2017	147	72	26	133
2016	151	50	21	88

WIC (Women, Infants, & Children): WIC provides food and nutrition information to help keep pregnant and breastfeeding women, infants, and children less than 5 years of age healthy and strong. It is vital to know that WIC approved food are healthy and nutritious and approved by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). WIC funding puts in excess of half a million dollars of funding into the Barron County economy. WIC also receives a grant, "Fit Families", which works with 25 families to provide enhanced services to reduce childhood obesity. WIC has a Farmer's Market Program to provide funds for families to spend on fresh Wisconsin produce at local Farmer's Markets each summer. Unfortunately the amount spent is down significantly from last year. COVID has impacted the way people shop for groceries. With an increased number of individuals doing more online shopping and grocery pick-up there were less people doing in store shopping. Currently it is not possible to use WIC for online grocery shopping.



Essential Service #8: WORKFORCE

Assure competent public and personal health care workforce



2020 Students

Public health works closely with colleges and universities to provide observation and project based learning for nursing, medical, and other health profession students. In 2020, we hosted students from UW Eau Claire, Benedictine University, WITC, and Grand Canyon University. Exposure to public health programs often leads to future careers in public health.

- UWEC Students
- WITC Student
- Benedictine University
- Grand Canyon University

Essential Service #9: PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services

140 Review- The Wisconsin Department of Health Services is required to formally review the operations of all Wisconsin Local Health Departments every five years. The review establishes the health department as a level I, II, or III agency. A level I agency meets the minimum requirements and a level III meets the maximum requirements established for local health departments. In 2020, Barron County DHHS-Public Health Programs completed the 140 review and was approved as a level II agency.

Essential Service # 10: Evidence based practices

Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems

Due to COVID-19, several health promotion programs were cancelled. Due to the increased stress community members were under in 2020, Public Health did offer Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) virtually. This program trains community members to recognize the signs someone may be considering suicide, how to talk to them about what they see, and how to help them access professional care.

MANAGEMENT & GOVERNANCE

Maintain administrative and management capacity & maintain capacity to engage the public health governing entity

Barron County Health & Human Services Board

The Barron County Health & Human Services Board is made up of elected members and appointed community members and meets on the 4th Monday of each month at 9:30 am in the Barron County Government Center. Due to the pandemic a virtual option was added to board meetings.

2020 Board Members:

Karolyn Bartlett- Chair, County Board Representative

Eric Pannier- Vice Chair, County Board Representative

Randy Albrecht- Citizen Representative

John Banks, County Board Representative

Robert Heil- Citizen Member

Toniann Knutson- Citizen Member

Lynn Kolpack- Citizen Member

Carol Moen- County Board Representative

Dr. Amy Muminovic- Citizen Member

Oscar Skoug- County Board Representative

Stacey Wenzel, County Board Representative



COVID-19 RESPONSE

Overview

First Case Reported in Wisconsin- February 5, 2020
State Safer at Home Order issued-March 24, 2020
First COVID-19 case reported in Barron County- April 1, 2020
First Death in Barron County- June 29, 2020

Total 2020 COVID-19 cases- 4,759
Total 2020 COVID-19 related deaths- 57

Community Outreach Workers hired

1-Somali
1-Spanish

LTE contract staff hired for COVID-19 response – 20

Communication

- Daily updates posted to social media
- Weekly reports posted to social media and sent to local media
- Press releases sent out – 50
- Informational videos made - 47 (multiple languages)

Barron County held regular meetings with regional health departments, long-term care facilities, schools, healthcare systems and the state throughout 2020.

Funding

HWPP COVID-19 Response Grant- \$60,631.00

This grant allowed us to hire two community outreach workers. One for the Somali community and one for our Spanish speaking community. The grant also supported the delivery of essential supplies to quarantined residents below, at, or near the federal poverty level or with no local support system, to help them overcome obstacles to an effective quarantine.

For questions or comments on the Public Health Programs Report please contact Laura Sauve, Public Health Program Manager at 715-537-6109 or laura.sauve@co.barron.wi.us



Economic Support/Income Maintenance

Economic Support/Income Maintenance provides financial assistance to low-income individuals so that they can move toward self-sufficiency. These programs include: FoodShare, Medicaid, Childcare Assistance, and Energy Assistance.

Economic Support Program Manager

Bonnie Roemhild

Lead Economic Support Workers

Candi Gillett

Dayna Stellrecht

Economic Support Workers

Brian Webb

Heather Salquist

Katie Glaser

Kayla Gander

Kristi Blodgett

Mee Vang

Sandy Nielsen

Scott Venegas

Tammy Anderson

Taylor Bever

Vacant

Energy Assistance Worker

Cheryl Bussewitz

Reception

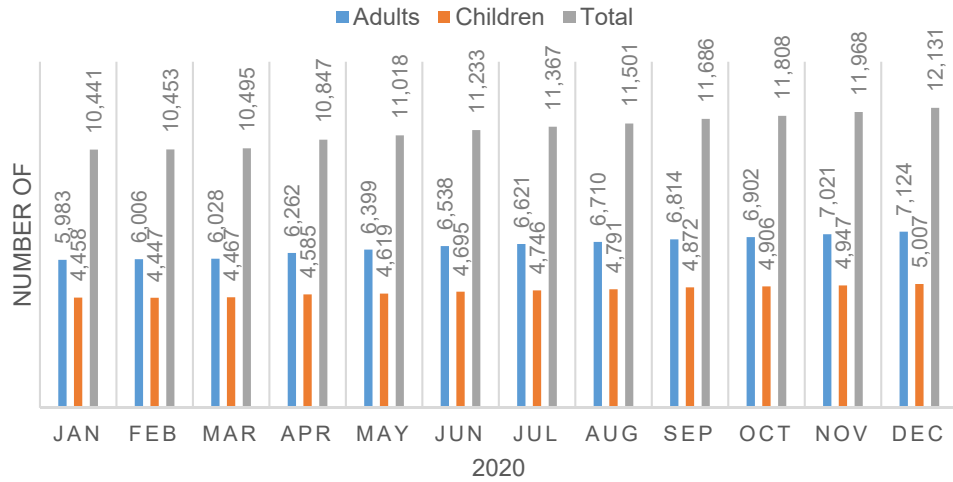
Lisa Long

Mary Hover

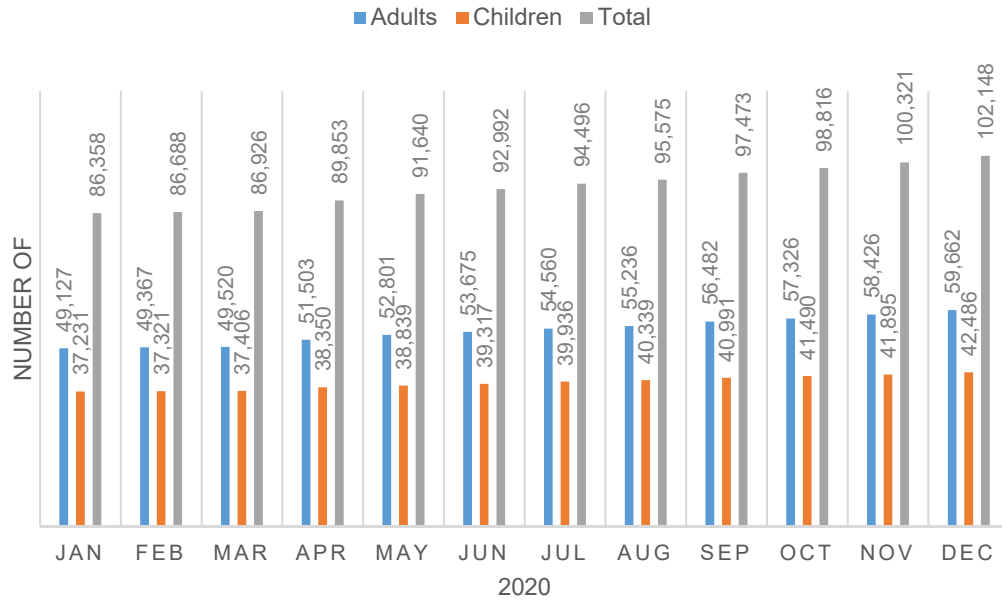
FoodShare/Medicaid

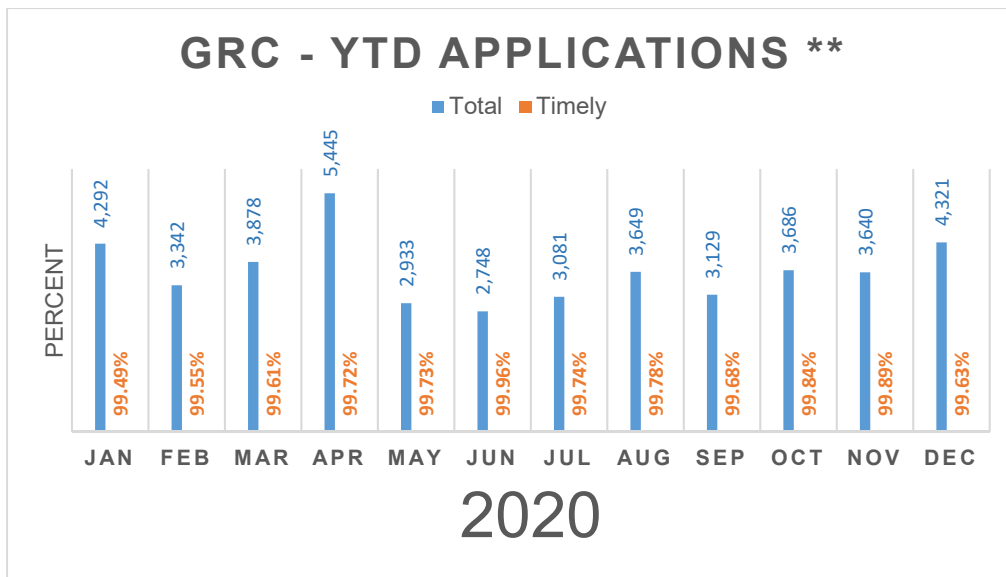
Income Maintenance Recipients are considered those who received FoodShare and/or Medicaid benefits. FoodShare Wisconsin helps low-income families and individuals to buy nutritious food. Medicaid is the largest source of funding for medical and health-related services for people with low income in the United States. Medicaid includes BadgerCare, Family Planning Only Services, Elderly and Disabled MA, Long-Term Care MA, Community Waivers (Family Care & IRIS), Medicare Premium Assistance. Medicaid eligibility is based on income, and for some programs, assets.

BARRON COUNTY - INCOME MAINTENANCE RECIPIENTS

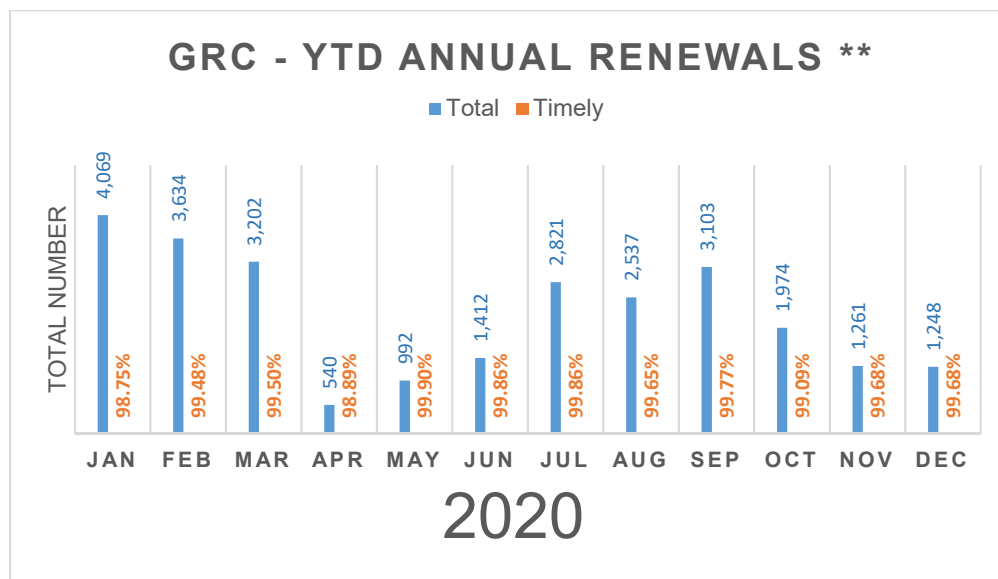


GRC - INCOME MAINTENANCE RECIPIENTS





**denotes contractual requirement--in this instance standard of 95% for timely processing



**denotes contractual requirement--in this instance standard of 95% for timely processing

Child Care Assistance

The Child Care Assistance Program helps low-income families pay for child care while working or attending school or training. Each parent in the household needs to be in an approved activity in order to qualify for Child Care Assistance.

2020 CHILDCARE NUMBERS	
Total Families Served	117
Total Children	197
Total Issuance	\$462,294.32
Average Paid Per Child	\$2,346.67

Caretaker Supplement

Wisconsin's Caretaker Supplement (CTS) is a cash benefit available to parents who are eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments. CTS benefits are \$250/month for the first eligible child and \$150/month for each additional eligible child. If it is a two-parent household, both parents need to be receiving SSI in order to qualify. On average, Barron County has five open CTS cases each month.

Energy Assistance

The Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP) provides assistance for heating costs, electric costs, and energy crisis situations.

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION
DIVISION OF ENERGY
WISCONSIN HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (WHEAP)

PAYMENTS AND SERVICES

FISCAL YEAR 2020

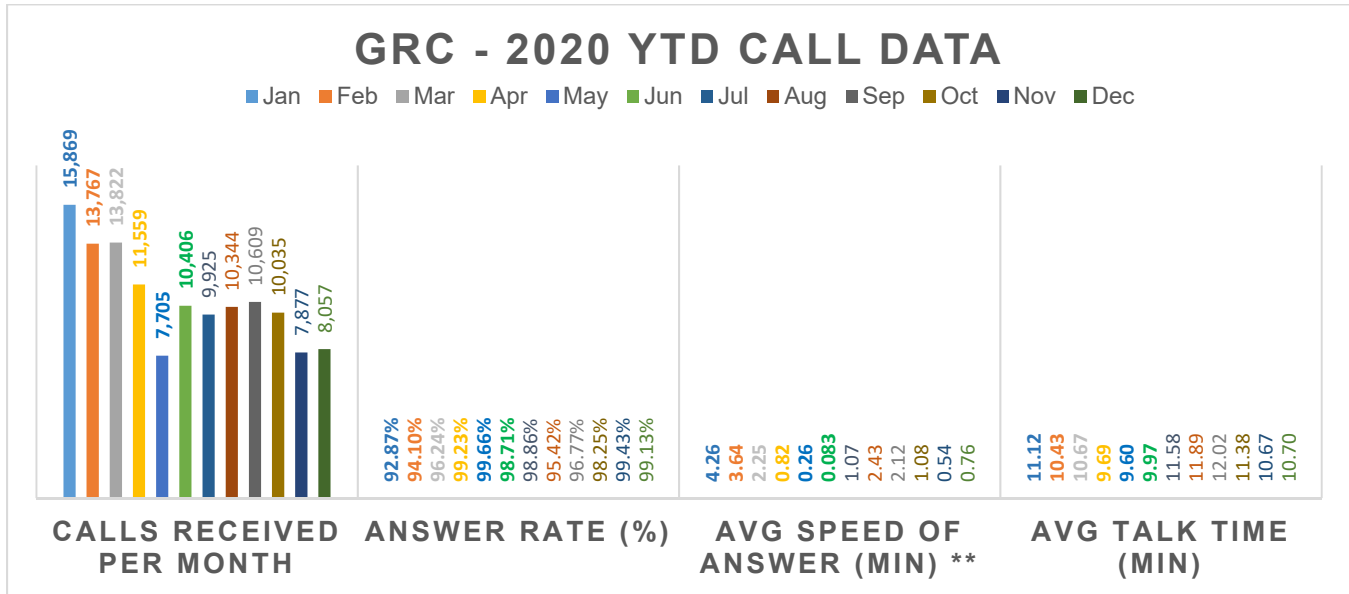
County/Tribe

Barron

	Count	Expenditures	Average Benefit
Total Households Applied for Energy Assistance	1,918		
Total Households Paid Energy Assistance	1,735	\$1,056,091	
Total Households Paid LIHEAP Funded Benefits	1,704	\$663,439	\$389
Total Households Paid Public Benefit Funded Benefits	1,731	\$392,652	\$227
Total Households Paid Crisis Assistance	236	\$76,559	
Total Households Paid LIHEAP Funded Crisis Assistance	169	\$51,302	\$304
Total Households Paid LIHEAP CARES Funded Crisis Assistance	0	\$0	\$0
Total Households Paid Public Benefit Funded Crisis Assistance	71	\$25,257	\$356
Total Households Receiving Non Payment Additional Services	0	\$0	\$0
Total Households Paid Non-WHEAP Additional Services	0	\$0	\$0
Total Paid Furnace Activity	35	\$74,972	\$2,142
Total Paid LIHEAP Funded Furnace Activity	4	\$12,220	\$3,055
Total Paid PB Funded Furnace Activity	31	\$62,752	\$2,024
Total Paid Furnace Repairs	19	\$7,987	\$420
Total Paid LIHEAP Funded Furnace Repairs	1	\$458	\$458
Total Paid PB Funded Furnace Repairs	18	\$7,530	\$418
Total Paid Furnace Replacements	15	\$66,610	\$4,441
Total Paid LIHEAP Funded Furnace Replacements	3	\$11,762	\$3,921
Total Paid PB Funded Furnace Replacements	12	\$54,848	\$4,571
Total Paid Furnace Assessment only	1	\$375	\$375
Total Paid LIHEAP Funded Furnace Assessment only	0	\$0	\$0
Total Paid PB Funded Furnace Assessment only	1	\$375	\$375

Call Center

The Great Rivers Call Center continues to be an important part of the Economic Support/Income Maintenance operations. Economic Support workers from the ten counties that make up the Great Rivers Consortium: Barron, Burnett, Chippewa, Douglas, Dunn, Eau Claire, Pierce, Polk, St. Croix and Washburn, spend half of their workday assisting our consumers who are calling the call center.



**denotes contractual requirement--in this instance monthly speed of answer cannot exceed 10 minutes

YOUTH AND FAMILIES UNIT

Program Managers/Lead Worker



Karla Broten
Youth and Families
Program Manager



Mary Olsen
Children's Services
Program Manager

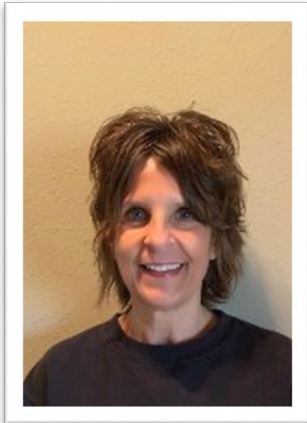


Laura Doebereiner
CPS Lead Worker

Karla Broten, Mary Olsen and Laura Doebereiner supervise and support the Youth and Families Unit, supervising 28 workers, with a wide variety of job responsibilities. The unit's function is to work with children and families who either have been victims of physical, emotional, sexual abuse or neglect, or are at risk of being abused or neglected. Social workers respond to reports of abuse or neglect, complete an assessment, make recommendations to the courts, and provide ongoing case management services to families. The Youth and Families Unit also responds to Adult Protection (APS) cases to ensure the safety of vulnerable and at risk adults in our county.

Additionally, there are programs in the unit that are voluntary in nature, and work to support vulnerable children in our community through supportive services. These programs include: Children's Long Term Support (CLTS), Children's Community Options Program (CCOP), and functional screening for Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) programs. In 2019, Barron County was awarded a \$650,000 grant to develop a Family Drug Treatment Court program. In 2019-2021, Barron County was awarded the Youth Innovations Grant to develop a partnership with schools to focus on early identification of youth mental health symptoms and connect youth with mental health treatment before becoming involved with the juvenile justice system. 2020 obviously threw us for some loops, but we are proud that we were able to continue to provide services to families throughout the pandemic and continue to make progress on our grant projects.

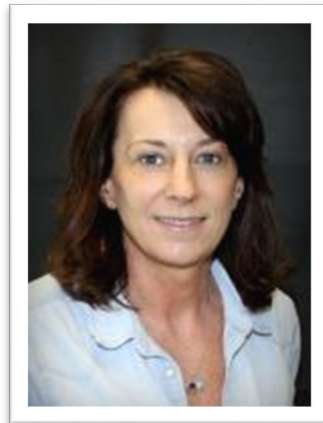
SUPPORT STAFF



Jodene Fenske
Administrative Assistant



Erin Johnson
Administrative Assistant



Ann Whittington
Administrative Assistant

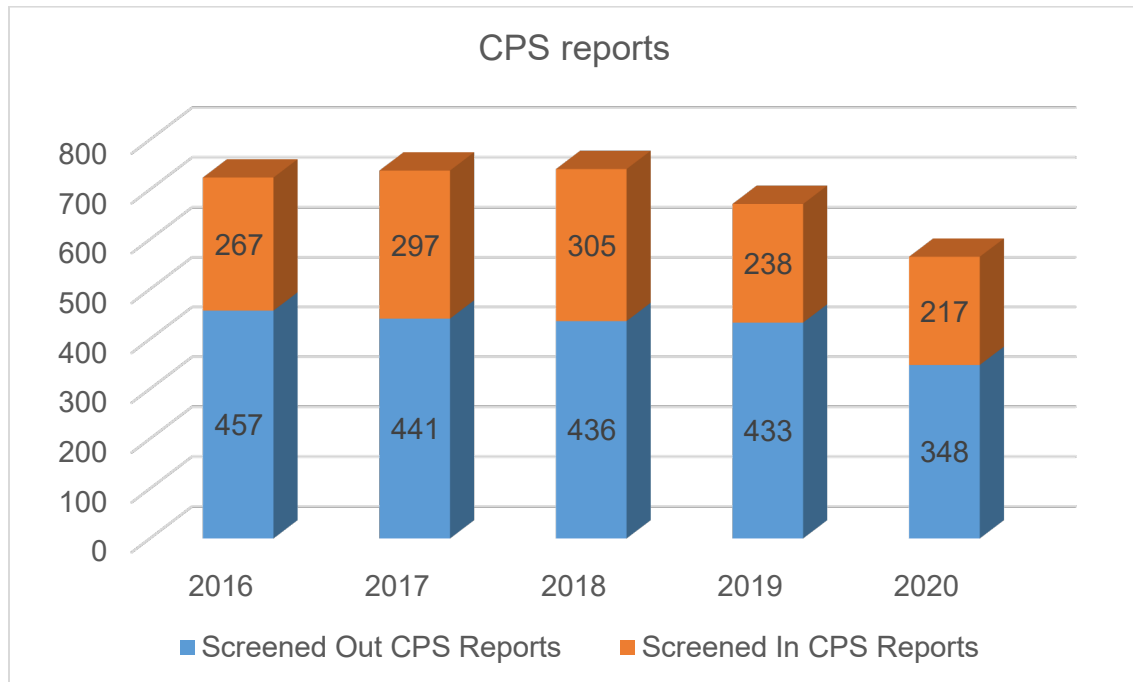
Three full time support staff assist workers in the completion of many tasks and support all of our programs. As the workload of the people they support varies from voluntary services to mandated services with tight timeframes, these employees are able to adapt and prioritize their workload to meet the needs of the workers. With the consistent, prompt support of these workers, we are able to meet the needs of the children and families that the department works with every day.

ACCESS

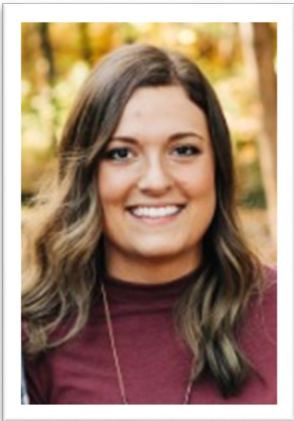


Holly Hulback
Access Worker

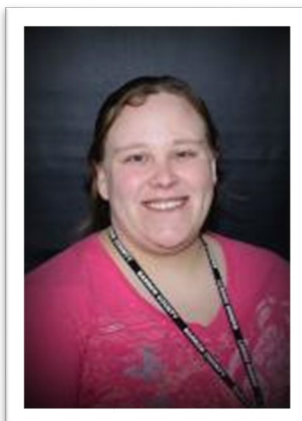
Barron County employs one FTE to fulfill the role of Access. Critical information is gathered during these calls that determines if a case will be referred for CPS or APS assessment. Additionally, the Access Workers make recommendations of resources that are available in the community or for other voluntary programs that may benefit their family.



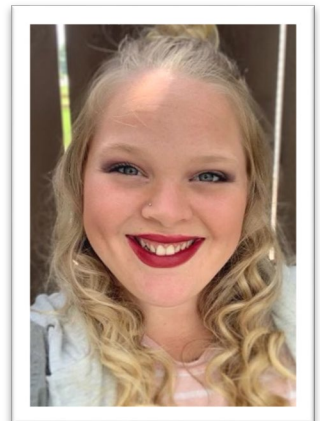
INITIAL ASSESSMENT



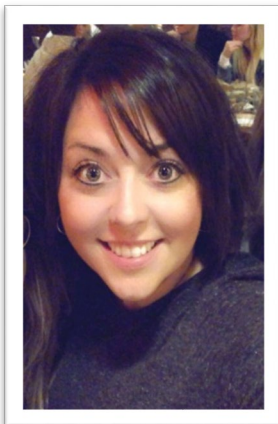
Cearah Kjos
Initial Assessment



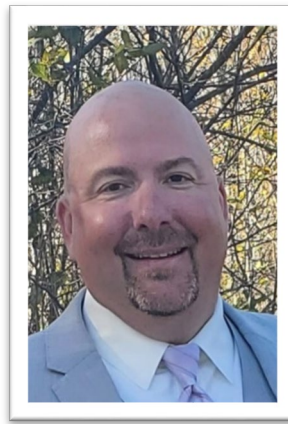
Kristin Koger
Initial Assessment



Kimberly Nerison
Initial Assessment



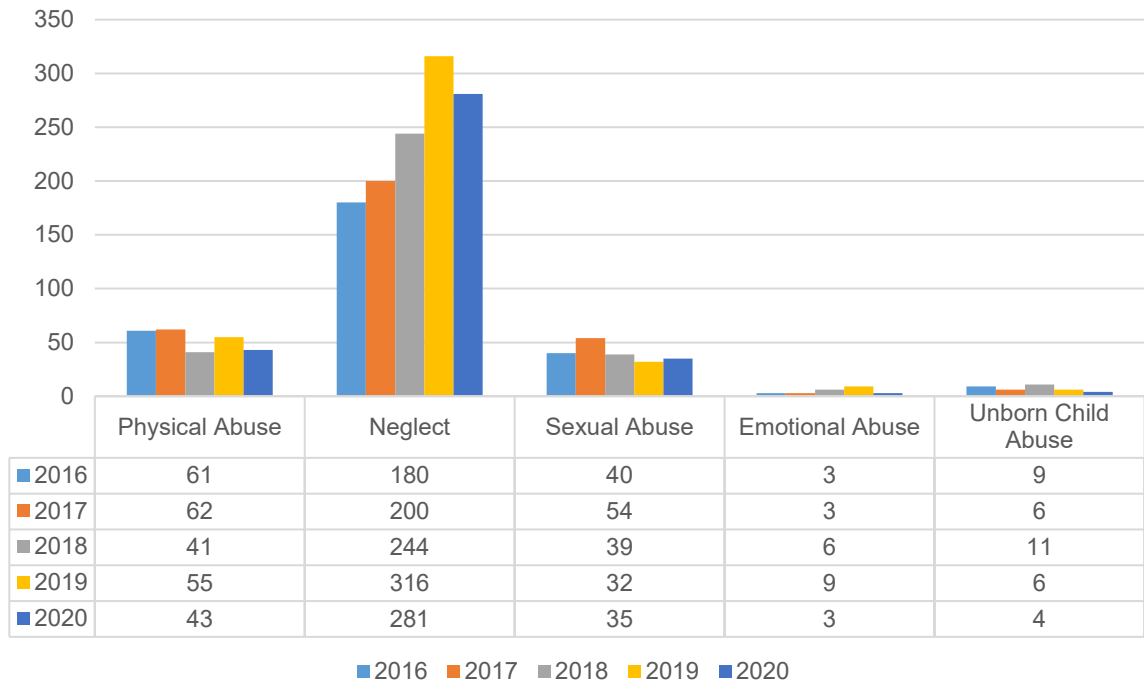
Danielle Neurer
Initial Assessment



Nick Thompson
Initial Assessment

Barron County employs five FTE social workers who perform the function of Initial Assessment. Initial Assessments are open for 60 days, meaning that is the timeframe workers have to gather information from the child, parents, and collateral contacts to determine whether or not the family will require further intervention to assure their children are safe. The primary responsibility of CPS during the initial assessment process is to assess safety concerns of children, identify children who are in need of protection or services, and refer families to local resources that will help support their children.

Screened in Child Protective Services Reports by Type



ONGOING CHILD PROTECTION



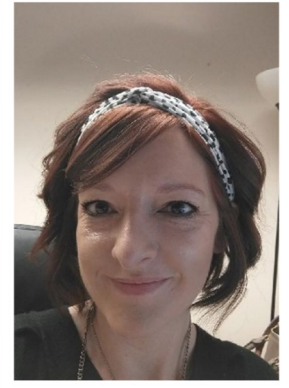
Marcia Borgen
Ongoing



Dawn Cornelissen
Ongoing



Amanda Delawyer
Ongoing



Bobbi Luetzgerodt
Ongoing



Mary Matthys
Parent Education



Charity Moe
Ongoing

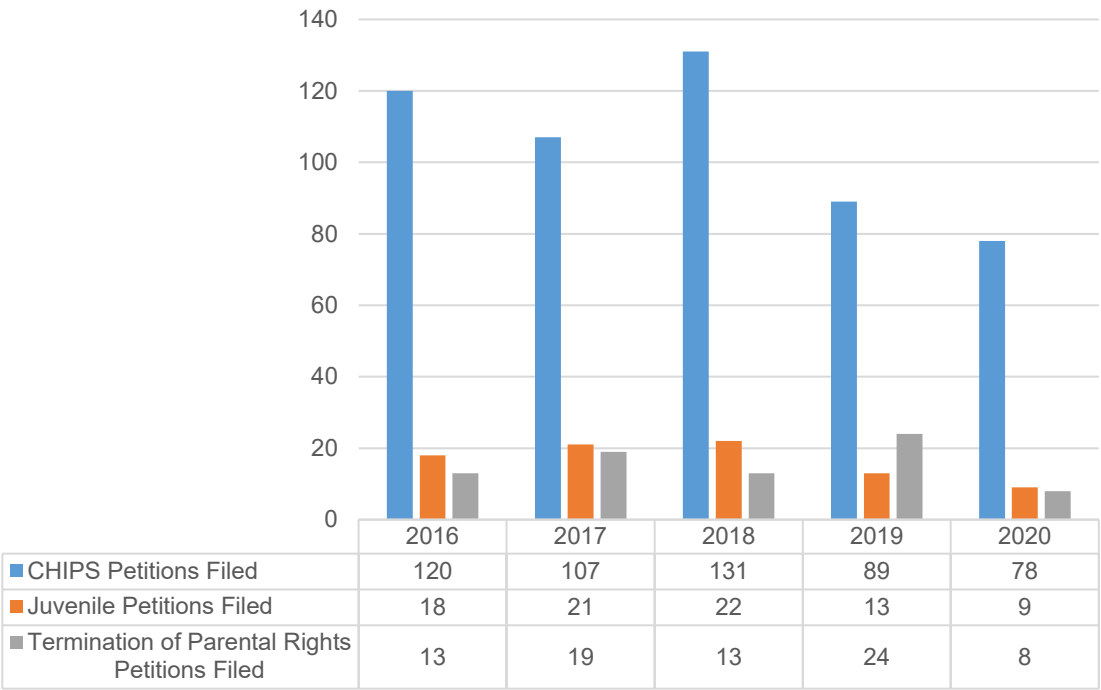


Lindsey Zenkovich
Ongoing

Barron County employs seven FTE social workers who perform the function of ongoing services. The ongoing team works with families who are under a CHIPS (Child in Need of Protection or Services) court order, JIPS (Juvenile in need of Protection or Services) court order, or delinquency court order. Ongoing workers work with families who have children on a court order and assist families in meeting the conditions of those orders. The workers collaborate with a variety of agencies and informal supports to best meet these children's needs and assure their safety.

Additionally, ongoing workers have been involved in the Youth Innovations Grant, attending prevention meetings with schools and families to connect them with appropriate services. We plan to continue this after the grant funding is over at the end of 2021. Again, while there are many unknowns about the long-term impact of COVID-19, we do anticipate that there will be increased truancy concerns in 2021 when students who were struggling with virtual education will be expected to return to in-person education.

Court Petitions Filed by Type



OUT OF HOME CARE



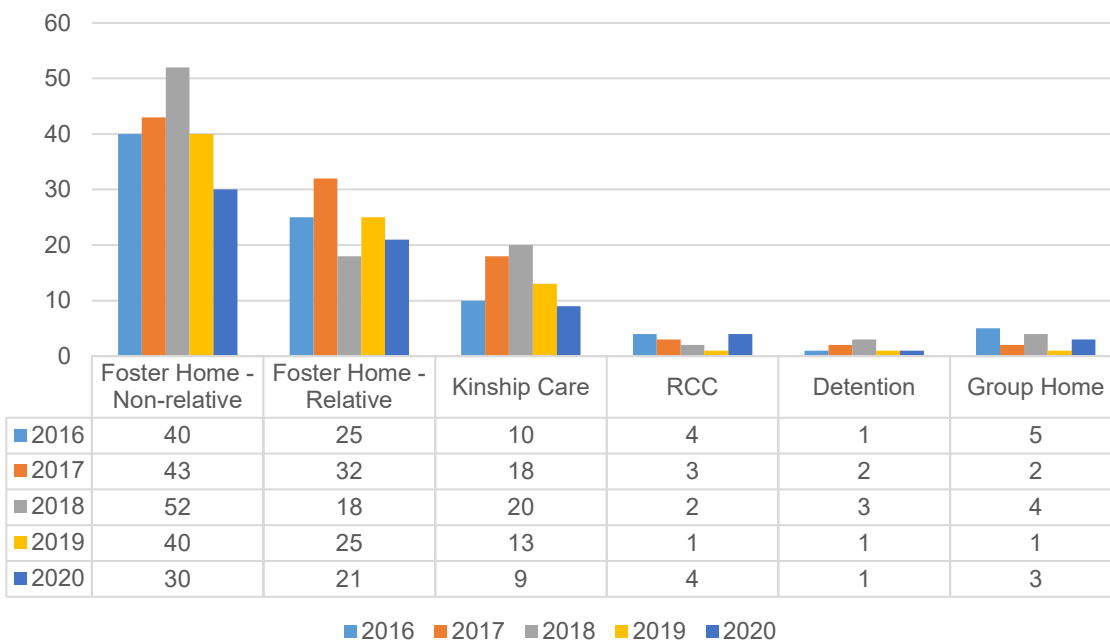
Lee Davison
Foster Care Coordinator



Kate Montague
Foster Care Coordinator

Barron County employs two FTE foster care coordinators. Foster care coordinators gather information, interview prospective foster parents, and determine whether or not they will become Barron County licensed homes. Additionally, Foster Care Coordinators support relative care providers. Relative care providers take in their relatives (grandchildren, nieces, nephews, etc.) often unexpectedly and often require support in accessing resources to be able to meet the needs of the children who are newly in their care. The decision for a family member to become licensed is often driven by the ability to qualify for more assistance and an increase in payment. There are also several family members in our community who are raising their loved ones and they are not licensed. This is referred to as Voluntary Kinship.

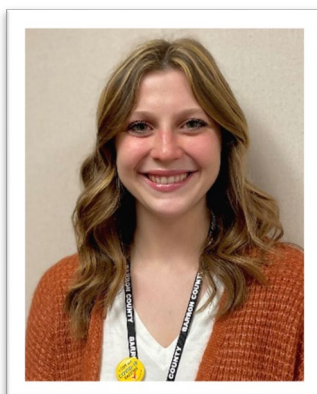
Placements by Type



FAMILY DRUG TREATMENT COURT (FDTC)



Heidi Good
FDTC Coordinator



Jenna Romanowski
FDTC Project
Coordinator



Jessica Wager
Ongoing FDTC
Social Worker

In 2019, Barron County was awarded a \$646,951 federal grant from the OJJDP to create a Family Drug Treatment Court (FDTC) in Barron County. FDTCs serve parents who have a substance use disorder and are involved with the child welfare system. The program aims to reunify parents with their children and improve the safety, well-being, and stability of children in Barron County. By utilizing a variety of supportive services and partners, participants in the program are able to receive help with the co-occurring issues that families affected by parental substance abuse face.

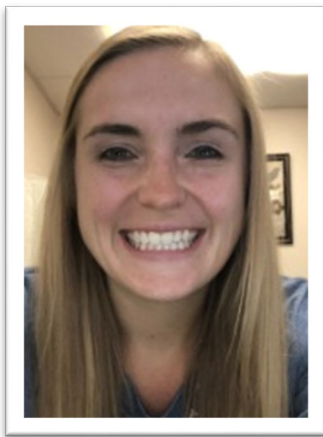
Barron County's FDTC is one of the more than 300 in the nation. Currently, there are 20 adult participants in the program, which impact 23 children. The program requires participants to complete five different milestones before graduating the program. Within each milestone, several different requirements and activities need to be met before advancing to the next milestone. Examples of requirements include: completing treatment for substance abuse disorder, taking parenting classes, securing employment and stable housing, and maintaining sobriety.



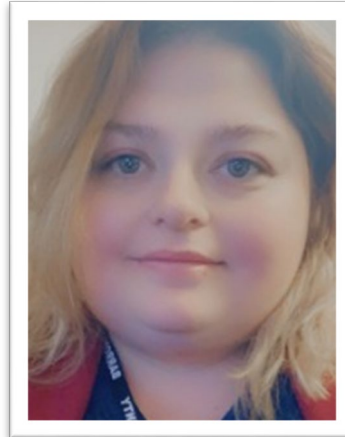
Back: Some of our FDTC Participants celebrating with two participants who achieved one year of sobriety!

Front: FDTC SW Jessica Wager, Judge James Babler, Judge Maureen Boyle, Judge Michael Bitney, and FDTC Coordinator Heidi Good

ADULT PROTECTION



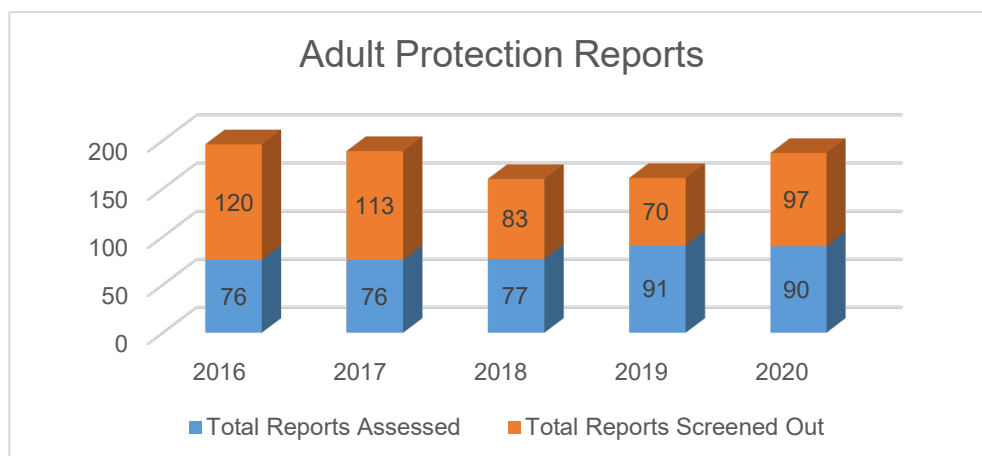
Morgan Gannon
Adult Protection



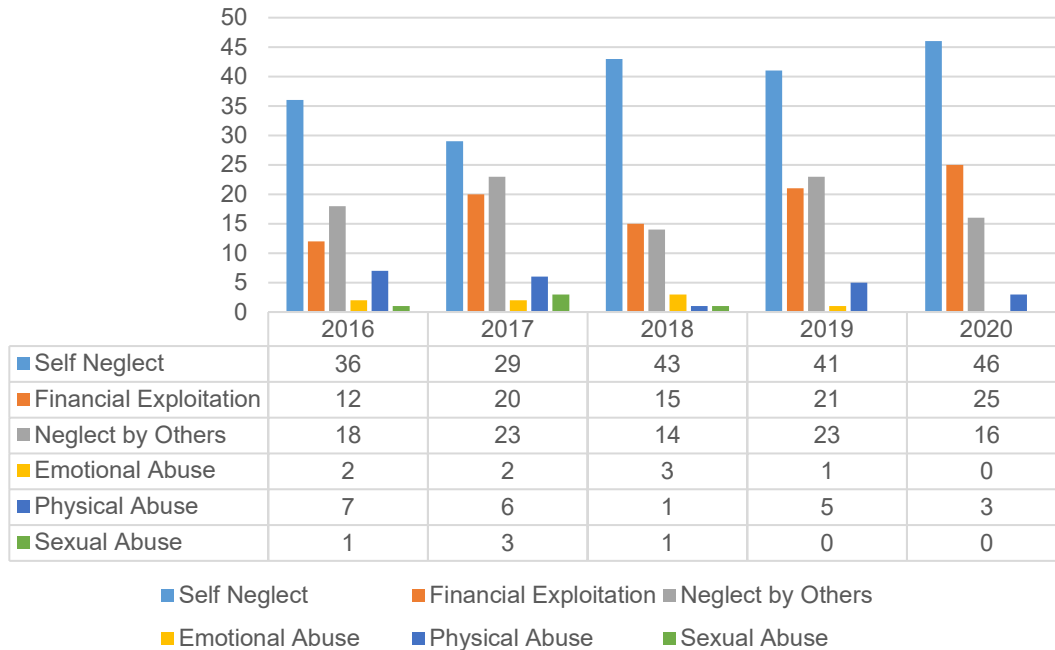
Kristin Ross
Adult Protection

Two workers trained in adult protection procedures primarily complete adult protection services. The most common forms of abuse investigated by the agency were, again, those of self-neglect and caregiver neglect. Other forms of abuse include: physical, emotional, and sexual abuse, as well as financial exploitation, or any combination of the above. The adult protection worker often connects the individual with community resources, including the Aging and Disability Resource Center, Office on Aging, local community/senior centers, and medical or psychiatric services. In some circumstances, however, it is discovered that the adult at risk or elder is unable to care for themselves and is in need of guardianship and/or protective placement (placement at a facility that can meet their needs—typically at a nursing home, assisted living facility, community based residential facility, or adult family home). If the individual is in need of guardianship, the adult protection worker either assists the family with the process or petitions the court to initiate proceedings.

In addition to adult protection investigations, the adult protection workers also complete guardianships, protective placements, and annual reviews of protective placements (Watts Reviews).



Adult Protection Assessments by Case Type



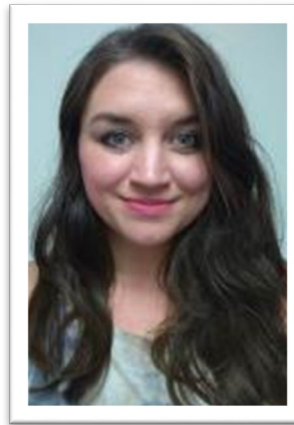
CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Barron County has several programs for youth with special health care, developmental and mental health related needs. These programs assist the youth and their families on a voluntary level to help support the youth and his or her caregivers to better meet the youth's identified needs. Over the past few years, Barron County has seen an increase in the need for services and supports for children with significant mental health needs.

WISCONSIN'S CHILDREN'S LONG-TERM SUPPORT WAIVERS



Joe Stearns
Children's Long Term
Support



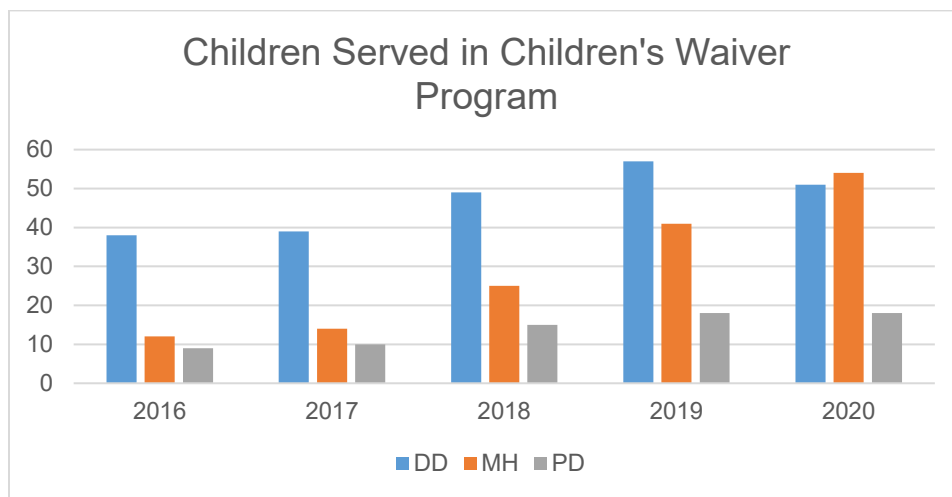
Kimberly Walters
Children's Long Term
Support

Wisconsin's Children's Long-Term Support (CLTS) Waiver Program funds community supports and services for children who have substantial limitations in their daily activities and need support to remain in their home or community. Eligible children include those with developmental disabilities, severe emotional disturbances, and physical disabilities. Funding can be used to support a range of different services based on an assessment of the needs of the child and his or her family.

In October 2020, it was announced that the Department of Health Services would implement the state-level budget and enrollment administration for the CLTS Waiver Program, which started on January 1, 2021. The shift to a state-level budget and enrollment administration for the CLTS Waiver Program promotes statewide consistency in access, enrollment, and service planning by funding waiver services at the state level for all enrollments. Each month the state provides a report indicating what children are eligible for enrollment that month.

CHILDREN COMMUNITY OPTIONS PROGRAM

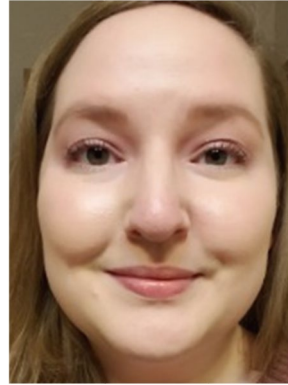
The Children's Community Options Program (CCOP) provides a coordinated approach to supporting families who have a child with a disability. This approach recognizes and maximizes the family's capacity, resiliency, and unique abilities with the intention of better supporting, nurturing, and facilitating self-determination, interdependence, and inclusion in all facets of community life for the child and family. CCOP funds are used for purchasing goods and services that respond to assessed needs and desired outcomes as identified in each participant's child and family centered individual service plan. To be eligible for CCOP the child must meet the functional level of care determined by the CLTS functional screen. Children do not need to be on Medicaid to be eligible for CCOP funding.



COORDINATED COMMUNITY SERVICES YOUTH & FAMILIES



Angela Lovelady
CCS/CLTS Case
Manager



Karissa Oberhelman
CCS/CLTS Case
Manager

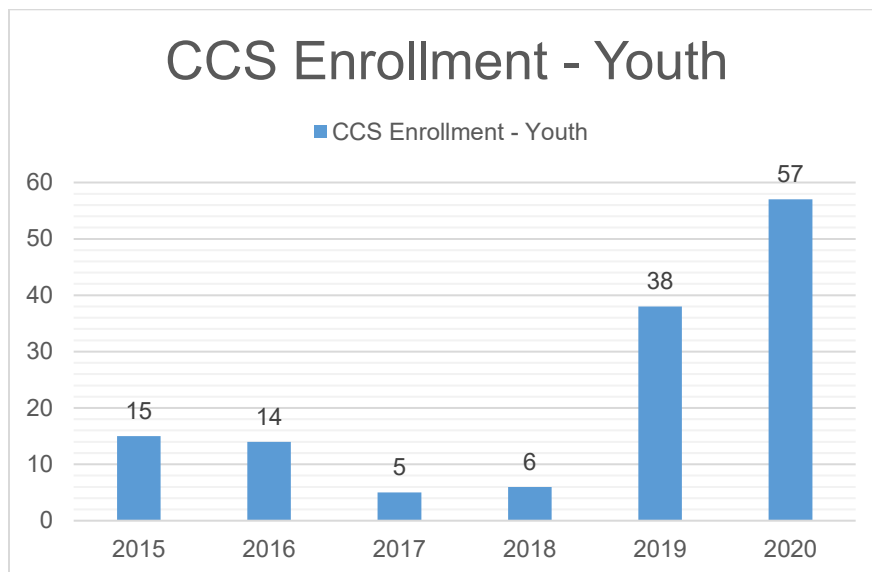


Marina Revak
CCS/CLTS Case
Manager



Cole Shallock
CCS/CLTS Case
Manager

In 2020, the four youth CCS workers came under the general supervision of the Youth and Families Unit as many children enrolled in CCS were also eligible for other voluntary programs including CLTS, CCOP, and CST. This has allowed us to better serve youth and families with case managers trained in the four Children's Service Programs to best utilize and support families with the appropriate funding. Barron County has seen a steady increase in the number of referrals for youth with mental health needs.



Behavioral Health Programs

- ❖ Crisis Follow-up & Linkage
- ❖ Barron Area Recovery Center
- ❖ Drug and Alcohol Court
- ❖ Community Support Program
- ❖ Comprehensive Community Services

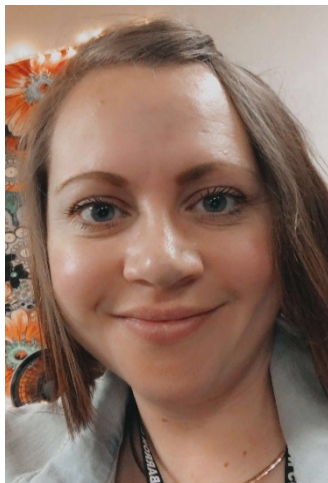


Ann Hay
Behavioral Health Programs Manager

AJ Simon
Behavioral Health Clinical Supervisor



Behavioral Health Administrative Assistants



Ashley Dominick

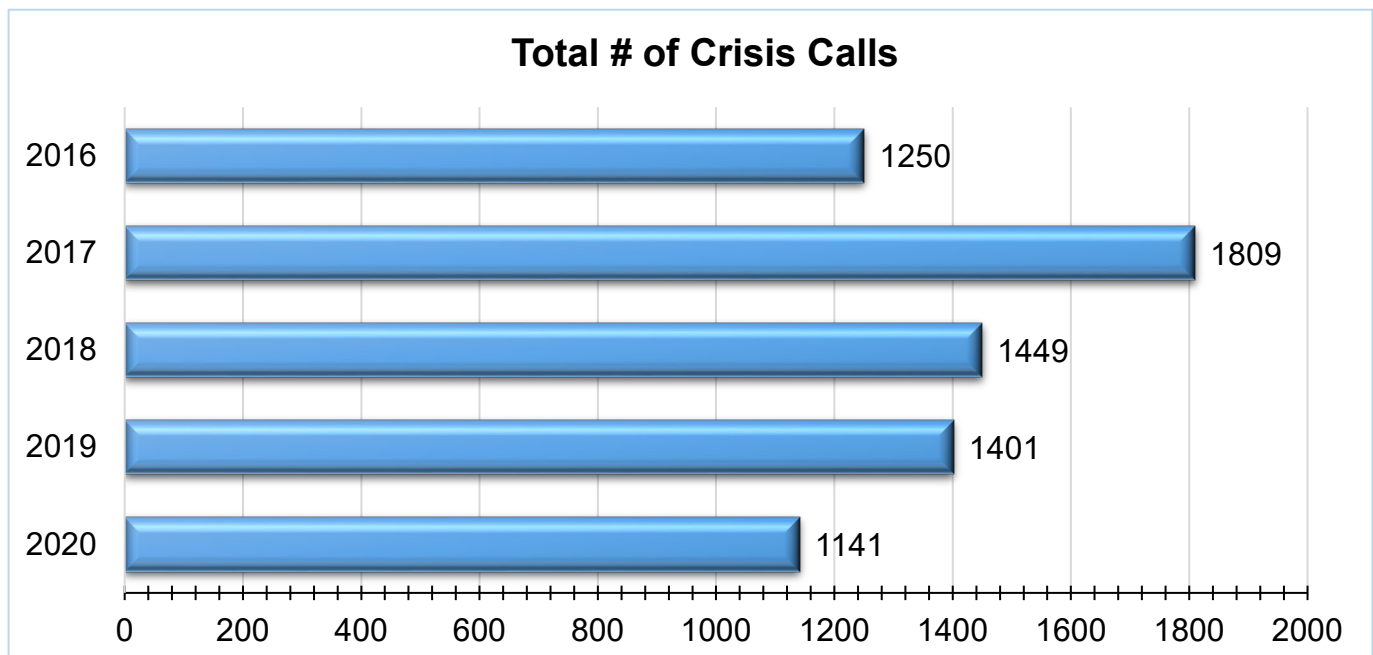
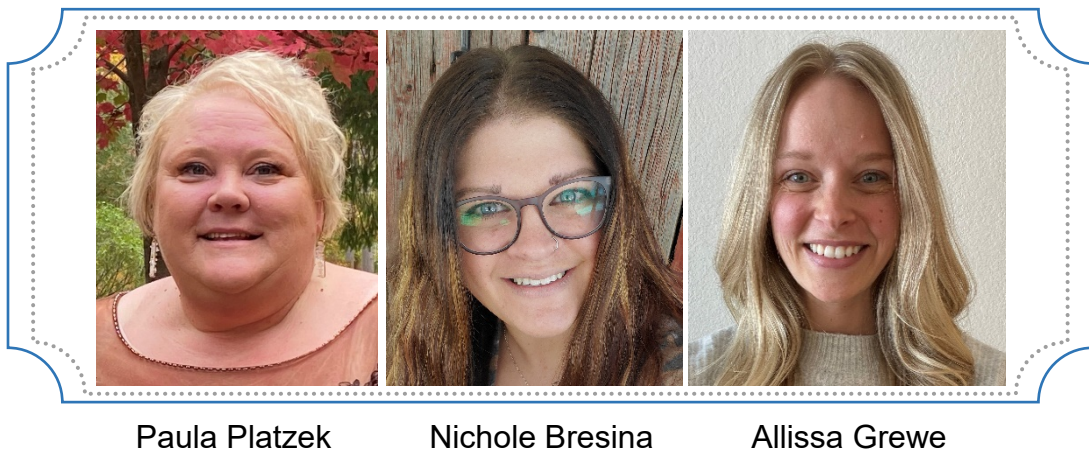


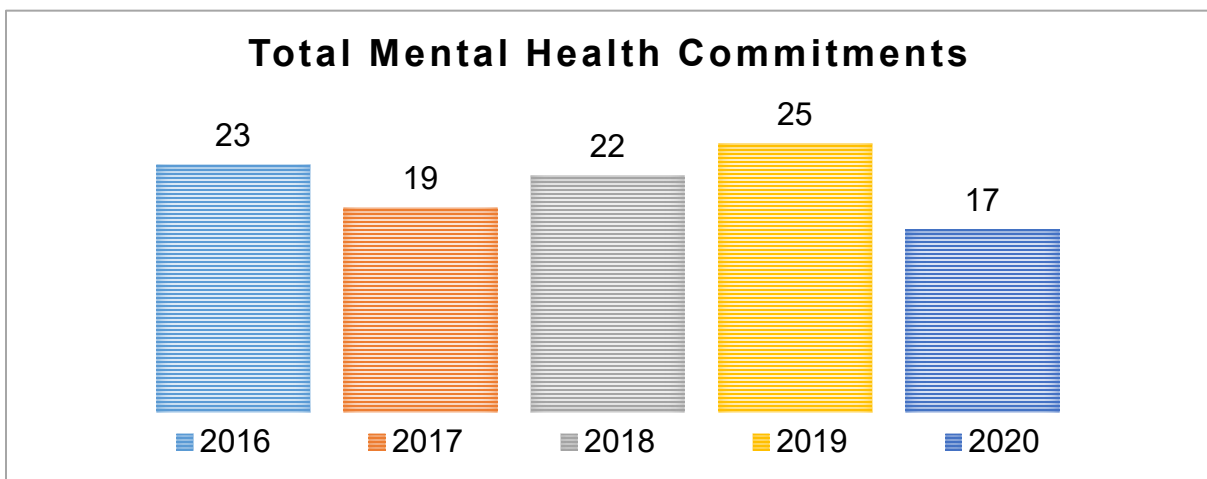
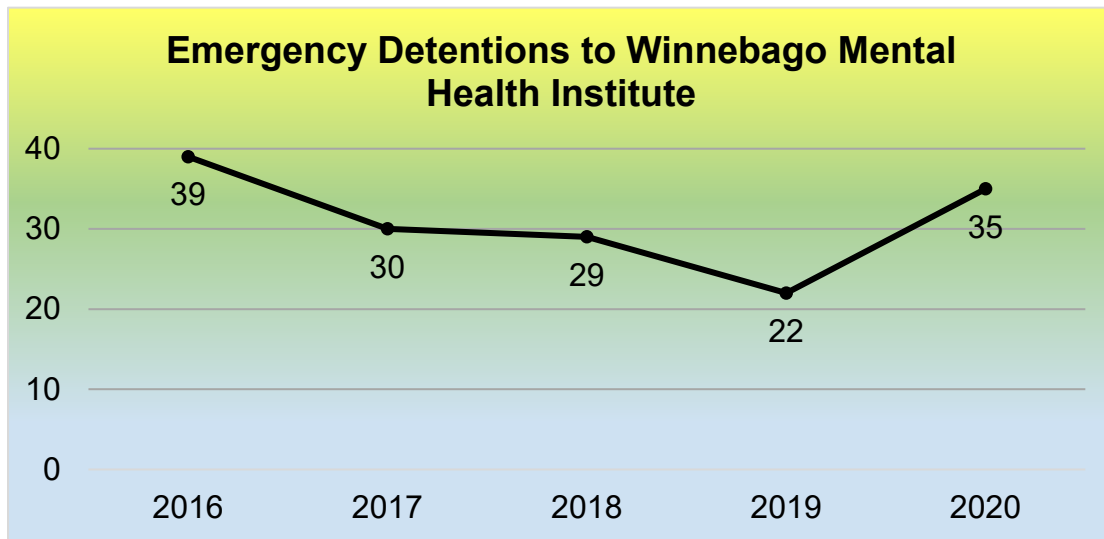
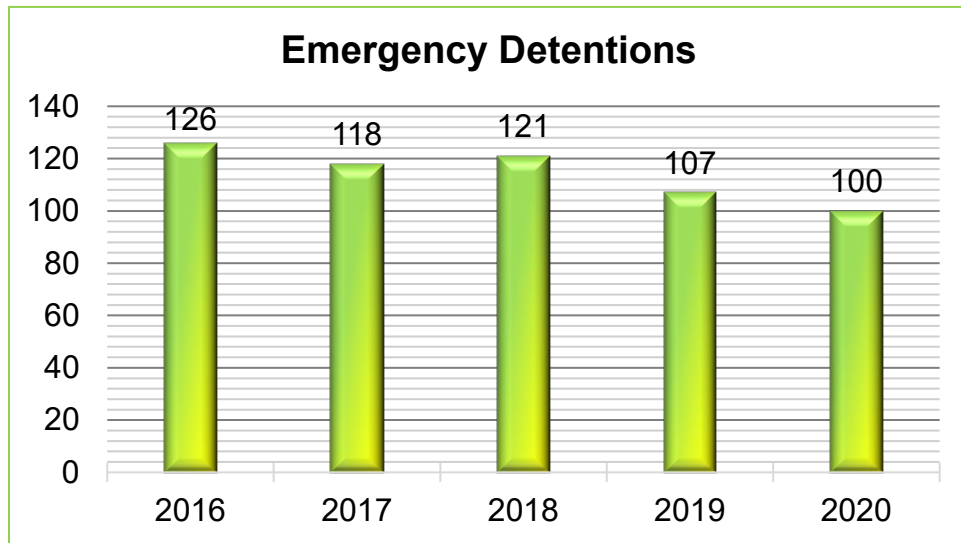
Alison Seemann

Crisis Follow-up & Linkage DHS 34

Barron County provides emergency mental health services and follow-up case management through a state certified program. Services are provided to persons experiencing a mental health crisis, or are in a situation that could potentially turn into a mental health crisis without services. The program includes 24 hour telephone crisis support, mobile support and crisis walk-in services during office hours.

Program staff also provide follow-up case management services to citizens that are placed on a civil commitment and would benefit from additional supports.





Barron Area Recovery Center (BARC) DHS 75

The Barron Area Recovery Center (BARC) is a state certified program that provides outpatient substance abuse services to Barron County residents. Barron County added gender-specific IOP and Aftercare services in October 2018. Barron County is one of a small group of counties to offer this programming.



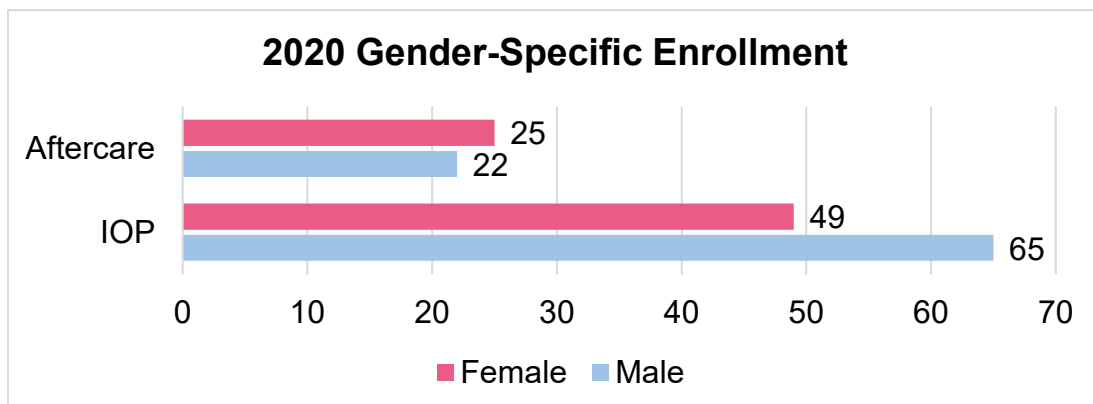
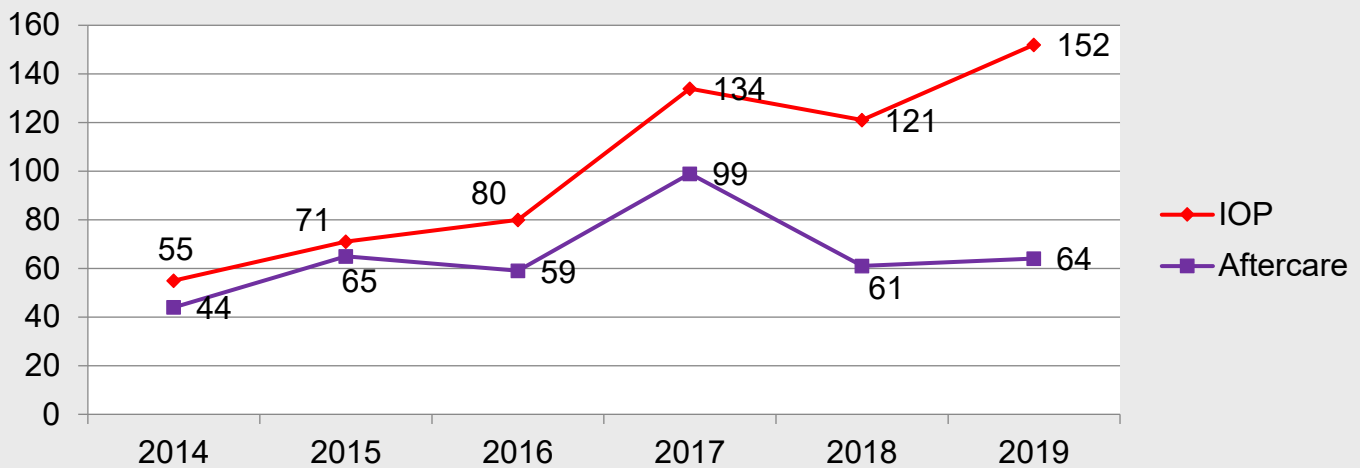
Ron Lessard

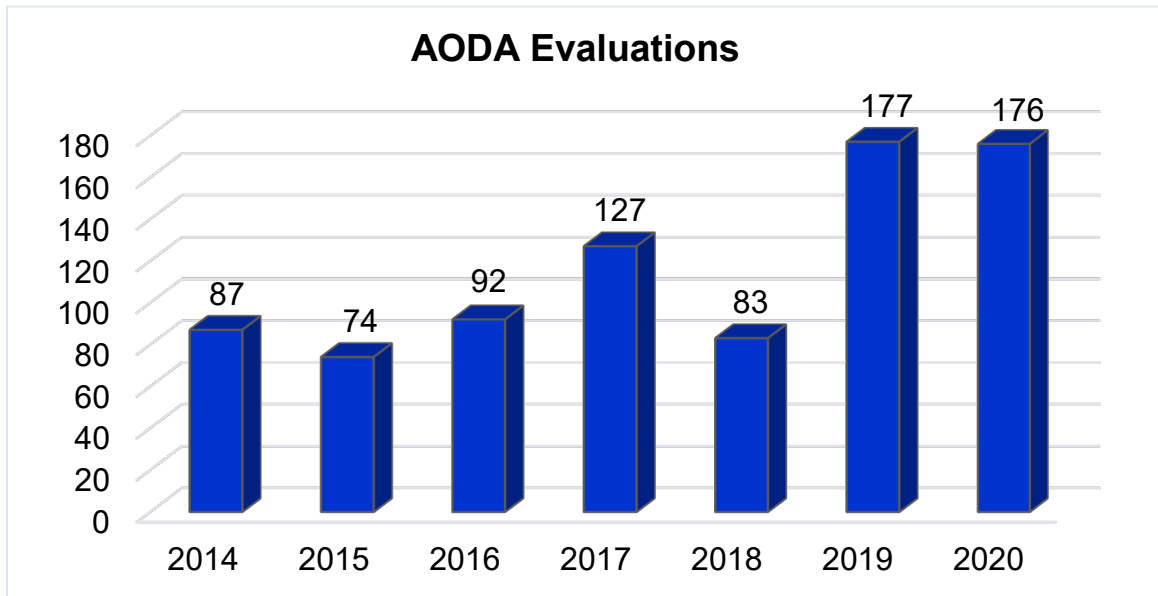


Amelia Collins



Dan McNamara





Drug and Alcohol Court (DAC)

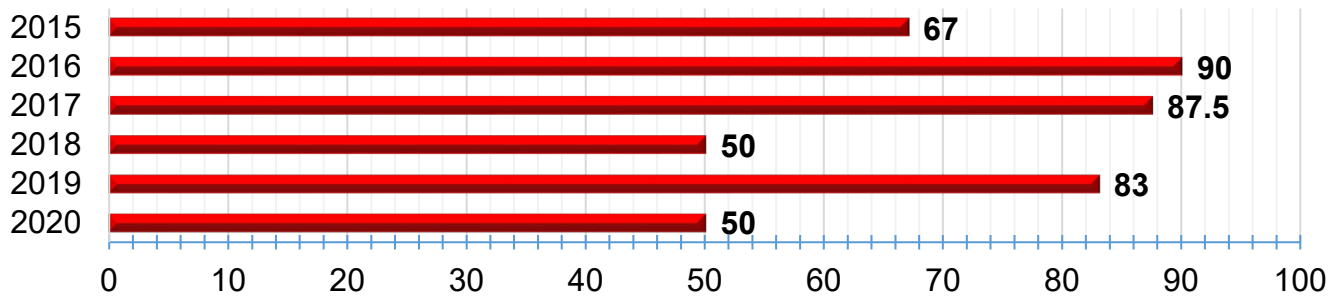
The Barron County Drug and Alcohol Court is specifically designated and staffed to handle cases involving drug offenders through an intensive, judicially monitored program of drug treatment, rehabilitative services, and strict community supervision.

The program consists of a multi-disciplinary team which includes a judge, a law enforcement representative, a public defender, a district attorney representative, a substance abuse counselor, a BCDAC coordinator/case manager, a Department of Corrections officer and a Department of Health and Human Services social worker.

The program follows the treatment court standards developed by the Wisconsin Association of Treatment Court Professionals which incorporated components of The National Association of Drug Court Professionals best practice standards. The program uses evidence-based practice approaches and is a multi-phased treatment process.

BCDAC Participants			
Year	Total Participants	Total Graduates	Total Terminations
2016	15	5	6
2017	16	5	8
2018	22	6	7
2019	21	2	6
2020	21	7	6

% of DAC participants who report meth as primary drug of choice



Expected outcomes of graduation from the BCDAC program are abstinence from substance use, increased employment, decreased recidivism rates, increased housing stability, decreased criminal justice involvement, and improved family functioning and social connectedness.

Community Support Program (CSP) (DHS 63)

Barron County's CSP is a state-certified, individualized, treatment program for persons living with severe and persistent mental illness. The CSP team includes a psychiatrist, a psychiatric nurse practitioner, a registered nurse, a licensed practical nurse, and three clinicians.



Amelia Collins

Lara Stauner

Jeremy Nevin

Jena Florczak
Kelsey Husby

The Community Support Program is designed to support people by providing resources and enhancing skills enabling participants to build an independent life and live in the least restrictive setting possible.

CSP Participants	
2016	56
2017	51
2018	47
2019	43
2020	40

	CSP Admits	Successful Discharges
2017	9	9
2018	8	9
2019	4	3
2020	5	2

Medication Management Services	
2017	36
2018	37
2019	36
2020	31

Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) (DHS 36)

Barron County participates in a shared services model with Eau Claire and St. Croix Counties. We are part of the BESt CCS Program. From 2016-2018, Barron County was part of the WRRWC CCS Consortium.



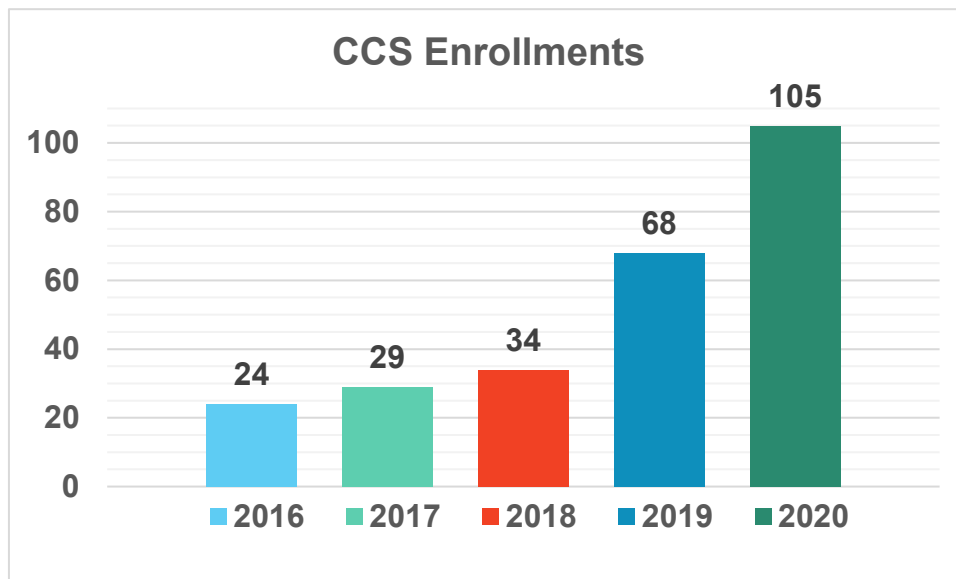
Drew Schultz



Samantha Loberg



Terry Holmstrom



Adult Enrollments	
2019	30
2020	48

CCS is available to consumers with mental health or substance use issues across the lifespan. Flexible and individualized services are available to Barron County residents which facilitate psychosocial rehabilitation and recovery. The program provides for individuals with more needs than traditional outpatient services, but lower intensity than Community Support Programs.

CCS Recovery Concepts

- Active Consumer participation in recovery plan
- Consumer control of rights, goals, and decisions
- Manage mental health and substance use symptoms
- Successful independent community living

CCS Program Services

- Case management and service facilitation
- Skill development and enhancement
- Communication and interpersonal skills training
- Peer Support
- Employment training
- Therapy
- AODA services
- Recovery education and illness management

Message from the Director...

This past year, 2020, has caused everyone to experience unprecedented times due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Barron County Department of Health and Human Services staff and the residents we work with were no exception. Many of our DHHS employees were asked to transition to telecommuting with only a couple days' notice during a time of great uncertainty. Thankfully, many of the technological resources necessary for such a transition were already in place and were being utilized on a small scale. Many of the day to day processes right down to mail distribution and document signatures were challenged and needed to be revamped to ensure the highest level of responsiveness, support, and services remained in place for the residents we serve. In DHHS fashion, our staff responded to ever-changing work conditions, policies and procedures with the utmost level of professionalism. At a time when our schools, churches, stakeholders and community were in a state of chaos and turmoil, our staff knew there was a job to be done to continue to ensure the health and safety of Barron County residents.

There is no question, the pandemic, something none of us had ever experienced and hopefully never will again, tested us to our limits on many days. As you review this annual report though you will notice that despite barriers, frustration and exhaustion, DHHS pressed on; and not just at the level of status quo or just getting by, we continued to grow program areas such as Family Drug Treatment Court, Comprehensive Community Services, and Children's Long Term Support Services.

In direct response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, our Public Health team took the lead. They all did an amazing job on every aspect of the response, from following up on all positive cases, completing outbreak investigations, contact tracing, triaging patient questions and symptoms, to organizing, scheduling and executing mass vaccination clinics. Other parts of the response included working with businesses to establish safe operating procedures based on State DHS and CDC guidelines and recommendations, working with schools to support them to be able to return to in-person learning in the fall of 2020 after abruptly being shut down in the spring. Consulting with, and supporting, congregate living facilities such as nursing homes and other long-term care facilities where many of our most vulnerable population reside was also a major function of the response. One of the most trying parts of the COVID-19 Pandemic came as our community and nation became divided over the response. Staff spent many hours listening to, educating and supporting angry, upset, frustrated and scared residents. This was a very emotionally taxing experience felt by many as the pandemic raged on for over a year.

I cannot put into words how proud and grateful I am to have such a dedicated, motivated, and caring team, and to be able to serve as their leader. There were so many of the staff who frequently completed tasks or worked on projects that were not in their job description, simply because they knew it needed to be done. Those that did not take on different responsibilities or functions worked diligently to cover additional work in their program areas and made sure our consumers felt as little impact as possible from the Department. The Department of Health and Human Services is a great place to work and I am in awe each day at the work we do! In 2021, I hope we can put the pandemic behind us and have a sense of "normalcy" in our day to day living.

Sincerely,

Stacey Frolik