

EAU CLAIRE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Department Report – Division & Unit Updates

Director – Angela Weideman

August 4th, 2025

Operations, Data, and Fiscal Update

Federal Policy Update: Executive Order on Homelessness, Mental Illness & Public Safety – Update from National Association of Counties (NACo)

On July 24, 2025, the White House issued an Executive Order (EO) that shifts federal policy on homelessness and behavioral health, emphasizing civil commitment, public safety, and treatment-based interventions. This change will significantly impact counties across several program areas:

Key Implications for Counties:

1. **Mental Health Treatment Beds** – Counties will be required to support civil commitment and institutional treatment for individuals with serious mental illness to avoid premature releases due to capacity constraints.
2. **Restrictions on Harm Reduction** – Federal funding from SAMHSA can no longer support syringe exchange, naloxone distribution, or supervised consumption sites. Counties must use state, local, or opioid settlement funds for these services.
3. **New Crisis Response Support** – Increased funding for Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) to provide rapid crisis intervention and diversion services.
4. **Drug Courts & Jail Diversion** – Expanded support for drug courts and alternatives to incarceration.
5. **Emergency Encampment Response** – DOJ-directed emergency funds may assist counties in removing encampments where public safety is at risk.
6. **Tighter Program Conditions** – HUD and HHS may now require:
 - a. Mandatory treatment participation
 - b. Data sharing with law enforcement (as legally allowed)
 - c. Limits on housing eligibility (e.g., for sex offenders or individuals near safe consumption sites)

Broader Fiscal and Operational Challenges Nationally:

- **Increased Local Costs** – Cuts in federal cost-sharing for programs like SNAP and Medicaid will increase county obligations—\$850 million annually for SNAP alone by FY2027.
- **Administrative Burdens** – Stricter eligibility and verification requirements will demand more staff and technology upgrades without additional funding.
- **Uncompensated Care Risk** – Reduced Medicaid coverage may increase pressure on county-supported hospitals and emergency services.
- **Cuts to Key Programs** – Proposed federal budget cuts threaten rural and infrastructure programs including:
 - Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)
 - HOME Investment Partnerships

- USDA Rural Development
- FEMA’s BRIC disaster mitigation program
- **Reduced Local Autonomy** – Counties may face tighter mandates and less flexibility to prioritize local needs, with possible implications for local taxes or service reductions.

Next Steps

Counties are advised to monitor forthcoming federal guidance, assess local service capacity, and prepare for adjustments in funding eligibility, privacy rules, and behavioral health services. NACo continues to advocate on behalf of counties and track these developments.

Here are the links to the articles providing information:

[White House Executive Order Shifts Federal Approach to Homelessness, Mental Illness and Public Safety | National Association of Counties](#)

[The Big Shift: An Analysis of the Local Cost of Federal Cuts | National Association of Counties](#)

Department Staffing Update				
Total FTE’s	Filled FTE’s		Vacant FTE’s	
268	249.5	93.1%	18.5	6.9%

Family Services Division Update (Melissa Christopherson)

In Family Services, we continue to focus on innovative services, reducing placements and creative budget planning.

The JDC is working to add a position that is grant funded for the first 2 years. This position will improve 180 program support and after care services with the goal of increasing program capacity and revenue. The grant also adds additional mentoring services and staff training. Further, the implementation of the mental health practitioner is complete, and we are now in the process of expanding the services of the mental health practitioner to short term youth through available school district mental health funds.

The Youth Services unit, Resource unit, Children’s Long Term Support unit, and Lutheran Social Services are now finalizing the planning stage and entering the implementation phase of the development of a level 5 shift staffed foster home. The development of this home will allow us to bring back one out of state placement and will result in a long-term cost savings when it comes to serving that youth, as due to the acuity of needs, the youth is expected to require lifelong services. It is also a major undertaking requiring partnership and approvals from both the WI Department of Children and Families and the WI Department of Health. We do hope in the long term this home will be able to expand and serve 1-2 more children currently in long term residential placements.

The Youth Services team recently applied for a Youth Innovation Grant that if awarded will provide increased staff training, improved access to post dispositional services to youth, and transportation for youth who are struggling with truancy and working with us through system of care or as part of a diversion from a truancy citation.

The Resource Unit is also working to finalize a new procedure on respite that will assist us in better managing costs and coordinating care needs. Further, they are working to continue to support other units in family find and connections. This summer we were able to place children long term with relatives in New York and are currently assisting in reunifying children currently in placement here with extended family in Tennessee and Arkansas.

Centralized Access (Julie Brown)	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Total number of referrals received in month	414	415	321	392	358
Total pounds of food from Feed My People distributed this month	782	935	908	722	873
Total people receiving food from Feed My People this past month	165	178	195	159	183

Child Protective Services (CPS) Initial Assessment (Tasha Alexander)	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Number of CPS reports received	113	133	134	128	120
Number of CPS reports screened in for initial assessment	12	22	24	22	15
Number of child welfare reports screened in	7	5	7	4	6
Assessments resulting in services opening with Dept	3	2	2	2	1

Child Protective Services (CPS) Ongoing (Courtney Wick)	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Number of children served in CPS Ongoing	118	118	115	119	110
Number of children opened to CPS Ongoing	6	6	3	8	3
Number of children closed to CPS Ongoing	13	6	3	13	8
Number of children served in their home in CPS Ongoing	51	48	48	51	46

Juvenile Intake (Hannah Keller)	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Number of referrals received	36	41	43	34	16
Number of referrals involving delinquencies	23	25	31	31	11
Number of referrals involving JIPS truanancies	12	11	5	0	0
Number of referrals involving JIPS non-truancy	1	5	8	4	5

Youth Services (Hannah Keller)	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Number of youth served in Youth Services Ongoing	95	90	95	100	98
Number of youth served residing in their family home	70	68	72	78	76

System of Care (Hannah Keller)	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Number of youth served in program	19	16	28	12	12
Number of youth served enrolled in high school	6	10	15	8	8
Number of youth served enrolled in middle school	13	6	13	4	4

Coordinated Services Teams (Hannah Keller)	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Number of CST participants	7	8	9	8	8
Number of youth starting CST programming this month	4	1	0	1	2
Number of youth discharged from CST programming this month	0	0	2	0	0

Intensive Permanency Services (Nicholas Stabenow-Schneider)	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Number of youth receiving Intensive Permanency Services	11	12	11	11	12
Number of family conferences conducted for family finding purposes	7	8	7	8	13

Alternate Care (Nicholas Stabenow-Schneider)	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Number of licensed ECC foster and respite homes	87	87	85	87	86
Number of new inquiries for licensing over past month	2	6	2	4	2

Birth-to-Three (B-3) Services (Nicholas Stabenow-Schneider)	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Number of children served by B-3 this month	98	111	119	113	114
Number of B-3 assessments completed this month	21	18	17	15	14

Parents Supporting Parents Program (Nicholas Stabenow-Schneider)	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Number of parents served by the Parents Supporting Parents Program	12	11	8	9	12

Juvenile Detention Center (Kevin Cummings)	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Total admissions - number youth	25	28	32	37	30
Total admissions - number days	501	564	485	502	528
Eau Claire County admissions - number days	148	141	144	160	129
Short-term admissions - number youth	15	17	22	27	22
Short-term admissions - number days	221	270	184	225	302
Eau Claire County short-term admissions - number youth	2	2	6	11	4
Eau Claire County short-term admissions - number days	32	19	24	61	39
180 program admissions - number youth	10	11	11	10	8

180 program admissions - number days	280	294	301	277	226
Average daily population of youth per day	17.9	18.2	16.2	16.2	17.6
Occupancy rate	77.8	79.1	70.3	70.5	76.5

Behavioral Health Division Update (Luke Fedie)

As you venture around downtown Eau Claire this July and August, you may see some signage for the Deflection Program that we are running here in DHS. July 20th through the 26th was National Deflection Week. During that week we were able to put together some media campaigns, including but not limited to, a video on what Deflection is and how to access the program, as well as signage with QR codes that could be scanned to learn more.

This media campaign also includes the use of social media, with posts on the Eau Claire County Facebook page as well as the Eau Claire Sheriff’s Office’s Facebook page. Here are the posts:

Eau Claire County Facebook:

A Safer, Healthier Eau Claire – Together
 The new **Eau Claire County Deflection Program** is changing the way we respond to substance use. **Deflection** means offering help—not handcuffs—by connecting people to free, confidential peer support **before** an overdose or crisis.
 This program is the result of a strong **community partnership** between the **Sheriff’s Office, Department of Human Services, Criminal Justice Services, Eau Claire City-County Health Department, and At the Roots LLC**—all working together to create a healthier, safer Eau Claire County. Add funding sentence

👉 If you or someone you know is struggling with substance use, visit or call:

🌐 www.eauclairecounty.gov/deflection

☎ 715-829-8628

No cost. No judgment. Just support.
 #EauClaireCounty #DeflectionWorks #HelpNotHandcuffs

ECCSO Facebook:

Help, Not Handcuffs
 Our job is to protect the public and sometimes, that means helping people before a crime is ever committed.
 The **Eau Claire County Deflection Program** connects people struggling with substance use to free, confidential support services **before** an overdose, a crisis, or contact with law enforcement. Every person we help through deflection instead of incarceration isn’t just saving a life, we’re reducing crime and making our community safer.

👉 **Know someone who needs help?** Self-refer today:

🌐 www.eauclairecounty.gov/deflection

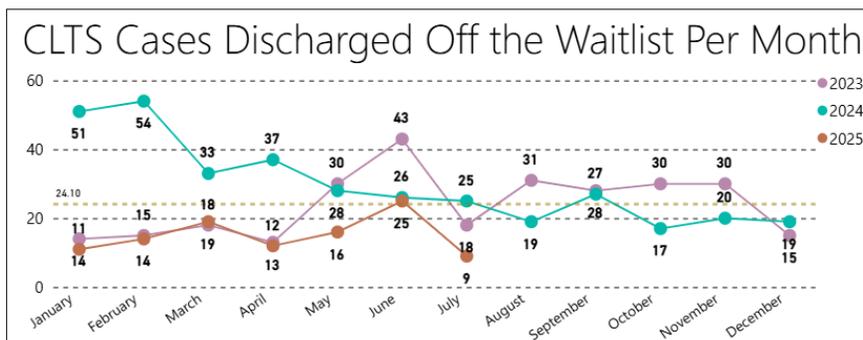
☎ 715-829-8628

#HelpNotHandcuffs #DeflectionWorks #EauClaireCounty

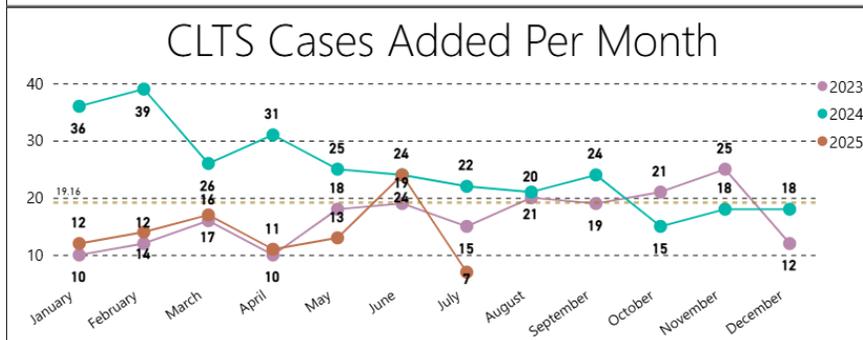
Our goal is to spread the word about deflection and get individuals the services and help that they need before they are involved in the criminal justice system.

Adult Protective Services (Nancy Weltzin)	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Number of investigations requests	45	68	54	58	54
Number of investigations screened out	17	14	16	19	21
Number of investigations concluded	9	10	12	15	7
Number of investigations substantiated	1	4	5	6	1
Number of allegations of self-neglect	9	15	17	22	15
Number of allegations of neglect	12	13	5	8	10
Number of allegations of financial abuse	6	10	11	8	8
Number of requests for guardianship	6	14	5	6	6

Children’s Long-Term Support (Taylor Johnson)	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Number of CLTS waiver clients served	589	596	605	606	625
Number of children on waitlist	30	35	34	44	44
Number of newly eligible referrals	8	23	22	18	30
Number of newly enrolled clients in CLTS program	14	17	11	13	24
Number of discharges from the CLTS program	7	7	7	2	6



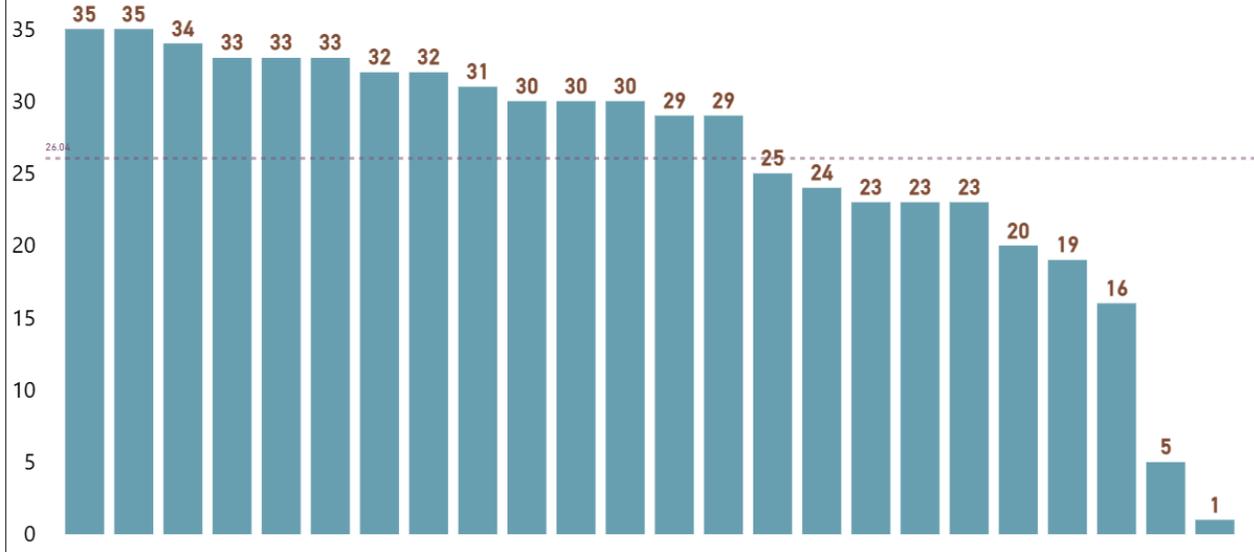
Cases Transitioning Off Waitlist
64



CLTS Waitlist
Number of Clients Actually Waiting
44

Avg. Days On Waitlist All-Time
287

Caseloads in CLTS (With Average)



Clinic (Jen Coyne)	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Number of new referrals for therapy and med management	32	21	23	21	32
Percentage of referrals from service areas within the Department	84%	67%	85%	71%	69%
Total number of clients enrolled in therapy	217	197	195	210	198
Total number of clients enrolled in med management	214	189	199	202	193

Community Support Program (Jocelyn Lingel-Kufner)	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Number of participants served	113	113	110	112	113
New admissions	2	3	2	2	2
Current referral list	13	15	14	14	14

Comprehensive Community Services (Cinthia Wiebusch & Beth O'Brien)	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Participants served	278	280	276	270	278
Referrals received	49	50	48	41	46
External referrals received	37	38	42	29	37
Internal referrals received	12	12	6	12	9
Number of admissions	15	17	14	13	28
Number of discharges	13	16	16	12	20
Adults waiting for CCS services	1	4	1	0	0
Youth waiting for CCS services	0	1	7	6	11

Crisis Services (Olympia Prochaska)	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Number of crisis contacts	270	336	266	287	292
Number of emergency detentions	20	45	23	26	32
Number of referrals for substance use treatment	8	9	12	10	15
Number of face-to-face assessments completed	20	16	27	20	24
Number of community Re-Entry Referrals (ECC Jail)	34	42	47	41	39
Number of DHS Mental Health Liaison Contacts (ECC Sheriff's Office)	7	6	10	8	15
Number of DHS Mental Health Liaison Contacts (ECPD)	18	21	25	21	15
Number of people served through peer support	8	10	15	N/A	N/A
Percentage of diversions from hospitalization related to phone assessments	70%	93%	80%	77%	75%

Treatment Courts (Brianna Albers)	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Number of referrals received	9	10	16	12	10
Current waitlist	7	7	12	12	13
Clients currently in programming	22	25	26	29	31

Deflection Program (Brianna Albers)	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Number of referrals received	23	48	18	13	7
Number of clients participating in program	2	4	5	5	5

Economic Support Services Division Update (Kathy Welke)

During the month of June Great Rivers Call Center received 12,569 calls, answering 94% of those calls with an Average Speed of Answer 4.05 minutes.

Economic Support Services (Kathy Welke)	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Number of calls received	12,997	13,382	12,537	12,569	12,630
Number of applications processed	3,593	3,442	3,217	3,060	3,107
Total caseload	62,522	64,381	64,703	64,900	65,379
Total Eau Claire County caseload	13,819	13,975	14,080	15,076	14,206
Total Child Care caseload	1,055	1,058	1,086	1,088	1,084
Total Eau Claire Child Care caseload	287	298	313	306	299