

**KQYB, SPRING GROVE, MN
2021 ISSUES PROGRAMMING Q4
PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS Q4**

Issue Category	Broadcast Dates	Time	Length	Amount	Description - PSA
Community Groups/Underserved population/Family	10/6/2021	8:05am	3 min	1	HorseSense Festival
	11/2/2021	7:30am	4 min	1	Rotary iFeed
	11/12/2021	9:05am	3 min	1	Toys for Tots
	11/17/2021	7:05am	2 min	1	La Crosse County
	10/1 – 10/8/2021	12A-12P	:30	20	Senior brat delivery
	10/1 – 10/31/2021	12A-12P	:30	57	Enchanted Forest
	11/1 – 11/30/2021	12A-12P	:30	121	La Crosse Community Theater
	11/1 – 11/30/2021	12A-12P	:30	135	Community Thanksgiving dinner/delivery

Issue Category	Broadcast Dates	Time	Length	Amount	Description - PSA
Business Growth/Local Economy	10/7/2021	7:45am	3 min	1	Youth Hockey Facility
	10/26/2021	8:15am	3 min	1	United Way
	10/6 – 10/17/2021	12A-12P	:30	160	La Crescent Theater/Appleaseed
	11/15 – 12/24/2021	12A-12P	:30	85	Downtown Main Street
	10/1 – 10/31/2021	12A-12P	:30	75	Youth Hockey Facility
	11/1 – 12/24/2021	12A-12P	:30	55	Local Gift Card drive
	11/15 – 12/24/2021	12A-12P	:30	258	Shop local campaign

Issue Category	Broadcast Dates	Time	Length	Amount	Description - PSA
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Health/Mental/Wellness	10/27/2021	7:15am	4 min	1	CMN
	11/03/2021	8:45am	3 min	1	Gundersen All of Us
	11/18/2021	9:05am	5 min	1	Holiday Blood Drive
	11/1 – 11/30/2021	12A-12P	:30	32	Children's Miracle/Gundersen
	11/15 – 12/8/2021	12A-12P	:30	95	Holiday Blood Drive
	10/1 – 12/15/2021	12A-12P	:30	118	CMN Radiothon

2021 NEWS ISSUES Q4 – KQYB

News stories are approximately thirty seconds long and air on WQYB between the hours of 6:00am and 9am Monday-Friday.

Health/Coronavirus:

10/2 About 150 people gathered at Weigent Park in La Crosse on Saturday to show support for abortion rights. The Rally for Reproductive Rights in La Crosse was one of hundreds of events planned around the U.S. on Saturday, in response to new laws passed in several states and court challenges to the Supreme Court's Roe vs. Wade ruling of 1973. Organizers plan a peaceful, free, family friendly event with speakers and resources as part of a nationwide mobilization. The YWCA-La Crosse, Cia Siab, Inc. and Planned Parenthood Advocates of Wisconsin organized the local event, which featured several speakers and ended with a demonstration on the Cass Street side of the park. Joella Striebel, Public Affairs Regional Coordinator from Planned Parenthood Advocates of WI, told the audience that more than 1 million Wisconsin residents of reproductive age could lose access to contraceptive health care if Roe vs. Wade is overturned. Elizabeth Digby-Britten with the YWCA said that banning abortions will not stop the procedure, but it will "only end safe abortions." State Rep. Jill Billings of La Crosse also spoke, saying that the government has no place in a woman's decision on whether to seek an abortion. Other elected officials who attended but did not give speeches included State Sen. Brad Pfaff and Lt. Gov. Mandela Barnes, who is running for the U.S. Senate. Democratic Sen. Tammy Baldwin could not attend, but sent a statement read during the program, which said America "cannot allow the clock to be turned back 50 years."

10/5 America's departure from Afghanistan has been upsetting for many people...especially veterans. This weekend, the V-A and other organizations will host an event in La Crosse called 'Operation Deal and Heal,' designed to help vets and others improve their mental health. J.T. Savor (suh-VORE) is director of the La Crosse Area Veteran Mentor Program: The program goes from noon to 4 p.m. this Saturday at the Coulee Recovery Center in La Crosse.

10/7 Hundreds of families on French Island are likely to keep using bottled water until further notice, with the state paying the bill. The DNR and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services are extending the order to provide bottled water indefinitely to 12-hundred island households. Those homes have excessive levels of PFAS chemicals in their well water, most likely from firefighting foam used for years at the La Crosse Airport. The state estimates that bringing bottled water to those French Island homes could cost more than half a million dollars a year, for as long as the shipments continue.

10/12 Why not give it a shot? That's what Wisconsin Senator Ron Johnson is saying to big drug companies, urging more testing of existing drugs to see if they can be used for treating COVID-19. Johnson tells WIZM's La Crosse Talk that the companies seem to be ignoring the possibility that a drug like ivermectin could help COVID patients. The Senator believes the drug-makers are motivated by profits: Johnson is concerned that many people who have died from COVID might have 'died needlessly' because medical experts ignored medications already on the shelf.

10/21 MINNEAPOLIS (AP) Health Commissioner Jan Malcolm says unvaccinated Minnesotans are 15 times more likely to require hospitalization for COVID-19 and 30 times more likely to die from the disease than vaccinated residents. The commissioner gave those figures Wednesday as the Minnesota Department of Health began posting additional data as part of its weekly report on vaccine breakthrough cases, which normally comes out on Mondays. Malcolm says the new data reinforces the key point that the current wave of COVID-19 infections is concentrated heavily among people are not fully vaccinated, and that all age groups are at risk, not just older Minnesotans.

10/22 It's a start. That about sums up the attitude of La Crosse Mayor Mitch Reynolds, after news that the federal government is going to start getting involved in dealing with PFAS contamination. PFAS chemicals have polluted many of the private wells on French Island, forcing residents there to use bottled water "indefinitely," the Wisconsin DNR said last week, at an estimated cost of over \$500,000 a year. The key there, however, is first steps. The Biden Administration put out a three-year roadmap to address PFAS "to safeguard public health, protect the environment, and hold polluters accountable." Reynolds was disappointed that roadmap did not contain the words "firefighting foam," which may be where the mess on French Island started — the foam being used at the airport.

10/27 Young kids, perhaps down to the age of 5, could be getting the Pfizer COVID vaccine soon. The F-D-A has endorsed the idea of vaccines for children, but there's not universal agreement on doing that. Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald, a family medicine specialist at Mayo in La Crosse, says preventing the spread of COVID is one reason to give shots to kids:

Fitzgerald says some children who have gotten COVID are showing long-haul symptoms common in some adult patients.

11/3 Millions of young children can now get a COVID-19 vaccine, following approval from the F-D-A. Mayo Clinic will start vaccinating kids ages 5 to 11 on Friday, with the two-dose Pfizer vaccine. Dr. Robert Jacobson, a pediatrician from Mayo, says children who don't like getting shots could be persuaded to get the vaccine by

being told how it helps them stay healthy: Jacobson says it may not be necessary to get a new vaccine for COVID every year, unlike the need for new flu vaccines.

11/11 Back in August, Gundersen Health System announced it was going to require staff to be vaccinated for COVID-19 by November. At that point, 85% of its staff was vaccinated. Now, that number is 99%. Yesterday, the health care giant said it lost 92 people out of its over 9,000 staff members due to that requirement. Of those 92 losses ... 62 resigned ... 30 were fired. Gundersen announced 99% of its staff are "compliant or in the process of becoming compliant" the vaccine requirement. Meanwhile, La Crosse County's total population is 60.7% fully vaccinated while the state of Wisconsin is at 55.1%.

11/12 La Crosse is seeing a sharp uptick in cases of Covid-19. The La Crosse County Health Department says the county is now averaging 71 cases of Covid per day, the highest case rate of 2021. 43 people in La Crosse County are currently hospitalized with the virus.

11/17 La Crosse's fire chief says progress is being made in reducing the use of PFAS chemicals, in places such as the regional airport. Chief Ken Gilliam says his department has stopped using firefighting foam containing those chemicals that have turned up in groundwater: Gilliam tells the county's emergency planning committee that the La Crosse Airport still uses foam that includes PFAS, under federal rules. Those chemicals have been found in hundreds of residential wells on French Island, near the airport.

11/18 The latest COVID-19 data in La Crosse County shows community transmission very high and rising, the health department reported Wednesday. The county reported three more deaths the past week, in its latest numbers released yesterday. It is also averaging 62 COVID-19 cases a day the past week. A week ago, that average was 46 cases a day. The week before that, 37 a day. The death toll has been steadily increasing as the temperature has dropped. From mid-March to mid-August three La Crosse County residents died due to COVID-19. A month later, there were 8. Now, in the past two months, there have been 19 COVID-19 deaths. That brings the total to 121 county residents no longer with us.

11/22 The death toll from Covid 19 has now topped 8800 in Wisconsin. 121 of those deaths have occurred in La Crosse County. Monroe County reports 53 Covid deaths, and Trempealeau County 49. Buffalo County has reported the fewest number of Covid deaths, 8, since the pandemic began.

11/30 A free beer and a \$10 gift card ... all just for donating some blood. It's called Pints for Pints Holiday Blood Drive, as the American Red Cross is in dire need of blood donations. On December 8th and 9th, those who donate at one of two La Crosse locations will receive a free pint of beer from Pearl Street Brewery and a \$10 Amazon gift card. The beer coupon can be redeemed at any time ... because odds are you won't want to drink one after giving blood. Look for this story at WIZM news dot com to schedule your appointment. Locations include Pearl Street on December 8th and the Radisson downtown on December 9th.

12/1 'Omicron' has become the word of the week around the world, as a new COVID variant by that name is spreading. The variant has officially turned up in the U.S., and doctors are trying to figure out if existing vaccines can be used to fight it. Dr. Arin Morcomb of Mayo Health Systems in La Crosse wants to know more about omicron: Morcomb says patients already vaccinated are being urged to get a booster shot, if they've gone 6 months or more since their last shots. The cold weather season may bring a greater risk of infection, with people spending more time indoors.

12/16 La Crosse County is averaging 65 COVID-19 cases a day over the past reported week. There were also two more deaths of La Crosse County residents due to the virus. There have been 136 deaths of county residents from the virus — 41 of those since Sept. 1. Community transmission is “very high,” according to the La Crosse County Health Department. As for vaccinations, 57.5% of Wisconsin’s population has completed the series. In La Crosse County, that number is 63.3%.

Economy/Business:

10/4 A shortage of caregivers around Wisconsin and the nation could be reduced, if Congress passes the 'Build Back Better' plan promoted by the White House. At a La Crosse care facility on Monday, the Citizen Action Wisconsin group brought together people involved with the local caregiving industry to support the funding bill. Robert Kraig of Citizen Action says several thousand good-paying jobs could be created by the bill: Kraig and other speakers, including La Crosse County Board chair Monica Kruse, argue that the funding bill would raise wages for caregiver positions enough to attract workers who now look for higher-paying jobs.

10/4 'Stop it right now.' 'This needs to be shut down.' Those were two comments from La Crosse residents demanding an end to the plans for converting the riverfront fish lab into a party venue or a bed-and-breakfast. Janice Hoeschler was among the speakers on Monday, telling the city plan commission to deny zoning for a B-N-B: However, the plan commission voted to grant the zoning change. The fish lab project will also be reviewed tonight by the city council judiciary committee.

10/6 Plans to reopen the old fish lab in Riverside Park as a bed-and-breakfast or a party venue are now one step away from full approval by the city of La Crosse. The council's judiciary committee approved a zoning change for the fish lab last night, so the project goes to the full council next week. The committee heard more criticism from city residents who don't want a business going into a public park, and who worry about drinking and noise from parties which would be held there. Those critics also argue that the city has tried to rush the fish lab renovation along, ignoring public opposition.

10/10 La Crosse continues to have some of the highest gas prices in Wisconsin, according to the state Triple-A. The agency says pump prices in La Crosse averaged 3 dollars and 7 cents a week ago, higher than in most other large cities around the state. The price hasn't changed much in the past month. Eau Claire's average price is within a penny below that in La Crosse. The Wisconsin average of 3-02 a gallon is almost 20 cents down from the national average.

10/13 A zoning change for the former fish lab in Riverside Park could be decided tonight by the La Crosse city council. Developers want to use the property for an Air-BNB and a beer garden. People living near the park have complained that there would be too much traffic and noise if the plan were approved. They also accuse city leaders of making backroom deals in favor of the project, months before seeking any public comments on the plan. The council meets at 6 p.m. at the southside neighborhood center on 6th Street.

10/14 After weeks of heated debate, a zoning change has been approved for the former fish lab building in Riverside Park. Just one city council member opposed the plan to allow the building to be put to commercial use, for an AirBNB or a venue for wedding parties. Neighbors of the park have been vocal in their opposition, and council member Andrea Richmond said she's troubled by the dealing that went on before the zoning was debated: The actual development at the fish lab would have to be approved by the city park board before the council votes on it.

10/21 The number of airline passengers using the La Crosse Airport this year is now up to 58-thousand...a mark normally reached in August, instead of September. But it's another sign of how the local airport is bouncing back from a sharp drop in traffic because of COVID-19. The total through September is 15-thousand higher than the numbers for all of 2020. Last month's passenger total was 76-hundred, the lowest since May, reflecting the traditional seasonal drop after the end of summer.

10/21 The zoning fight has been settled. Now, La Crosse city leaders are working on a lease to redevelop the historic fish lab at Riverside Park. The city park board approved a tentative lease with two developers last night. Park and rec director Jay Odegaard says he's trying to dispel charges that the city has not been open about the project: The proposed lease calls on the developers to be responsible if customers visiting future businesses at the hatchery cause any damage to the neighboring International Gardens.

10/24 There are still some places in Wisconsin where you can fill your gas tank, and spend less than 3 dollars a gallon. Prices in much of the state have been above 3 dollars for a few weeks now, but the lowest pump price in the state this weekend was at Ripon, where a Mobil station charged 2-59 a gallon. The next lowest price was 2-89, at a station in Monroe, near the Illinois border. In La Crosse County, a few stations have gas as low as 3-09 a gallon, but 3-19 still prevails at many other stations.

11/5 Wisconsin's tourism industry is beginning to bounce back from a severe drop during the pandemic. State tourism secretary Anne Sayers tells a tourism conference at the La Crosse Center that September revenue in the industry was above figures from the same month in 2019, before COVID-19 arrived: Wisconsin is one of just 13 states to experience positive growth in tourism over 2019. Sayers says Wisconsin is increasing marketing to more urban areas outside the state, including Duluth, Des Moines, and Rockford.

Education:

10/18 Several students in the La Crosse schools are calling for more spending on mental health services in the district. The school board is reviewing priorities for next year's budget, and a group of high school students, including Amber, told the board on Monday that there aren't enough trained counselors at their buildings. The La Crosse district recently bought an R-V for use as a mobile classroom. Amber says the \$300,000 purchase will only benefit a few students at a time.

10/25 Is it time for La Crosse to go back to having just one public high school instead of two? The La Crosse school district is asking taxpayers to weigh in on the idea of reducing the number of schools within the system. Superintendent Aaron Engel believes that the public will agree with a report concluding that La Crosse has too many schools for its enrollment: The survey mailed out to district residents this month says La Crosse is the smallest school district in Wisconsin with more than one high school.

10/27 A new testing policy is in effect now for the La Crosse school district, aimed at keeping kids in class during the pandemic. The 'Test and Stay' program began today, providing tests to unvaccinated students who may have COVID symptoms, or have been close to someone at school with the virus. If the tests come out negative, a student does not have to be quarantined at home but can keep attending class. The district says Test and Stay was a reaction to the previous practice of putting an entire classroom under quarantine if one student was found to have COVID.

10/27 The La Crosse School District achieves a distinction it might prefer not to have. The new district budget passed by the school board this week includes 337-thousand dollars in state aid set aside for 'high poverty' school systems. State figures show about 52 per cent of students in the La Crosse district are defined as 'economically disadvantaged.' A district automatically gets the aid once it passes 50 per cent of students at the poverty level. By comparison, about 30 per cent of Onalaska's students are disadvantaged, and 23 per cent in the Holmen district are at that same level. Milwaukee has 86 per cent of its public school students at the poverty level.

10/28 One day a year, millions of students attempt to all the read the same book on the same day to set a world record. North Woods Elementary in La Crosse has taken part in 'Read for the Record' Day for several years. But North Woods adds a physical fitness element to the event. Teacher Sara De Paolo (duh POW-low) has kids run an outside course, taking stops to read pages from the chosen book: The school installed a permanent 'outdoor story walk' to help put on the event every year.

11/11 No classes at La Crosse's Central High school today because of what they are calling a serious threat toward the school. Students and staff are being told to stay home today. Police are still investigating the seriousness of the threat. Principal Jeff Axness sent a statement to parents last night. He says more information will

11/15 La Crosse police say they have made an arrest in connection with a threat at Central High school last week. As a result of the messages sent Wednesday night, classes were cancelled at Central on Thursday. On Friday, police say they arrested a 17 year old who they suspect sent

the threats. They say the teen used someone else's computer to send the threats. They are facing potential charges of terrorist threats, unauthorized use of personal information and disorderly conduct.

11/22 For the third time in a month, the La Crosse School District has had to deal with a threat to one of its schools via social media. The latest is someone threatening students and teachers at Logan High School over Snapchat. The message is oddly specific, from someone saying they want to kill "8 students and 2 teachers." It goes on to say they've been bullied since school started. The La Crosse School District sent a letter to families and staff. The district immediately sent WIZM the info upon request. La Crosse Police have yet to respond with any information via email or post anything on social media about the situation. The message from the district to parents and staff says the Snapchat is not considered an imminent threat to students or staff, so classes and activities will continue. It goes on to say the district believes information will lead to law enforcement to those responsible for sending the message. It also urges anyone with information to contact police or the district. Just over a week ago, La Crosse Police arrested a 17 year old for sending threatening messages over email. A few weeks before that, Winona Senior High School was investigated after a Snapchat screenshot mentioned shooting up a school. The school mentioned in the screenshot was "Central High School" but it had been deemed a hoax by both Winona and La Crosse police.

11/29 A threat at Holmen Middle School, toward a student or students ... by a minor is considered "resolved." That according to Holmen Police, who said the person that made threats regarding violence would be referred to the juvenile court system on charges of "terroristic threats ... with a computer device." No other info was provided by law enforcement. This is the fourth time some sort of threat at a school has made the news. The last two were credible. ... In the case at Central High, a 17 year old was arrested. In the Logan High matter, police identified individuals involved ... but no other updates have been provided since on either incident. The fourth threat ended up being a hoax.

12/6 The days of having two public high schools in La Crosse may be numbered, according to the results of a school district survey to be reviewed by the school board tonight. The poll results show that backers of high school consolidation outnumber the opponents about 2-to-1, and about 20 per cent of those surveyed aren't sure. There's greater approval for the idea of reducing the number of middle and elementary schools. District leaders say La Crosse has too many school buildings for its current enrollment, and the enrollment is trending downward for the future. Of the options presented for consolidating high schools, nearly half of those surveyed favor having just one school...but there is some support for keeping both Central and Logan as existing high schools, sharing the same building.

Community Needs:

10/20 Another new addition to the Veterans Freedom Park in La Crosse has been dedicated. A circle of eight flags has been installed where a memorial to Vietnam veterans is being

developed. Other portions of the memorial have not arrived in La Crosse yet, and could be installed within a few weeks. A color guard from Fort McCoy took part in the Wednesday noon ceremony. Local college student Jordan Briskey has been developing the Vietnam monument. Briskey says the memorial, primarily funded by private donors, is projected to cost about \$150,000.

10/24 If you live in La Crosse County, you can help county leaders plan ahead for life in the next 30 years. The county has launched a sustainability survey, with the results to be used to guide decision-making in several areas. County planner Charlie Handy says the concerns addressed by the survey go beyond what people may associate with sustainability: Comments will be accepted on the county website, or the Envision 2050 page through November 10th.

10/25 The Rotary Lights group of La Crosse is reporting the theft of about \$10,000 worth of electric cords from Riverside Park. In a Facebook post, Rotary Lights president Pat Stephens says vandals cut cords from dozens of electrical pedestals on both Saturday and Sunday. Stephens assumes that the thieves may try to sell the copper in the cords. He says this is the first theft of Rotary Lights property in the 27-year history of the local holiday light display. Anyone with information about the theft of the electric cords is asked to call La Crosse Police at (608) 782-7575.

10/26 It may cost up to \$13,000 to replace the electric cords stolen over the weekend from La Crosse's Riverside Park, where Rotary Lights will be set up in the next month. Twenty-two pedestal cords were taken on Saturday and Sunday. Rotary Lights president Pat Stephens says supply shortages could make it hard to replace the cords in time for the November 26th opening. But they don't call him 'Positive Pat' for nothing: Stephens says police have made no arrests yet for the thefts.

10/29 The head of Rotary Lights says La Crosse's reputation for giving is helping his organization recover from recent thefts. Pat Stephens tells WIZM's La Crosse Talk that donors have come forward to assist with the set-up of the holiday light display, including several local electricians volunteering their time. They're also making offers to replace electric cords which were stolen from Riverside Park a week ago, perhaps for resale to scrap metal dealers. Stephens says nobody has been arrested yet for taking the wiring.

11/2 Students at some La Crosse area high schools will be busy this Saturday, collecting food items for the Hunger Task Force. Those students from the Rotary Interact program will be volunteers for the i-Feed drive, which has been conducted traditionally in November for almost a decade in the region. Leah and Becca of Logan High told Mike Hayes on WIZM's La Crosse that they hope to get more donations to their school than the others: Those other schools accepting food will be Central, Aquinas, Onalaska, Holmen, West Salem, and Caledonia...from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday.

11/10 La Crosse's community Thanksgiving dinner is ready to make a full comeback this year. There was no big sit-down meal in 2020, during the pandemic, but 32-hundred turkey dinners were still delivered or picked up. The in-person dinner will be back at the La Crosse Center on

Thanksgiving Day, November 25th, between 11 and 3 p.m. Pick-ups and deliveries also will be available again. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the community dinner.

11/11 The homeless situation in La Crosse is twice as large as it's been in years. La Crosse mayor Mitch Reynolds said this week on WIZM that about 120-130 people are unsheltered, as the city council addresses the issue at tonight's meeting. Reynolds vented a bit on La Crosse Talk PM about how the state is ignoring the problem completely, while surrounding communities have nothing in ways of helping. And some of these communities are just passing their homeless off ... Listen to the full La Crosse Talk PM interview with the mayor at WIZM news dot com.

11/22 La Crosse's Hunger Task Force has \$12,000 more to help feed the hungry in this area, because of the most recent i-Feed campaign by the Rotary Clubs and area students. A check for 12-thousand and 50 dollars was presented to the Task Force at its Clinton Street warehouse. Interact clubs at seven area high schools were able to raise the money, with about half of it coming from raffles held during the Elvis Explosion this fall. The i-Feed campaign also collected 15-thousand food items on the first Saturday of November.

11/24 La Crosse's Community Thanksgiving Dinner is back at the La Crosse Center tomorrow. It's the 40th year of the holiday event, and in-person dining returns, after a year when the meal was take-out or delivery only: Organizer Ruth McQuiston-Keil says that once again, there will be a craft area for kids, and big-screen TV's will show the day's football games. Other area communities also have dinners planned Thursday, including one at the Onalaska National Guard Armory.

12/8 The United Way is looking for school supplies, to help a group of students who are new to the region. They're refugees from Afghanistan, who have arrived at Fort McCoy since August. The three La Crosse colleges have joined with Great Rivers United Way in organizing the donation drive called 'Operation Allies Welcome.' Professor Heather Linville from U-W-L says the fort was contacted to find out what supplies are needed: About two thousand Afghans of various ages are studying at schools which have been set up at the fort. Organizers of the supply drive say those students could be at McCoy into the middle of next year, before they're relocated.

12/17 Volunteers came to the aid of Rotary Lights in La Crosse on Thursday, as they usually do. Workers went to Riverside Park to clean up damage left behind by high winds which swept along the riverfront. The igloo and ice castle were badly damaged, but they're being fixed. Rotary Lights was cancelled on Wednesday night because of the threat of windy weather, and again last night because of the damage...but the Rotary Lights Facebook page says it's possible the display will be open again tonight.

12/19 Nine area families with kids got some Christmas surprises this weekend, at the Fox Hollow banquet hall: The Henderson Motorsports team brought those families together to receive gifts from local auto racers, and from Santa Claus. It's the ninth year that John

Henderson and his group have provided a holiday party for selected families: The Hendersons collected seven thousand dollars worth of gifts this year for the families attending the party.

Social justice/race relations:

10/11 Earlier this year, La Crosse County declared racism to be a public health crisis. So what is county government doing to relieve that crisis? County leaders have decided to figure out a mission statement, and get expert advice, according to county human resources director Stephen Conrad: Hiring a consultant to determine future actions to combat racism could be done in the next few weeks.

10/17 La Crosse County could take a step closer this week to forming a committee to study policing in the area. A resolution to authorize a study comes before the criminal justice management council on Wednesday. County supervisor Steve Doyle has been working with community members to get ideas for a study. We asked him who might be appointed to the study committee: Doyle says the full county board could authorize a police study at its November meetings.

10/20 A concept which has inspired heated debate in La Crosse and elsewhere has been approved easily by a county committee. The criminal justice management council has authorized a study to form a permanent committee to review local police activities. County supervisor Steve Doyle points out that actions of the proposed oversight committee would not be binding: The full county board will consider the study idea at its November meetings.

10/28 There have been many developments over the past year-plus in the Kyle Rittenhouse case. Multiple videos have surfaced of the Illinois man, including one in relation to white supremacist groups. There's also the donations that flooded in for his defense, as he's become sort of a cult hero. A lot of decisions had to be made by the judge in the case on what would and would not be allowed in court during the trial, that begins Monday. The latest of those decisions was the labeling of the people who were shot and wounded or killed by Rittenhouse. Normally, one would say the victims that were shot. But the judge has ruled attorneys cannot call those deceased people "victims." He did, however, say they could be called looters or rioters.

It all points to one thing, according to Wisconsin Assembly Rep. Steve Doyle, who is also a lawyer. Rittenhouse was 17 at the time when he traveled from Illinois to Kenosha during the protests over the Jacob Blake shooting. Along with felony homicide charges, and attempted homicide ... he's also charged with possession of a dangerous weapon while under the age of 18.

11/1 KENOSHA, Wis. (AP) — The trial of Kyle Rittenhouse begins today with the challenging task of seating jurors who haven't already made up their minds about the man who shot three people, killing two, during a violent night of protests last summer. Rittenhouse was 17 when he traveled from his home in Illinois, just across the Wisconsin border, during protests that broke out in August 2020 after a police officer shot Jacob Blake, a Black man. Rittenhouse faces life in prison if he's convicted on one of the homicide counts against him. Judge Bruce Schroeder

told attorneys he thinks picking the 20-member jury pool can be accomplished in a day. The trial that begins Monday is expected to last two to three weeks.

11/2 A county board committee has approved the creation of a special study panel to look at policing in La Crosse County. The judiciary and law committee unanimously passed a resolution okayed last month by the county's criminal justice council. Both county Sheriff Jeff Wolf and La Crosse Police Chief Shawn Kudron spoke in favor of having the public comment on police activities. But Wolf said the committee might not accomplish much if some members come to the panel with 'anti-police' attitudes. The nature of the study committee still must be decided by the full county board.

11/8 Should La Crosse County study the idea of forming a police oversight committee? The county board says yes, but only after an hour of debate on Monday night. Board members say the people they represent are divided on the issue...either worried that they won't get a voice in police matters, or that opponents of police will have too much of a voice. Supervisor Jack Pogreba is among those concerned that there will be too much criticism of police: The idea of a study was passed unanimously by a county criminal justice committee. Last night, the full county board approved it 24-to-3.