

Corporation Counsel & Child Support Agency

The Office of Corporation Counsel provides civil legal services including legal advice, assistance, formal opinions and court representation to the County Board, County departments, elected officials and County commissions, boards and committees. The duties of the Corporation Counsel's Office are established by Wis. Stat. § 59.42, and Chapter 2.07 of the Eau Claire County Code of General Ordinances.

The Child Support Agency (CSA) is responsible for establishing paternity and establishing and enforcing child support orders and health insurance orders provided for by Title IV of the federal social security act. Provision of these services by Wisconsin counties is mandated by Wis. Stat. § 59.53(5).

2020 Accomplishments

Hired and trained 2 legal specialists.

Participated in TPR case that was appealed to the Wisconsin Supreme Court (pending) after a favorable decision by the in the Court of Appeals.

Successfully maintained our caseload during the pandemic through the use of e-filing and virtual hearings.

Collaborated with the City of Eau Claire, the City-County Health Department and county administration in developing a response to the COVID pandemic through the use of ordinances, resolutions, enforcement procedures and expectations.

Participated in relevant training.

Staff actively participated in the following statewide organizations

- Wisconsin Association of County Corporation Counsel
- Wisconsin Child Support Enforcement Association Board and Child Support Review Committee
- Wisconsin Child Support Enforcement KIDS Modernization Workgroup

Staff actively participated in the following local organizations, committees and teams

- Eau Claire Alliance
- Eau Claire County's PORCH Committee
- Drug Endangered Children Committee
- Child Death Review Team
- Coordinated Services Across the Lifespan Committee
- Juvenile Justice Collaborating Committee
- Multi-Disciplinary Team
- Suicide Death Review Team
- Presenter for ECASD Mandatory Reporting in all Eau Claire Schools

- Crisis Team
- Youth Leadership Eau Claire
- 980 Committee to locate house for CH. 980 subjects

Staff actively participated in the following county committees

- Wellness
- United Way

Alignment with Strategic Plan

Ensure Financial Stability.	Innovate and adapt.	Improve Collaboration
Maintain/ increase fees for GN/PP Cases.	Prosecute cases in the most efficient manner through use of technology.	Through the use of technology collaborating with the courts, agencies and governmental bodies

2021 Opportunities

- Continue to maintain our effectiveness during the remainder of the pandemic by the use of remote hearings and meetings.
- Resume participation in statewide groups towards the end of the year as the community reopens.
- Continue to promote training and cross training within the office to educate our staff.
- Continue to work with the Department of Human Services on resolving the backlog of TPR cases.
- Towards the end of the year, return to in person hearings and meetings.

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS, GOALS AND OUTCOME MEASUREMENTS					
			2020 Budget	2020 Levy	FTE's
#1 General Legal Services					2.25
			2018	2019	2020
Number of Child Abuse Restraining Orders opened			29	32	25
Number of claims reviewed			31	45	13
Number of contracts reviewed			92	73	42
Number of contracts (all) maintained			257	255	251
Number of county ordinance violations pretrials held			29	28	13
Number of foreclosure cases reviewed			5	3	6
Number of ordinances and resolutions drafted			41	31	50
Number of ordinances and resolutions reviewed and/or revised			123	115	140
Number of juvenile guardianship cases opened			3	17	21
Performance Goal	Outcome Measures	Benchmark	2018	2019	2020
To provide timely review and drafting of contracts, resolutions and ordinances.	97% of contracts will be reviewed within 7 days of receipt.	97%	100%	100%	85%
	97% of resolutions and ordinances referred for drafting will be returned for review or additional information within 7 days.	97%	100%	100%	97%
To provide cost-effective services.	100% of in-house legal services will be provided at a rate less expensive than local private attorney rates as illustrated in annual local attorney rate survey.	100%	100%	100%	100%
To process claims filed against the County within two days of receipt by Corporation Counsel, excluding weekends and holidays.	95% of claims filed against the county, will be processed within 2 days of receipt of the claim by Corporation Counsel, excluding weekends and holidays.	95%	100%	100%	100%
#2 CHIPS, JIPS, TPR'S AND DHS LEGAL SERVICES			2020 Budget	2020 Levy	FTE's
					1.5
			2018	2019	2020
Number of CHIPS cases opened			165	128	120
Number of CHIPS cases involving Meth			88	67	79
Number of CHIPS Petitions filed			112	89	103
Number of CHIPS Petitions filed involving Meth:			75	52	68
Number of JIPS cases opened:			182	146	100
Number of TPR cases opened:			26	18	21*
Performance Goal	Outcome Measures	Benchmark	2018	2019	2020
To provide timely support and competent representation to DHS staff in prosecuting CHIPS and JIPS cases.	100% of CHIPS and JIPS referrals will be responded to within 20 days of Corporation Counsel's receipt.	100%	100%	100%	100%
To provide cost-effective services.	100% of in-house legal services will be provided at a rate less expensive than local private attorney rates as illustrated in annual local attorney rate survey.	100%	100%	100%	100%

- *Includes TPR cases that were assigned to outside counsel. *

#3 CHAPTERS 51, 54 AND 55 AND ANNUAL REVIEWS			2020 Budget \$	2020 Levy \$	FTE's 2.27
			2018	2019	2020
Number of Chapter 51 cases opened			371	360	382
Number of Chapter 51 (New) cases committed			48	63	41
Number of Chapter 51 recommitment cases continued:			53	51	35
Number of Chapter 51 recommitment cases completed by stipulation:			48	41	22
Number of Chapter 51 recommitment cases requiring court appearances:			11	10	13
Number of Chapters 54 and 55 cases opened:			32	52	51
Number of Chapter 54 Temporary Guardianship cases opened:			24	29	26
Number of Protective Placement Annual Reviews scheduled:			297	305	318
Total of 54 & 55 and Annual Review fees collected			\$25,095	\$31,480	\$25,025
Performance Goal	Outcome Measures	Benchmark	2018	2019	2020
To provide timely support and competent representation to DHS staff prosecuting Chapter 51 mental commitments.	100% of Chapter 51 emergency detentions and recommitments, and Chapter 54 annual Watt's reviews will be processed and completed within the statutory time requirements.	100%	100%	100%	100%
To provide timely support and competent representation to DHS staff prosecuting Chapters 54 and 55 guardianship and protective placements and annual reviews.	100% of Chapter 54 guardianship and protective placement petitions will be completed within the statutory time requirement.	100%	100%	100%	100%
To provide cost-effective services.	100% of in-house legal services will be provided at a rate less expensive than local private attorney rates as illustrated in annual local attorney rate survey.	100%	100%	100%	100%
#4 BUILDING, ZONING AND HEALTH CODE ENFORCEMENT			2020 Budget \$	2020 Levy \$	FTE's .34
			2018	2019	2020
Number of Building, Zoning and Health Code cases opened during year:			3	2	3
Number of Building, Zoning and Health Code cases resolved during year:			1	0	2
Performance Goal	Outcome Measures	Benchmark	2018	2019	2020
To provide timely support and competent representation to the Planning and Development Department staff in prosecution of building and zoning code violations.	100% of zoning matters referred will be reviewed on a monthly basis with zoning staff until resolved.	100%	100%	100%	100%
To provide cost-effective services.	100% of in-house legal services will be provided at a rate less expensive than local	12/yr.	Yes	Yes	Yes

	private attorney rates as illustrated in annual local attorney rate survey.				
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#5 Child Support			2020 Budget \$	2020 Levy \$	FTE's
Full service (IV-D) cases:			<u>2018</u> 5,864	<u>2019</u> 5,858	<u>2020</u> 5,613
Financial record-keeping only cases (non IV-D):			1,640	1,650	1,755
Performance Goal	Outcome Measures	Benchmark	2018	2019	2020
Maximize performance-based funding and medical support incentives to minimize county levy for the program.	Court ordered rate will meet or exceed the federal/state target of 80%.	80%	90.55%	90.93%	92.29%
	Paternity establishment rate will meet or exceed federal/state target of 80%.	80%	105.88%	103.53%	103.54%
	Arrears collection rate will meet or exceed federal/state target of 80%.	80%	68.37%	69.51%	72.32%
	Current support collection rate will meet or exceed federal/state target of 80%.	80%	72.17%	72.60%	73.02%
Obtain birth cost repayments and health insurance orders when appropriate to maximize MSL incentives	Receipt of budgeted amount		45,487	35,304	58,645
Provide services per State and Federal regulations, and State/County contract.	There will be no substantiated administrative customer complaints.	None	None	None	None
	100% of contracts will be in compliance with state/county contract requirements.	100%	100%	100%	100%
	There were no violations of federal regulations cited during the fiscal year.	None	None	None	None
#6 COLLECTIONS			2020 Budget \$	2020 Levy \$	FTE's .16
Number of collections cases referred, and files opened			<u>2018</u> 0	<u>2019</u> 0	<u>2020</u> 0
Number of tax intercept filed			0	16	16
Number of payments received from tax intercept			\$5,862	\$6,394.56	\$6,935.24
Number of payments received, excluding tax intercepts			\$1,599	\$1069.02	\$165 + \$260 fees
Total amount collected			<u>\$10,237</u> \$85,237*	\$7,463.58	\$7360.24
<p>2017 *\$133,560 includes \$125,000 collected in '17 from Bergman Logging which is deposited into Parks & Forest accounts. 2018 *\$ 85,237 includes \$ 75,000 collected in '18 from Bergman Logging which is deposited into Parks & Forest accounts. 2019 *\$55,681.50 includes \$48,370.42 collected in '19 from Bergman Logging which is deposited into Parks a& Forest account.</p>					
Performance Goal	Outcome Measures	Benchmark	2018	2019	2020
To provide timely support and competent representation in collection matters.	95% of tax intercept cases that qualify will be referred to the Department of Revenue ("DOR") within 7 days.	95%	100%	100%	100%
To provide cost-effective services	The cost of collections will be less than the amount of money collected	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Totals			2020 Budget \$	2020 Levy \$	FTE's

