

2022-24 Milwaukee County Aging Plan Progress



MILWAUKEE COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
& HUMAN SERVICES

**AGING & DISABILITIES
SERVICES**

Vision for the Aging Network

The Aging Network will improve the health and well-being for all older adults in Milwaukee County by acknowledging and overcoming structural racism, promoting health equity, improving communication and collaboration, and addressing all dimensions of wellness.

Aging Network Goals

- *Health Equity*
- *Coordination & Communication*
- *Dimensions of Wellness*

Health Equity

Goal 1: Eliminate barriers to service for people of color & create more inclusive, equitable, and culturally appropriate services.

Increased Outreach to communities of color; Refugees; workforce

Goal 2: Make information and services *dementia friendly and fully accessible* and available to older adults with disabilities and older adult residents with limited English language proficiency.

Dementia Training; Web Accessibility; Translation; Spanish lang.

Goal 3: Develop an Aging Network strategy to reverse one health inequity affecting older people of color.

Cardiovascular Health, COVID Immunization, Social Isolation

Coordination and Communication

Goal 1: Create communication and outreach strategies that reach communities of color, tribal members, veterans, and individuals who are homeless or in temporary shelter.

Increased interaction with faith communities; vets; others difficult.

Goal 2: Convene the Aging Network on a regular basis to provide opportunities for referral and collaboration. Facilitate flow of information/referrals through a decentralized system.

Aging Network Summits; ADRC presence at SC's; Vendor trainings

Goal 3: Increase collaboration among DHHS services and dedicate specific funding to communication and outreach strategies.

Virtual No Wrong Door project; New brochures; Some media.

Dimensions of Wellness

Goal 1: Address threats to mental health & loneliness experienced by older adults through readily accessible programs including DHHS Behavioral Health.

TF – join Coalition on Loneliness; Older Adult Suicide Prevention / Opioid.

Goal 2: Enrich the ability of older adults to pursue lifelong learning, engage in work that is meaningful to them, share talents, and manage their finances.

Some new programs for financial counseling & employment outreach.

Goal 3: Promote wellness with programs, services, facilities & recreation that improve the ability to make healthy choices & engage with the natural world.

Community Health as an over-arching theme. SC work to improve programs.

Older Americans Act Goals

- *Advocacy*
- *Nutrition*
- *Caregiver Support*
- *Socialization, Support & Legal Services*
 - *Healthy Aging*
 - *Transportation*
 - *Senior Centers*
 - *Long Term Care*

Advocacy

Health Equity Goal: Build grassroots aging advocacy network; Advocate for public policies that advance racial equity.

Challenge to build grassroots network. View policies through equity lens.

Collaboration Goal: Partner with another non-partisan advocacy group to host a reception for legislation.

Hosted first “meet & greet” with elected officials and Commission on Aging

Wellness Goal: Hold annual advocacy training program (Senior Advocates) and increase post-program action by attendees.

Senior Leadership program revived. Online 2022. In person 2023.

Social Support

Health Equity Goals: Increase MBE vendors; Promote diversification of vendor board/staff; Implement Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Health Services standards.

Challenge to define for NP's, measure board/staff diversity. DHHS CLAS project. Translated all materials, including for vendors. Cultural review.

Collaboration Goals: Increase peer-to-peer connections & telephone reassurance program; programming to facilitate use of technology.

Tele reassurance < in person rebounds; volunteerism ↓; Tech-Connect

Wellness Goal: Develop financial counseling program; Improve employment & volunteer opportunities.

Riverworks Financial Counseling; Employ MKE; ERAS RSVP & Vol Driver.

Senior Centers

Health Equity Goals: Establish healthcare at senior centers that address health risks for residents of color; ensure all senior centers are accessible.

AHA BP Monitors; FQHCs; Ind. First review; Egress projects; Wilson clinic.

Collaboration Goals: Explore public-private partnerships to create new centers; develop a social media presence; Promote Senior Companions, RSVP and Senior Employment programs, and access to County parks.

Goals identified by Senior Center Committee. Employ MKE & SDC.

Wellness Goal: Develop new opportunities addressing dimensions of wellness not currently addressed.

Tracking non-EBPP programming on wellness. Spiritual programs.

Nutrition

Health Equity Goals: Increase participation of local minority owned restaurants and food vendors in senior nutrition programs.

Dine Out program – 5 MBE restaurants/caterers.

Collaboration Goals: Provide in-home nutritional counseling to participants determined to be at risk of malnutrition.

Added RD to conduct Advanced Determine screens & intervention

Wellness Goal: Develop in-person or virtual nutrition education and meal preparation demonstrations at senior meal sites.

Virtual meal prep demo's & some thru SC's; upgrading kitchens

Evidence Based Health Promotion

Health Equity Goals: Expand offerings of Stepping-On Falls Prevention program within communities of color.

Partner with churches & community orgs; increased facilitators.

Collaboration Goals: Hold a 2nd MKE Wellness Symposium; Rebuild network of trained facilitators for Stepping-On program by partnering with the Milwaukee County Falls Prevention Coalition.

2nd Wellness symposium held in 2023; MCFPC fairs; More facilitators.

Wellness Goals: Expand virtual/mailed Evidence Based Prevention programming.

Not as efficacious; difficult to support. Revitalize MKE OT Home Mod.

Caregiver Support

Health Equity Goals: Increase caregiver awareness, support, and respite provider network within communities of color.

Partnered with Wisconsin Alz. Institute; Local churches; St. Anne's.

Collaboration Goals: Provide education on available caregiver supports to all FQHCs; Establish a Caregiver Council.

In progress. Identifying best method for sustaining local council.

Wellness Goal: Offer two Powerful Tools for Caregivers annually; Identify gaps in social engagement for caregivers and partner with community groups to provide add'l opportunities.

Trained DCS to reintroduce PTCs; Black caregiver storytellers project thru Marquette.

Long Term Support

Health Equity Goals: Expand options for supportive home services for low-income older adults who are not functionally eligible for publicly funded LTC programs, particularly in communities of color.

ILSP

Collaboration Goals: Provide short-term case management services for older adults with urgent affordable housing needs or at risk of homelessness in collaboration w/ Housing Division.

Housing First Program; Street Outreach;

Wellness Goals: Develop short term case management services for unmet needs for older adults not enrolled in publicly funded LTC.

ILSP; Expansion of ADRC programming.

Transportation

Health Equity Goals: Expand access to cultural assets and recreation sites, particularly for residents of color.

OATS Cultural Tours program.

Collaboration Goals: Establish a County Transportation Coordination Council to coordinate transportation services; more communication regarding available transportation options for those w/o a vehicle.

MKE CO On-Demand TF; IATCC stalled; Transport Coord established; Outreach materials & community fairs; Needs surveys;

Wellness Goals: Expand access to cultural assets and recreational opportunities.

OATS Cultural Tours program.

Local Aging Program Goals

Health Equity Goal: Home Repair / Modification program:

- Home Repair for Falls Prevention Program

Collaboration Goal: Connect w/ federal aging programs:

- *Foster grandparents (SDC)*
- *Senior Companions (SDC)*
- *Retired Senior Volunteer Program (ERAS)*
- *Senior Employment Program (Employ MKE)*
- *Elder Justice (Legal Action of WI)*
- *OAA Services for Native Americans (SEWOTS)*

and other public partners: Parks, Libraries, Schools, UWM.

- Invited partners to Aging Network convenings. Employ MKE, SeniorLAW Ks.

Wellness Goal: Household Chore Volunteer Network

- Established volunteer Household Chore program through ERAS.