

## **Milwaukee County Commission on Aging Aging Services Director's Report – December 2024**

### **Administration**

- Completed **2025-27 Area Aging Plan** and obtained approval of the **Aging Advisory Council and Commission on Aging**.
- Attended **2024 AARP Wisconsin Andrus Award** ceremony for Commission on Aging Chair **Janice Wilberg**.
- Supported DHHS, County Executive, Parks, Economic Development and Administrative Services regarding **MKE HUBS re-envisioning initiative**.
- Continued transition to **Peer Place**, the new WI-DHS OAA/ADRC **data management** application, including training vendors on data entry.
- Finalized update to 2025 DHHS Aging Services contract template.
- Completed **FFY 2024 service & fiscal Older Americans Act Reports**.

### **Advocacy**

- Here are items for the December report:
- Communicated with the Milwaukee County federal congressional delegation regarding the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act.
- Coordinated advocates to attend the Governor's Budget Listening Session to communicate Commission on Aging Adopted 2025-2027 State Budget Priorities.
- Partnered with the Milwaukee County Office of Emergency Management to develop emergency preparedness documents to achieve compliance with OAA regulations.
- Joined and began meeting with statewide Reframing Aging Advisory Committee.
- Hosted **1 Medicare 101** presentation and assisted with Medicare enrollment.

### **Social Support Services**

- Continued collaboration and coordination discussions with **American Heart Association to advance Blood Pressure Heart Health Initiative** in all five Milwaukee County owned Senior Centers.

### **Transportation**

- Obtained County Board approval to contract with **Z-Trip** in 2025 for **Older Adult Transportation Services**.

- Obtained County Board approval to accept new **FTA 5310 Mobility Management grant** to fund **Transportation Coordinator, volunteer driver mileage, and acquire three additional vehicles in 2025-26.**
- Managed a **demand increase in ridership in 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2024** that resulted in significantly higher trip counts and contract costs.

## Senior Centers

- Attended **“Reimagining McGovern Park as an MKE HUB”** at the **UWM School of Architecture and Urban Design** with student presentations.
- Met with Design Firm to follow up on listening session regarding the **Flexibility Facilities Program upgrades at Clinton Rose senior center.**
- Obtained County Board approval to increase funding in 2025 contract with **Serving Older Adults of Southeast Wisconsin** for **programming in the Milwaukee County senior centers.**
- Ordered **2 new glass kilns** for the **Wilson** senior center and distribution racks for DHHS ADS brochures for all senior centers.
- City of South Milwaukee’s **Grobschmidt senior center** and meal site ceases operation. Participants move to Kelly senior center.

## Nutrition Services

- Completed construction of the new **Washington Park senior center demonstration kitchen.**
- Obtained **County Board approval for Canteen** (Compass Group) to serve as the southside senior dining & Meal on Wheels **caterer.**
- Obtained County Board approval for increase in the **2024 Goodwill contract** for the **Home Delivered Meal Program.**
- Notified MCO’s & ICA’s of increase to \$12.09 for **senior meal program rates for Medicaid Long Term Care** enrollees.

## Health & Wellness

- Received County Board approval to create an **Evidence Based Health Promotion Coordinator** within DHHS Aging Services.
- Participated in **OEM workgroup** for Emergency Plans for Aging Network.
- Offered 3-item Loneliness Scale screening at the **Holiday Healing Summits** at Wilson Park and Clinton Rose focused on social isolation and addiction.
- Trained **pharmacy partners from Hayat, Froedtert, and NewCare** pharmacies to **implement social isolation screening** and referrals for individuals who score high for loneliness at **10 community pharmacies.**

- **Milwaukee County Medical Director Ben Weston** and the ADS vaccination collaborative issued a press release urging older adults to update vaccinations. Article published in **Milwaukee Journal Sentinel**.
- **Vaccination Collaborative** hosted **13 vaccine events and pop-up clinics**.
- **204 COVID and 215 Flu vaccinations** were administered as part of our ADS vaccination grants in December.
- With Hmong American Friendship Association, placed billboard ad for **vaccines at Hmong New Year** event at Wisconsin State Fairgrounds.
- In 2024 distributed **11,914 COVID test kits** (26,828 tests) to community partners serving older adults and individuals with disabilities.
- Convened Evidence Based Prevention Program facilitators meeting at Wilson Park Senior Center.
- Hosted **12 Health & Wellness workshops** including **Healthy Living with Chronic Conditions**.

### **Caregiver Support**

- Welcomed and trained Alexa Law as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Caregiver Support Specialist.
- Caregiver Support team provided **126 National Family Caregiver Support Program grants** and **102 Alzheimer's Family and Caregiver Support grants in 2024 for a total of 228 grants**. This was a **60% increase** in grants provided to households. Increases reflect an increase in funding and increase in referrals related to No Wrong Door approach to work across DHHS. Successfully spent full amount of allotted state and federal funds in 2024.
- Caregiver Support Coordinator participated in steering committee to utilize \$490,000 federal award to WI Department of Health Services to develop plan implementing the National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers.
- Participated in strategy meeting with WAAN, DHS, Alzheimer's Association, and Caregiver Support representatives across Wisconsin to work with legislators to eliminate means-testing for eligibility for Alzheimer's Family and Caregiver Support Program (AFCSP). This will increase access for Wisconsin Residents while also better aligning the state-level AFCSP program with the National Family Caregiver Support Program. It will also allow AFCSP funds to be used as match funds for NFCSP funds.
- Met with staff from Respite Care Association of Wisconsin to develop a collaborative outreach plan to provide presentations to underserved caregiver populations in Milwaukee County.



## **Outreach**

- [Sign up for the Dementia Friendly Milwaukee Newsletter](#)
- [Sign up to receive the Milwaukee County ADRC Resource Report](#)
- [Sign up to receive Aging Advocacy Alerts](#)