

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

### **Administration**

- Facilitated public hearings on goals for the 2025-27 **Area Aging Plan**.
- Attended **2024 AARP Livable Communities Workshop Designing for People**.
- Planned follow-up from the **Milwaukee County Aging Network Summit**.
- Continued work on transition to **Peer Place**, the new WI-DHS OAA/ADRC **data management** application, including high level staff training.
- **Completed FFY 2024 service & participant data entry** for Older Americans Act services into SAMS including addition of Serving Older Adults data.
- Facilitated **RFP process for Specialized Transportation & Catering**.
- Completed **Administrative Renewal contracts** for existing Aging vendors.
- Received preliminary **2025 Older Americans Act** allocation from WI-DHS.
- Secured additional funding for the **DHHS website accessibility project**.

### **Advocacy**

- Provided comments on the **Wisconsin DOT's ADA Transition Plan**.
- Provided comment on the **Growing MKE initiative**.
- Provided comments on the **Governor's Task Force on the Healthcare Work Force recommendations**.
- Provided comments on the **U.S. Access Board's Proposed Rule on ADA Compliance of Electric Vehicle Charging Stations**.
- Joined the **Policy Champions Committee of the Wisconsin Coalition for Social Connection**, supporting state and national policy initiatives that increase social connections for older adults and people with disabilities.
- Selected to serve on the **American Society for Aging's Health and Well-Being Advisory Council** for the 2024-2026 term.
- Submitted **Wisconsin State Budget Aging Priorities** to DHHS Leadership.
- Hosted three **Medicare 101** Presentations at the Shorewood Senior Center, Greendale Public Library, and Indian Council for the Elderly.
- Met with **Legal Action of Wisconsin** to address support of additional **Elder Benefit Specialists** in the ADRC.
- Participated in **Voter registration** promotion with Disability Vote Coalition.

## **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.
- Initial discussion and collaboration with **MKE FreshAir Collective** to improve Air Quality and provide Interventions at Senior Centers.
- Continued collaboration and coordination with LGBT Community Center staff and SageCare in the **completion of certification of SageCare training for LGBT Community Center staff.**
- Launched **Americorps Senior Companions** program and onboarded **Project Coordinator Deidra Williams.** Attended Americorps trainings.
- Secured additional funding for **Falls Prevention Home Repair program.**

## **Transportation**

- Finalized criteria and posted **RFP for Older Adult Transportation Service.**
- Submitted new federal Section **5310 Mobility Management grant proposal** to fund Transportation Coordinator, provide for volunteer driver mileage, and acquire additional accessible vehicles in 2025-26.
- Received delivery of **3/8 new accessible vans** for the OATS program.
- Collaborated with Wisconsin Bike Federation to host **Cycling Without Age.**

## **Senior Centers**

- Received **\$3.95 million grant** to build a **demonstration kitchen, makers space, health and wellness space, renovate dining area, and bring fiber optic internet into Clinton & Bernice Rose senior center.**
- Pursuing strategies to ensure senior center programming in 2025.
- Met with **Serving Older Adults** to address budget and expectations for continued programming in the Milwaukee County senior centers.
- Supported Serving Older Adults **Art of Aging** resource fairs at Washington and Wilson park senior centers.
- Supported DHHS, County Executive, Parks, and Administrative Services initiative regarding **Senior Center re-envisioning** initiative.
- **DAS Facilities** plans implementation of **fire safety, intrusion alarm and battery backup systems** at all five Milwaukee County Senior Centers.
- **Independence First** completed **accessibility review** of all 5 senior centers.

## **Nutrition Services**

- Completed construction of the new **Washington Park senior center demonstration kitchen**.
- Met with **initial design team** regarding the **kitchen and dining room remodel** at the **Clinton Rose senior center**.
- **Selected Canteen** (Compass Group) for the southside **catering** contract, which has a new food preparation and distribution facility in **Oak Creek**.
- Settled **Goodwill contract costs for the Home Delivered Meal Program**.
- Notified MCO's & ICA's of new **senior meal program rates for Medicaid Long Term Care** enrollees.

## **Health & Wellness**

- **ADS Vaccination Collaborative** hosted over 23 vaccine clinics between September 21 and October 16. **124 Covid-19 and 78 flu immunizations** were administered at these community events and via in-home vaccination.
- An additional **745 flu and 719 Covid immunizations** were administered between September 21 and October 16 at **partnering pharmacy locations**.
- Added **Vital Voices** as an additional subgrantee for the **Social Isolation and Loneliness (Rx Social Connect)** grant to follow up with project participants who score high on the Loneliness Scale administered by pharmacists.
- Negotiated grant subaward agreements with Impower, Health Connections, Inc., HAFA, Outreach Community Health, and Hayat pharmacies to extend the **Aging and Disability Vaccination Collaborative** until July of 2025.
- Hosted **10 Health & Wellness workshops** including **Healthy Living with Diabetes**.
- Met with Milwaukee County Behavioral Health to increase collaboration for **older adult Mental Health services**.

## **Caregiver Support**

- Hired a **second Caregiver Support Specialist**. **Alexa Law** brings significant experience, having worked with the Family Caregiver Support Program at Interfaith Older Adult Programs and Alzheimer's Association.
- To date, have **provided financial assistance to 202 families through AFCSP and NFCSP and have had 300 one-on-one contact with others individuals** who have not participated in NFCSP and AFCSP.
- Collaborating with ADS staff members and community partners to plan events for **National Family Caregiver Support Month in November 2024**.
- Collaborated with the Wisconsin Family and Caregiver State Alliance to **develop a National Family Caregiver Month Social Media Toolkit**.

## Outreach

- **Cycling Without Age** event, Saturday, October 26.
- **Alzheimer's Disease Symposium** on Friday, 11/1
- **Caring for the Caregiver** event to be held on Saturday, 11/9 at St. Mark AME Church
- **Caregiver Celebration** to be hosted by Life Navigators on Tuesday, 11/12 at Washington Park Senior Center.
- **10 Steps to Planning Presentations** in Spanish and English delivered by DCS team on Wednesday, 11/13 at Oasis Senior Center.
- **Social Isolation Week and National Caregiver Month** event with WAI at Ebenezer Church on Thursday, 11/14.
- **Partners for a Caregiver Panel** event planned with UCC and Alzheimer's Association on Saturday, 11/16 at Mitchell Street Library.
- **Symposium for People with Multiple Sclerosis** and Families on Saturday, 11/9
- **Parkinson's' Disease Symposium** on Friday, 11/22
  
- [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](#)