

Milwaukee County Commission on Aging Aging Services Director's Report – October 2025

Administration

- Attended Milwaukee County **Age Friendly Communities** Steering Committee meetings and helped to facilitate AARP survey distribution.
- Prepared for **2026 Administrative Renewals** of existing contracts.
- Supported DHHS, CEX, Parks, Economic Development and Administrative Services regarding **MKE HUBS re-envisioning initiative**.
- Met with County IT Services and US Bank representatives to develop an **electronic payment system** for contributions to OAA programming.
- Initiated a new process to track and collect **Medicaid Waiver payments** for the Home Delivered Meal program.

Advocacy

- Monitoring impact of the **federal government shutdown** and preparing for any contingencies.
- Supported **draft legislation, AB-410 and SB-410, which provides funding for grants for falls prevention awareness and initiatives** in Wisconsin.
- Initiated weekly in-person **Medicare Counseling** at the Coggs center and with trained volunteer SHIP counselors at senior centers. Conducted **four Medicare 101 presentations** in the community.

Social Support Services

- Evaluated RFP responses and selected vendor for **OAA Legal Services**, Elder Benefit Services and Medicare Counseling.
- Conducted data audits of all programs matching fiscal data and invoices against program data entered into **PeerPlace** by service category.

Transportation

- Promoted public input into the **City of Milwaukee's first citywide Transportation & Mobility Plan**, which will guide how the city designs, operates, maintains, and invests in its streets.
- Sponsoring **Week Without Driving** September 29 – October 5.
- Caregiver and Dementia Care specialist teams, Transportation Coordinator hosted **Navigating the Road Together** on covering safe driving, alternative transportation options, and WisDOT driving regulations.
- **OATS transportation has experienced significant growth** in rider volume. In order to control costs, no new riders will be added to the program in 2025.

Cultural destinations and individual grocery rides will be eliminated, along with a reduction in certain rides to senior centers.

Senior Centers

- Request for Proposal for **Programming and Meal Site Supervision in the Milwaukee County senior centers** closes at the end of October.
- Paused release of the Request for Proposal for **Senior Center serving Spanish-speaking older adults** until next year.
- Facilitated a **third information session** with **Kelly senior center** participants based upon feedback from the **tour and listening session** at **Bucyrus site**.
- Phase 1 of construction underway at **Clinton and Bernice Rose Senior Center** under Flexible Facilities grant program. Provided recommendations for additional accessibility improvements to add on to project.
- **McGovern Park** and **Hart Park senior centers** remain **closed due to flooding**.
- Remediation at **McGovern senior center** did not clear all mold. Facilities is evaluating next steps. Participants joined in activities at other centers.

Nutrition Services

- Expanded senior dining services at **Milwaukee Community Crossroad's Multicultural Senior Center**.
- Successfully closed **Senior Dining Sites** at four **Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee** sites and transitioned diners to alternative options.
- Provided resources including **nutrition counseling**, information about alternative dining sites, and the availability of OATS transportation for residents at the four senior meal sites that were closed.
- Added new vendor **Chik 'N Dip** for the preparation of **Halal meals** at the **Muslim Community Health Center** along with a **food truck** on Tuesdays.

Health & Wellness

- The wellness team received a **Localizing Efforts to Address Falls mini-award** from the Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging to **extend falls prevention work to community pharmacies**.
- Evidence Based Prevention Coordinator Jennifer Lefeber has moved on from her county role. Community Health Coordinator Kaisa Kerrigan is developing a plan to ensure continuity in wellness programming.
- A second session of **Wellness Initiative for Senior Education** will be hosted at Wilson Park senior center by Milwaukee County Behavioral Health staff.
- Hosted **28 Health & Wellness** workshops including **Stepping On**.

Caregiver Support

- Caregiver Support Coordinator Kayla Steinke was a panelist for the **Women in Aging Careers** virtual panel hosted by the Student Gerontology Association at UWM.
- Caregiver support team participated in two community events:
 - o **Ensure You're Ensured: Caregivers Guide to Medicare and Medicaid** Made Simple at Milwaukee Public Library-Washington Park Branch.
 - o **Alzheimer's and Dementia Awareness** event at St. Martin DePorres church.
- Processed \$40,000 **USAgging grant: Understanding, Testing & Evaluation of Caregiver Navigator Services** to evaluate approaches for delivering caregiver navigation programs.
- Caregiver Support Specialist **Migdalia Pacheco Pacheco** is collaborating with Dementia Care Specialist Cristina Huitron to host the second ever **Powerful Tool for Caregivers course in Spanish** in Milwaukee County.
- Established **225 Caregiver Support Grants** with families. All funds budgeted for direct financial support to family caregivers have been allocated. New family caregivers seeking financial support will be added to a waitlist.

Outreach

Medicare Outreach Specialist, Ginger Rogers, will hold weekly office hours on the first floor of the Coggs building to assist residents during the open enrollment period on **Wednesdays between October 15 – December 3 from 10 AM – 2 PM** to answer questions and help with plan finding.

Appointments are available by calling **414-289-MEDI (6334)** or emailing: **medicareoutreach@milwaukeecountywi.gov**.

Spanish Powerful Tools for Caregivers: Wednesdays, 9/10/25-10/15/25 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm, Location: Milwaukee Public Library Tippecanoe Branch

To register: 414-514-4787 or caregiversupport@milwaukeecountywi.gov

Food Truck Tuesdays with Chik 'N Dip: September 16 - October 28

Muslim Community & Health Center, 803 W. Layton Avenue, Milwaukee
Service time: 11:30am - 1:30pm, outdoor picnic seating available.

- [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](#)