



## Informational Report

September 16, 2025

### Daniel Idzikowski - Commission on Aging Services (AAA)

#### Administration

- Attended the **USAging Annual Conference** in Chicago.
- Attended Milwaukee County **Age Friendly Communities** Steering Committee meetings and helped to facilitate AARP survey distribution.
- Successfully recruited new members and facilitated the transition to the **Aging Advisory Council** without Commission membership.
- Finalized the **2026 AAA budget submission** to DHHS and County Executive.
- Supported DHHS, County Executive, Parks, Economic Development and Administrative Services regarding **MKE HUBS re-envisioning initiative**, including preparation of reports on the Bucyrus senior center proposal.
- Met with County IT Services and US Bank representatives to develop an electronic payment system for contributions to OAA programming.
- Supported transition from MIDAS case management system to **PeerPlace** and entered a substantial amount of participant data into the system.
- Participated in interview process for new **Adult Protective Services** Director.

#### Advocacy

- Supported USAging advocacy to keep the **US Administration for Community Living** in-tact and to retain funding for all OAA programs.
- Attended Governor's signing ceremony for SB 152 into law after extensive advocacy efforts in the state legislature. This legislation **removes income requirements** for the state **Alzheimer's Family and Caregiver Support Program** to align with the federal National Family Caregiver Support Program. Removing income-based eligibility allows AFCSP to continue to match up to \$3.5 million in annual federal NFCSP funding and ensure support remains accessible to low and middle-income families.
- Set schedule for in person **Medicare Counseling** at the new Coggs center and trained volunteer SHIP counselors to host community presentations.
- Hosted "**Are You Prepared?**" conference focused on end-of-life planning with multiple presentations at Alverno College conference center.

#### Social Support Services

- Selected and onboarded Hanan Refugee Services for the **Serving Older Asylees and Refugees** Program.
- Released **Request for Proposal for OAA Legal Services**, Elder Benefit Services and Medicare Counseling.



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- Continued to meet with new **Executive Director of Serving Older Adults of Southeast Wisconsin** to increase collaboration.
- Met with director of **LGBT Center of Milwaukee** and reviewed action plan to improve delivery of services to older adults.
- Met with directors of **Riverworks Financial Counseling program and Vital Voices for Mental Health** to discuss 2026 budget proposal and programs.
- Assisted vendor staff to complete program data entry into **PeerPlace**.

### **Transportation**

- Attended an Easterseals webinar on setting up a **travel training program**. Coordinating with Nick Musson of GWAAR on advocacy efforts regarding **volunteer driver insurance** requirements.
- Attend the **SEWRPC workshop** to prepare for commentary on the proposed Milwaukee County Human Transit plan.
- Will present to Independence First's Transit Advocacy Committee on **specialized transportation options**.
- Attend the WI Transit Riders Union meeting; will share information with MobilISE Transit Advocacy Committee and explore feasibility of creating a Transit Riders Union in Milwaukee.

### **Caregiver Support**

- Collaborated with Dr. Kavanaugh of Neuro YCare and UWM on a proposal to develop a culturally responsive caregiving support initiative focused on Latino and African American youth who care for family members with Alzheimer's and related Dementia.
- Submitted an application for an USAging grant opportunity entitled **Understanding, Testing & Evaluation Caregiver Navigator Services**. If selected, Milwaukee County would become a Program Evaluation Site to test and evaluate approaches for delivering caregiver navigation programs. Attended planning with Legacy Home and Respite Care Foundation to host **Community Pop Up Respite events** in Milwaukee County.
- Hosting 3rd session of **Powerful Tools for Caregivers** in 2025 with a virtual class and an additional class option in Spanish.
- Established **211 Caregiver Support Grants** with families in 2025 as of 8/14/2025. All funds budgeted in 2025 for direct financial support to family caregivers have been allocated. Family caregivers seeking financial support will be added to a waitlist.



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## **Outreach**

**Healthy Bites with Bailey**, Monday, August 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:45 am, Washington Park Senior Center.

**Older Adults Health Roundtable on Stroke Symptoms and Prevention**, Monday August 18<sup>th</sup> 10:30am– 11:30am, Washington Park Senior Center

**Virtual Powerful Tools for Caregivers**: Tuesdays, 7/15/25-8/19/25 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm.  
Location: Virtual meeting on Microsoft Teams platform.  
To register: 414-309-7179 email: [caregiversupport@milwaukeecountywi.gov](mailto:caregiversupport@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](mailto:caregiversupport@milwaukeecountywi.gov)

**2025 Free From Falls Resource Fairs** are scheduled for: September 23, 9:30-11:30 at Hart Park Senior Center September 25, 9:30-11:30 at Franklin City Hall

[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](#)

## **Jacqueline Formanek - Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD)**

### **Mission Statement**

The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD) is dedicated to promoting equity, independence, and inclusion for individuals with disabilities throughout Milwaukee County. Through advocacy, programming, and strategic partnerships, OPD works to ensure accessible environments and meaningful community engagement.

### **Core Services & Responsibilities**

- **Inclusive Recreation Programming**
  - Summer Respite Camp, Excursion Camp, and Free Friday Sailing
  - Coordination of adaptive activities at Wil-O-Way Grant and Underwood facilities
- **Facility Oversight & Accessibility**
  - Management of Wil-O-Way sites and collaboration with partner organizations (Goodwill, Easterseals, Adult Day Services)
  - Identification and resolution of accessibility concerns across county parks and facilities



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- **Community Engagement & Events**
  - ADA Celebration, Resources Events, and outreach initiatives
  - Monthly newsletters and resource distribution to families and service providers
- **Policy & Advocacy**
  - Support for the Milwaukee County Commission for Persons with Disabilities
  - Collaboration with departments on housing, transportation, and employment access
- **Contract & Budget Management**
  - Oversight of vendor agreements, payroll, and budget planning
  - Coordination with fiscal teams to ensure compliance and sustainability

### **Current Priorities & Initiatives**

- **Mitchell Park Accessibility Review**
  - Working with Parks Department to address identified concerns
  - Awaiting formal memo before convening Facilities Access Subcommittee
- **Splash Pad Development**
  - Gathering construction estimates for 2025 budget inclusion
  - Focus on universal design and community input
- **Housing Advocacy**
  - Monitoring developments such as Woodland Crossings and Care at Crocus
  - Sharing updates with commissioners and community stakeholders
- **Program Expansion**
  - Exploring new partnerships for employment and training services
  - Enhancing outreach to underserved populations
- **Technology & Payment Systems**
  - Addressing issues with CONVERGE payment platform
  - Coordinating with service providers to resolve patron access barriers

### **Taunya Thomas – Adult Protective Services (APS)**

APS received 288 referrals for July 2025 and YTD, we have assessed 2297 individuals within Milwaukee county for abuse, neglect, self-neglect or financial exploitation. Our Opioid Prevention team is quite busy in the community the month of August. Below are the events they will staff:

- Scheduled events for August 2025 for Opioid Prevention Team
- August 5, 2025, 3:00pm to 6:00pm Dis. 7 NNO
- August 7, 2025MPD District 4 NNO 3-7
- August 7, 2025, Tosa NNO Hart Park 4-8
- August 8, 2025, Milwaukee County Overdose Public Health and Safety Team (OD-PHAST) 9-11 Meetings
- August 8, 2025, NWSP SECURITY MEETING 10-12



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- August 8, 2025, District 1 2418 N. Maryland Ave 4-7
- August 9, 2025, Health Resource Fair at The Lamb of God MBC on Saturday, August 9, 2025, 9-2
- August 9, 2025, Joy fest 10-2
- August 9, Bethany Church 12-3
- August 11, 2025, MPD District 5 NNO Kern Park 3-7
- August 12, 2025, Eras Senior Network & Opioid Prevention Canvass - Harambee Community 10-11 Clinton Rose
- August 12, 2025, Milwaukee Police Dist.3 Night out 2-7
- August 13, 2025, Milwaukee Police Dist.3 Night out 2-6 Johnson Park
- August 16, 2025, Irish fest Summerfest grounds 12-8
- August 21, 2025, Press Conference Vliet Senior Center 10-12
- August 21, 2025, MC NNO Veterans Park 2-8
- August 22, 2025, Community Engagement Event 28<sup>th</sup> Wells,
- August 23, 2025, Mexican Fiesta 12-8 Summerfest grounds
- August 24, 2025, Mexican Fiesta 12-8 Summerfest grounds
- August 25, 2025, 2025 Housing Authority - Resident Organization Outreach Scheduling 12-1
- August 25, 2025, 2025 Housing Authority - Resident Organization Outreach Scheduling 6-7:30
- August 27, 2025, Adoba night 5-9

**Bekki Schmidt – Aging & Disability Resource Center – (ADRC) Director**

- The ADRC has successfully transitioned our database from Midas to the state's PeerPlace database. With this significant system change, longer call wait times and staff service times are anticipated. The ADRC is working closely with our staff, the state and our internal/external partners to prepare and minimize disruptions.
- The ADRC held a Medicaid training session in partnership with APS bringing together the APS staff and our Options Counseling staff to build collaboration and increased training around joint cases. We will be working together with APS leadership to schedule additional team meetings and trainings later in the year.
- The ADRC will be partnering with the state's Office for Deaf and Hard of Hearing to hold an Open House on August 20. This event will highlight ADRC services and programs as well as how to access these services and the support that can be provided by the Office for Deaf and Hard of Hearing to help with accessibility and inclusion.