

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

### **Administration**

- Facilitated goal setting meetings for the **AAA plan** with various committees.
- Attended the **Aging, Disability, and Independent Living Network meeting** and assisted in planning a **Reframing Aging educational campaign**.
- Hosted the **2024 Milwaukee County Aging Network Summit, Powered by Connection: Building a Livable Community**, w/110 attendees, 90+ agencies with sponsorship from **AARP Wisconsin**.
- Presented to **County Board** regarding acceptance of the Americorps Senior Companions grant, subawards for Aging and Disability Vaccination partners Impower and Community Health Connections, submitted reports on AAA 2023 accomplishments and several subawards for the Social Isolation Loneliness grant with community partners.
- Continued to work on transition to **Peer Place**, the new WI-DHS OAA/ADRC **data management** application, including high level staff training.
- Sent out **Administrative Renewal requests** to existing Aging vendors.
- Held AAA All staff meeting on ideas for **2025-27 DHHS Strategic Plan**.
- Received No Cost Extension on **Older Americans Act ARPA** funds.
- Welcomed **Bekki Schmitt** as the new **Director of the ADRC**.

### **Advocacy**

- Provided comments on WI-DHS **FamilyCare Medicaid waiver renewal**.
- Provided commentary to the US Administration on Community Living regarding the **Framework for a National Plan on Aging**.
- Developed **AAA state budget priority issues** to advance with DHHS
- Legal Action of Wisconsin published a **dedicated SeniorLAW webpage**.
- Scheduled 15 Medicare 101 sessions for the fall of 2024. 4 of the 15 sessions are for students, church groups, and subsidized housing.
- Scheduled 3 Medicare one-on-one sessions.
- Collaborating to provide Medicare presentations on Hospice Services.
- Participated in **Voter registration** promotion with Disability Vote Coalition.

### **Social Support Services**

- Awarded **Americorps Senior Companions** program grant. Selected Project Coordinator. Set up fiscal structure. Attended on-site Americorps training.
- Transitioned **Home Repair for Falls Prevention** program from Revitalize MKE to Milwaukee County Housing Services.

- Met with Hmong American Friendship Association regarding performance on the **Serving Older Refugees** grant.

## 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.
- Submitted comments on **2024 WisDOT transportation accessibility plan**.
- Met with van provider and selected **8 new accessible vans** for Fall delivery.

## Senior Centers

- **RFP for Programming in the Milwaukee County senior centers** closed without a response. Pursuing strategies to ensure senior centers continue to provide programming in 2025.
- Met with **Serving Older Adults** to address concerns regarding budget and programming expectations for continued programming in the Milwaukee County owned senior centers.
- Supported Senior Centers Committee meetings including hosting **Milwaukee Parks Foundation** Executive Director.
- 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** initiated **accessibility review** of all 5 senior centers.

## Nutrition Services

- Continued construction of the new **Washington Park senior center demonstration kitchen**.
- Posted a Request for Proposal for a southside **catering** contract.
- Met with **Goodwill regarding Home Delivered Meal Program performance** with increased route efficiencies and stricter application of criteria.
- Increased suggested **contribution rate for home delivered meals** to \$4.00.
- Identified an **e-commerce solution** for senior nutrition contributions.
- Set **meal rates for Medicaid Long Term Care MCOs & IRIS** enrollees.
- Considered expanding Dine Out program with Asian and Mexican cuisine.

## Health & Wellness

- Received IRB approval for the **Social Isolation and Loneliness Pharmacy project (Rx Social Connect)** from the **Medical College of Wisconsin**.
- 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 5 Health & Wellness workshops including **Stand Up for Your Health**.
- Met with Milwaukee County Behavioral Health to increase collaboration for **older adult Mental Health services**.

## Caregiver Support

- Attended the **Milwaukee Coalition of African American Caregivers** meeting.
- Conducted interviews for additional **Caregiver Support Professional**.
- To date, have provided **grant support to 85 household through NFCSP and 72 households through AFCSP**. Completed **250+ additional contacts** with individuals & professionals providing **caregiver information and resources**.

## Outreach

- Sent **Medicare Counseling** mailer to **82,000** Milwaukee older adult households.
- **Aging Advocacy Lunch and Learn** panel on **October 17<sup>th</sup>, 12–1PM** at McGovern SC.
- **Public Hearings on Area Aging Plan Goals:**
  - Monday, October 7, 5:30 – 7:00 PM
    - Virtual only on Zoom, Register [here](#) .
  - Tuesday, October 8, 9 – 10:30 AM
    - Washington Park Senior Center
  - Wednesday, October 9, 5:30 – 7:00 PM
    - Franklin Public Library, Fadrow Room
- [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](#)