

MILWAUKEE COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING

Aging Services Director's Report – January 2026

Administration

- Supported **transition of Commission on Aging leadership**.
- Participated in the Milwaukee County **Age Friendly Communities** Steering Committee meetings.
- Submitted the FFY 2025 **National Aging Program System report**.
- Released the **2026 AAA contracts** for signature by service providers.
- Continued to meet with County IT Services and US Bank representatives to develop an **electronic payment system** for OAA program contributions.
- Submitted audit of **Medicaid Waiver payments for the Home Delivered Meal program** to MCOs and IRIS ICAs to correct and collect unpaid invoices.

Advocacy

- Hosting three **listening sessions** in January to learn the **local, state, and federal policy priorities** that are most important to older adults.
- Medicare Outreach Specialist will host in-person **individual Medicare counseling** at the Coggs building twice monthly.

Social Support Services

- Presented training to all vendors on fiscal, contract, and program expectations.

Transportation

- **OATS referrals resumed** for 2026. **OATS service restrictions have been lifted**, except for non-AAA funded sites.
- **Fares for OATS healthcare rides increased from \$4 to \$5.**
- **OATS has a new scheduling phone number: 414-206-1888.**
- **MCTS Route 33**, which goes past the Washington Park Senior Center, now **operates only during peak service hours**: M-F 6am to 9am and 3pm to 6pm; Saturday 10am to 5pm; Sundays 11am to 5:30pm
- OATS Program managed so that it did not exceed 2025 budgeted funds.

Senior Centers

- Met with **Bucyrus campus development** team regarding development of space to serve senior center participants.
- **McGovern Park senior center** remains **closed due to failure of remediation effort** to clear all mold. Met with County team to explore alternatives.

- Phase 2/4 of **Remodeling of Clinton & Bernice Rose Senior Center** began focusing on the first floor, including **kitchen, dining, and clinic space**.
- **Upgrade of the HVAC control system at Washington Park senior center** approved in the 2026 Capital budget.
- Pursued strategy to support senior centers through an independent foundation.

Nutrition Services

- **Paused delivery of home delivered meals to Medicaid Home and Community Based Waiver Participants** (does not affect OAA program).
- Worked with **Anox Café** to develop menus for new Dine Out partner.
- **Cooking Demonstrations** continue this month at Kelly Senior Center.

Health & Wellness

- Met with LEAF grant Partners to initiate referrals to **Falls Prevention workshops** during Comprehensive Medication Reviews.
- Began role as Tri-Chair of **Milwaukee County Falls Prevention Coalition**.
- Restarting **Spanish-speaking EBHP programming** in 2026.
- Met with Medical College of Wisconsin to **draft journal article on Social Rx project to address loneliness and social isolation**.
- Hosted **16 Health & Wellness** workshops including **Stand Up for Your Health**.

Caregiver Support

- Caregiver Support Team 2025 Year-end Highlights:
 - Since bringing the Caregiver Support Program into Milwaukee County in 2023 the number of households served by **Caregiver Support grants has more than doubled**.
 - Through collaboration between Dementia Care Specialists and the Caregiver Support Team the first ever **Spanish-language Powerful Tools for Caregivers** courses were offered in Milwaukee County.
 - Supported or hosted 23 community events to provide education, information, and support to caregivers.
- Caregiver Support staff & Dementia Care Specialists began new sessions of **Powerful Tools for Caregivers** in Spanish and English with 20 registrants.
- The Caregiver Support team was invited by AARP to participate in an event to honor National Family Caregivers Day in February.
- Confirming eligibility and completing **home visits with 80 families** who participated in AFCSP in 2025 for re-enrollment in 2026.

Senior Companions Program

- The Senior Companion and Foster Grandparent Programs are hosted an **Ugly Holiday Sweater Party and Recognition Event** in December for the Senior Companions and the older adults they serve.
- In 2025 sponsored **19 Senior Companions**. Continued recruitment of new Senior Companions in 2026 to reach goal of 40.

Outreach

Aging Policy Priorities Listening Sessions

The Commission on Aging is hosting three listening sessions in January to learn the local, state, and federal policy priorities that are most important to older adults in Milwaukee County! RSVP [here](#) or call 414-639-6532.

- **January 27 at Good Hope Library from 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM**
- **January 28 at Clinton Rose Senior Center from 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM**
- **January 29 Virtual on Zoom from 12 PM - 1 PM**

Health and Wellness Workshops:

- **Stepping On:** Thursdays, 1/8/26-2/9/26, 1:00-3:00pm Heritage Lakes, 5020 S 55th St, Greenfield. To register call: 414-331-8495
- **Stepping On (virtual):** Thursdays, 1/15/26-3/5/26, 9:30-11:30am
To register call: 414-777-7700 \$20 refundable deposit
- **Stand Up for Your Health:** Thursdays, 1/15/26-2/5/26, 1:00-2:00pm.
West Allis Senior Center, 7001 W National Ave, West Allis. To register call: 414-302-8700
- **Powerful Tools for Caregivers (virtual, in Spanish):** Thursdays, 1/15/26-2/19/26, 5:30-7:00pm. To register call: 414-758-5650
- **Powerful Tools for Caregivers (virtual):** Thursdays, 1/15/26-2/19/26, 5:30-7:00pm To register call: 414-289-6565

Disability Vote Coalition Lunch & Learn on Absentee and Early Voting

- **Tuesday, January 20 virtual webinar. Register [here](#) to attend.**

Medicare Outreach Specialist, Ginger Rogers, will hold office hours on the 1st floor of the Coggs building to assist residents with Medicare questions. **2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month February through September 2026**

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

Taking Care Documentary Film

Saturday, February 21 at 1:00 pm at Marcus Bistro in Greendale. The film follows the journey of acclaimed filmmakers Seth Rogen and Lauren Miller Rogen as they navigate the complexities of Lauren's mother's advancing Alzheimer's disease. The event will also include a caregiver panel and resources for those who provide care.

Reframing Aging and Disability in Wisconsin

Through evidence-based strategies developed by the National Center to Reframe Aging and their research partner, the Frameworks Institute, WAAN and Wisconsin DHS are sponsoring a series of trainings to advance age and disability-inclusive policies and practices.

- Wednesday, February 11, 2026 from 9 – 10 am; to register:
https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_TFO4fZzFSIO81sEKhjRaeQ
- [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](#)