

Milwaukee County Commission on Aging Aging Services Director's Report – May 2024

Administration

- Continued planning for focus groups and public input on the **AAA plan** with the Advisory Council.
- Printed and began distribution of the **2024 Area Aging Plan Survey**.
- Finalized **new brochures** for AAA Supportive Services, Nutrition, and Caregiver Support programs.
- Began budget discussions with DHHS and AAA team.
- Hosted **Older Americans Month & Mental Health Awareness** month celebration at Wilson Senior Center with Behavioral Health Services.
- Welcomed **Mike Bonk** as new Deputy Administrator of DHHS-ADS.

Advocacy

- Coordinated Milwaukee County delegation to Madison for the Wisconsin Aging Action Network **2024 Aging Action Day** at the capitol.
- Held **2024 Senior Leadership Program** over three days.
- As member of **WAAN Leadership Team**, continued **planning for spring in-district advocacy events** across Wisconsin in partnership with Aging and Disability Professional Association of Wisconsin (ADPAW).
- Received continued **SHIP funding** for **Medicare/SeniorCare outreach**.
- Hosted 2 **Advanced Care Planning workshops** with Legal Action of WI.
- Hosted 2 **Medicare 101** workshops in Franklin and Milwaukee.

Social Support Services

- Planned **SAGE Care initiative** with LGBT Center of Milwaukee.
- Prepared the **Senior Center Programming in Milwaukee County Senior Centers** Request for Proposal.
- **EMPLOY MKE** began attendance at senior center outreach events.
- Responded to **suspension of Senior Companions and Foster Grandparent programs** at the Social Development Commission.

Transportation

- Continued to meet with Paratransit Taxi Task Force to support **alternative on-demand transportation**.
- Hired new **ADS Transportation Coordinator**.
- Submitted 2024 Older Adults Transportation Service contract for signature.

Senior Centers

- Worked with DHHS Contract Administration to release the RFP for Programming in the five Milwaukee County senior centers.
- Supported Senior Centers Committee meetings.
- Met with County Administration regarding the potential long-term implementation of the Senior Center Committee's re-envisioning initiative.

Nutrition Services

- Opened newest **Dine Out restaurant location at Ruby J's** on Lisbon Avenue.
- Began design specification process for the **remodel of Clinton Rose senior center kitchen** remodeling project.
- Grobschmidt/South Milwaukee senior meal site reopened.

Health & Wellness

- Hosted **Senior Health and Nutrition Day** at all Milwaukee County Senior Centers.
- Launched the **Heart Health blood pressure screening initiative** at Clinton Rose Senior center with the American Heart Association.
- Awarded WI-DHS ARPA grant to **address social isolation and loneliness** through a Loneliness screen administered by pharmacists.
- Received No-Cost Extension of the USAging **Aging and Disabilities Vaccination Collaborative** grant until April of 2025.
- Hosted **11 Health & Wellness workshops** including **Boost Your Brain and Memory, Steppin' On, and Walk with Ease.**

Caregiver Support

- Worked collaboratively with ERAS Senior Network and Life Navigators to develop projects that will utilize OAA APRA funds for short term project to **support older adult caregivers and LGBT caregivers/care recipients.**
- Presented on Caregiver Support and other Aging Services to the Quarterly Consultation Meeting with Hanan, International Institute WI, and Lutheran Social Services to ensure professionals working with **refugee residents** of Milwaukee County are aware of available services.
- Participated at the **Honoring the Heartbeat Mental Health & Wellness PowWow** and the **DHHS Social Wealth for Mental Health Resource Fair.**
- Completed **Powerful Tools for Caregivers Class Leader Training** provide programs in Spanish and English.
- **Second Caregiver Support Specialist position** approved.

- Caregiver Support team attended the Aging, Disability, and Independent Living conference hosted by WI-DHS in LaCrosse. Caregiver Support Coordinator assisted during the session entitled "**Wisconsin's Aging, Disability, and Independent Living Network: The Heart of the National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers**".
- To date, the new ADS Caregiver Support Program has enrolled **81** families to receive funds through the **National Family Caregiver Support Program and Alzheimer's Family and Caregiver Support Program** in 2024. In addition, program staff have had **140 contacts with caregivers who are not participating in the grant programs** in order to provide them with resources and referrals for services.

Outreach

- Senior Health and Fitness Day:
 - Wednesday, May 29th 10am-2pm at all Milwaukee County Senior Centers
- Medicare Presentations:
 - Monday, June 3, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m., Franklin Public Library
9151 W. Loomis Rd., Franklin
- [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](#)