

## **Milwaukee County Commission on Aging 2022 Year in Review**

The Commission on Aging is a 16-member citizen body charged with the responsibility of overseeing the administration of Older Americans Act funding and advocating for policies and programs to improve the health and well-being of the 188,227 people aged 60 and over living in Milwaukee County. The Commission meets monthly to consider recommendations from its Advisory Council and Standing Committees (Service Delivery, Advocacy, and Wellness).

The Commission on Aging can report the following achievements for 2022:

- Approval of the 2022-24 Milwaukee County Area Aging Plan by the Milwaukee County Board and the State of Wisconsin, including the adoption of this long-range vision: *“The Aging Network will improve the health and well-being for all older adult residents of Milwaukee county by acknowledging and overcoming structural racism, promoting health equity, improving communication and collaboration, and addressing all dimensions of wellness.”*
- Adoption of recommendations to improve racial equity in communication and engagement in Aging Services programs developed after a year of study and discussion by the Advisory Council.
- Consideration and approval of \$1.8 million in federal OAA ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funding for expansion and enhancement of aging services.
- Completion of semi-annual reviews of all Aging Services contractors to identify accomplishments and areas for improvement, with a special emphasis on racial equity and representation in staffing and board governance.
- Sponsorship of the 2022 Senior Leadership Program, providing advocacy and leadership training to older adults in Milwaukee County.
- Support and guidance of the 2022 Milwaukee Wellness Symposium – *Connecting for a Healthier Community* -- by the Wellness Committee, attracting more than 200 registrants.
- Sustained efforts to advocate for improved access to voting for older adults and people with disabilities, led by the Commission’s Advocacy Committee.
- Comprehensive and thorough review of Milwaukee County Senior Centers’ current operations, facilities, and utilization and development of a re-imagined vision for senior centers led by the Commission’s Select Committee on Senior Centers.
- Advocacy for capital improvements to the Milwaukee County senior centers resulting in the County Board’s adoption of \$3.5 million for capital projects through County ARPA and the 2023 County Capital budget.
- Revision of bylaws to provide clarity regarding a quorum for the Aging Advisory Council and earlier election of officers for the Commission on Aging to facilitate the Commission’s work.