

County of Milwaukee
Interoffice Communication

DATE: March 22, 2019

TO: Sup. Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., Chairman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Sup. James Schmitt, Chair, Committee on Finance and Audit
Sup. Supreme Moore Omukunde, Chair, Committee on Health and Human Needs

FROM: Holly Davis, Executive Director, Department on Aging

RE: Informational report on former Unison contracts

Background

Per File 18-897, which the County Board of Supervisors approved on December 13, 2018, the Department on Aging is required to submit monthly reports to the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors as an update on contracts formerly held by Unison.

MCDA has contracts in place with Serving Older Adults of Southeastern WI (SOA) to manage the five county-owned senior centers and the dining sites located inside of those senior centers. All senior centers and dining sites continue to remain open on their normal schedule. All senior center programming questions can be directed to Vevette Hill, SOA's Senior Vice President, at vevettehn@servingolderadults.org or 414-704-3343. MCDA's Jill Knight can also answer questions about senior center programming activities.

With regard to the 13 remaining congregate dining sites which are not being managed by SOA, services started on January 2nd and continue to operate on their normal schedule. MCDA is contracting with Milwaukee Christian Center to manage these 13 sites. Specific senior dining questions can be directed to MCDA's Beth Monrial Zatarski, Senior Dining Program Director, at 289-6880, and senior dining information can also be found on the MCDA website at <https://county.milwaukee.gov/EN/Department-on-Aging/Senior-Centers-Dining> .

Regarding Family Caregiver Support Network (FCSN) services, MCDA is close to having a fully signed contract with the Alzheimer's Association. MCDA expects to have a signed contract in place by April 1. In the interim, caregivers who call MCDA's Aging Resource Center seeking respite services have their contact information taken by MCDA staff. Per direction from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, MCDA will process payments to family caregivers and vendors until a signed contract with the Alzheimer's Association is finalized. Caregiving resources can be found at www.wisconsin caregiver.com.


Regarding the Neighborhood Outreach Program (NOP) and neighborhood outreach services, MCDA is in the process of putting together a contract with Eras Senior Network, Inc., a nonprofit organization based in Waukesha that has been coordinating various senior services since 2007. The Eras Board of Directors has given approval for their organization to coordinate the NOP in Milwaukee County through June 30, 2019.

Until then they will manage the staff and volunteers formerly associated with Unison, and NOP services such as transportation, lawn and home chores, and community outreach will continue as normal. For more information about Eras Senior Network, Inc. please visit <https://eraswaukesha.org/> . All NOP inquiries can be directed to Kathy Gale at 262-522-2400 or KathyG@ErasWaukesha.org.

In regard to other programs and services that MCDA used to subsidize through Unison:

- Senior employment services – The State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services has awarded its Title V grant, formerly awarded to Unison, to the Greater Wisconsin Area Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR). GWAAR's contract with DHS to manage senior employment services in Milwaukee County became effective on March 17th and runs through December 31, 2019. MCDA is negotiating with GWAAR on a funding allocation to support this work. All senior employment inquiries can be directed to GWAAR's John Schnabl at 262-785-2575 or john.schnabl@gwaar.org.
- Telephone reassurance services – MCDA is in the process of negotiating a contract with Vital Voices for Mental Health, a Milwaukee-based nonprofit organization initially created for individuals with mental illness who use services provided by agencies within Milwaukee County's behavioral health system. MCDA is hoping to have a fully signed contract with Vital Voices by April 1st. Vital Voices will coordinate the volunteer network formally managed by Unison as it provides daily wellness calls to approximately 70 seniors in Milwaukee County. For more information about Vital Voices, please visit <https://vital-voices.org/>.
- Outreach at senior housing sites – As of March 18, 2019, all senior housing sites and offices formerly managed by Unison will be managed by Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, Inc.(LSS). MCDA is negotiating with LSS on a funding allocation to support this work. Housing outreach inquiries can be directed LSS's Dennis Hanson at 414-246-2711 or dhanson@lsswis.org .

If you have any questions about this report please call me at 289-6073.



Holly Davis, Executive Director
Milwaukee County Department on Aging

cc: County Executive Chris Abele
Raisa Koltun
Kelly Bablitch
Lisa Wozny
Stephen Cady
Janelle Jensen
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Beth Monrial Zatarski
Jon Janowski

Attachments