# STRATEGY CONSIDERATIONS FOR AREA AGING PLAN FOR MILWAUKEE COUNTY — JULY 2021

<u>Purpose</u>: Provide context on County and Department strategic direction, as an input into goal-setting for the 2022-24 Area Aging Plan under development.

## **VISION/MISSION**

Milwaukee County: "By addressing racial equity, Milwaukee is the healthiest county in Wisconsin".

Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) mission is to empower safe, healthy, and meaningful lives. DHHS leaders have developed a 5-year plan for DHHS, called the "DHHS Future State", which aligns with the County vision.

Below are abridged notes from the DHHS Future State, and related considerations for the 2022-24 Area Aging Plan.

#### **DHHS FUTURE STATE NOTES AND CONSIDERATIONS**

#### **DHHS NOTES:**

- Racial Equity Address racial equity in internal policy and practice, in strategic and allocation decisions, as well as in external interactions; ensure vulnerable communities receive investment
- No Wrong Door Participants able to receive help no matter which "door" they enter, with few hand-offs; break down silos between DHHS divisions; personcentered approach to services
- System Change DHHS is a catalyst to address structural racism, encourage prevention in human service systems; look to affect where our partners and funders invest, and how they practice
- Investing Upstream and Social Determinants Along with partners, fund and deliver services and
   supports that prevent and divert;
   Practice addresses root causes of participant needs and
   social determinants (e.g. housing, transportation, food,
   etc.)
- Community, Participants, Staff at the Center Participants drive care, are treated with dignity;
  Community input authentically drives choices;
  Staff receive support they need and have opportunity
  to affect department direction

## AREA PLAN CONSIDERATIONS:

- Intentional inclusion when it comes to where, how and who is able to access services in Milwaukee County
- Person-centered approach to service delivery for seniors and their families
- Opportunities for collaboration between Aging and other DHHS divisions – Behavioral Health, Housing, Disabilities, Veterans, Youth and Family Services
- Opportunities for collaboration with County departments like Parks and Department of Transportation, as well as municipal departments (like local public health and fire departments)
- Advocacy for expanded funding for seniors, along with mission-aligned partners
- Advocacy for expanded investment in upstream interventions, and in social determinants of health for seniors
- Continue practices that involve participants and community in direction-setting and decision-making
- Staff supports that enable better service for residents