



# Director's Report July 2022

## **COVID-19 Operations Update Information**

Here is an excerpt from the Village of Oak Park report issued from the Public Health Department for the week ending July 21, 2022:

Our current case rate is: 229 cases per 100,000 residents. Oak Park is in the CDC's Medium Community Level:

### **Medium**

Some impact on healthcare system, more people with severe illness

Oak Park has seen a trend of decreasing cases over the last several weeks. Senior Services will continue to monitor the data. Once transmission levels are maintained in the low range for two weeks, we will determine a date to open in-person dining, on-site appointments, and general walk-in traffic to the Senior Center.

## **Director Activities**

- Posted open Older Adult Benefits Administrator position
- Attended weekly supervision meetings with Township Manager
- Conducted individual weekly supervision with team of direct reports to ensure support and sharing of information
- Performed responsibilities as Treasurer of the Illinois Township Association of Senior Citizen Services Committees
- Attended AgeOptions Advocacy Task Force meetings
- Participated in ongoing rebranding work
- Conducted orientation for new Senior Services Committee member Sabryna-Joi King-Bell
- Welcomed Illinois Secretary of State and State Treasurer's office representatives to the River Forest Community Center for the 2022 Super Senior event
- Welcomed Community Blood Center team to the first Township Senior Services blood drive
- Met with Transportation Manager and Ecolane regarding the implementation schedule for routing software

## **Budgets/Grant Applications/Grant Awards**

- Application for Oak Park and River Forest Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program has been denied. Meeting scheduled with AgeOptions seeking input regarding our application to further growth and development as a team and seek continued opportunities to provide comprehensive services to our community.
- FY 22 Budget revisions for Title III funding have been approved.
- FY 23 Budget development is underway for all Title III programs.
- First quarter of Illinois Department on Aging Workforce Development spending complete.

- Entering final quarter of Adult Protective Services/Administration on Community Living special funding - pens & postcard mailing with new logo and contact information being designed.
- The Community Mental Health Board approved our application for Infrastructure funds to purchase additional behavioral health training for care coordinators.

### **Older Adult Benefits**

- Christine Brooks retired from her position as Older Adult Benefits Administrator after 17.5 years. We wish her well!
- Restructure of services to focus on Title III Senior Health Assistance Programs and Senior Health Insurance Program counseling. CEDA Energy Assistance applications will be taken at the 105 office and Senior Services benefits staff will provide backup for time off.

### **Caregiver Support**

- Caregiver Support will be facilitating Memory Café with the departure of our Outreach and Activities Coordinator who planned cafes and facilitated meetings in the past.
- Caregiver Support and Care Coordination staff continue working closely with Housing Forward and the OP Housing Authority for a participant waiver and emergency placement.

### **CCU**

- CCU Supervisor, Mary Anne Ojeda, is representing Senior Services at the Village of Oak Park Health Department iPLAN strategic planning meetings. Her education in public health along with her expertise in Senior Services makes her a great fit for this project!
- Implementation of the plans and reporting for the FY 22/FY 23 workforce retention and recruitment grant are underway.
- More than 60 residents have been served in FY 22 with the Illinois Department on Aging Emergency Senior Services funds totaling over \$18,000.

### **Chore**

- Despite the shortage of workers for Title III Chore Services, we are ahead of target hours provided, but to fewer participants during AgeOptions FY 22.

### **Adult Protective Services**

- FY 22 ended with 72 intakes for reports of abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Special recognition goes to the Adult Protective Services team for handling the highest number of intakes received - nearly a 10% increase in investigations completed while scoring 98.87% on the annual program operations case review and 100% on the periodic program operations administrative review.

### **Choices for Care**

- Hospital referrals of patients in need of screenings are increasing
- All screenings through June 30<sup>th</sup> have been submitted for billing
- Choices for Care staff are shifting division of work responsibilities to provide backup coverage for billing to ensure submission of all Care Coordination Unit billing prior to the end of the fiscal year billing deadline and to provide coverage during planned billing staff leave.

### **HomeMeds**

- Staff are undergoing training for the new version of the HomeMeds program site.

Recruitment for the program will begin slowly due to staff shortages. Once up and running, referrals to the program will be monitored and reported.

**Money Management**

- Additional participants are needed for the money management program. Outreach conducted at Mills Park Tower and Oak Park Bank.
- We’ve followed up with Wednesday Journal to highlight our Money Management program as a follow up to the recent article in [chicagocaregiving.com](http://chicagocaregiving.com).

**Transportation**

- Our bus, driver, participants, volunteers, and staff participated in the Juneteenth and Fourth of July parades.
- Farmers Market rides have been slow, but we anticipate an increase with the arrival of Farmers Market coupon booklets.
- Repairs have made to Oak-10 to ensure smooth application of the last rebranding logos anticipated August 1<sup>st</sup>
- Kick off call for Ecolane routing software is scheduled for Tuesday, July 26<sup>th</sup>

**Nutrition**

- Congregate meal pickups continue Tuesdays and Fridays and we’re seeing increased utilization with the reintroduction of hot and cold meals along with frozen. Some participants have chosen to eat outside after bingo and other programming.
- Hotline number is working well for reservations for Tuesday meal distribution, dine out coupon purchases, and Farmers Market applications
- Awaiting receipt of Farmers Market coupons, partner event with Oak Park Public Library and the Park District of Oak Park has been planned for August during coupon distribution at Mills Park Tower, The Oaks, and Heritage House
- The Super Senior Event
- Blood Drive - twelve eligible participants donated blood and we’re working with Community Blood Center to plan next event.
- Currently 40 volunteers assisting with meal distribution, well-being calls, and Farmers Market coupon distribution. This has included groups from Fenwick High School and Oak Park Police Outreach program.
- Volunteer training has been revamped to include onboarding, welcome orientation, training modules and shadowing
- Janice Underwood participated in Triton College Senior Volunteer Recruitment event
- Ten participants have volunteered for the Senior Nutrition Advisory Council to provide input and ideas on food, programming, and other areas of interest.
- Sandra Shanks retired from her position as Home Delivered Meals Driver after 17 years of service. We wish her well!
- Kristin Norman resigned from her position as Outreach and Activity Assistant to complete her final full-year internship for her MSW degree. We wish her well!

**Front Office/Aging & Disability Resource Center**

- Front office staff are preparing for certification training from the Alliance of Information & Referral Systems

**OPRF Home Repair Program Data**

SUMMARY - Client Information	Oak Pak	River Forest	Grand Total Clients	Repeat Clients	New clients
April-2022	9	4	13	5	8
May-2022	10	8	18	11	7
June-2022	13	4	17	8	9
2022 Totals	32	16	48	24	24