

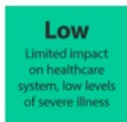


Director's Report August 2022

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 August 19, 2022:

Our current case rate is: 194 cases per 100,000 residents. Oak Park is in the CDC's Low Community Level:



106 new COVID-19 cases reported

The Oak Park Health Department is reporting that 106 residents have tested positive for COVID-19 since last week's update. The new positive cases range in ages from infancy to 98 years old. The new cases translate to a rate of 194 cases per 100,000 residents, according to health officials. Based on the latest guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Oak Park is in the low community level while surrounding Cook County remains in the medium level.

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 stabilize 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

- Reviewed applications, conducted phone screenings, sent links for pre-employment assessments, and began interviews for the Older Adult Benefits Administrator.
- Attended weekly supervision meetings with Township Manager
- Conducted individual weekly supervision with 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 meeting
- Participated in ongoing rebranding work
- Attended meetings with Ecolane regarding the rollout of routing software in the Transportation Department
- Conducted interviews for Nutrition Outreach & Activity Assistant
- Planning for Township Officials of Illinois (TOI) Educational Sessions on Housing Options & Dementia Live
- Met with AgeOptions for a follow-up session regarding Long Term Care Ombudsman application
- Participated in the AgeOptions Advocacy Task Force Call
- Met with Marc Blesoff, newly appointed Chairperson of the Aging in Place Commission of the Village of Oak Park. Invited him to attend the October Senior Services Committee meeting and offered to present with Senior Services Committee representatives at an upcoming Aging in Place Commission meeting.

- Attended the Oak Park Farmers Market on August 13, 2022, provided information to residents about our programs and services, distributed Farmers Market coupons, and promoted the Oak Park Farmers Market with the Farmland Trust competition (see attached).

Budgets/Grant Applications/Grant Awards

- FY 23 Budgets have been submitted for all Title III programs.
- The first month of FY 23 Illinois Department on Aging Workforce Development spending is complete.
- Final quarter of Adult Protective Services/Administration on Community Living special funding – pens have been ordered & postcard is undergoing branding and design modifications.

Older Adult Benefits

- Older Adult Benefits Specialist Pleshette Davis-Moore is handling interim responsibilities during the search for the new Older Adult Benefits Administrator
- Older Adult Benefits Specialist is undergoing CEDA training for certification with the new Program Year beginning in September/October 2022 and will handle backup coverage and proxy applications for the Care Coordination team.

Caregiver Support

- New **Grief Support Group for Caregivers**, starting September 15, 2022, and every 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The group will be held virtually on the Zoom platform until further notice.

CCU

- CCU Supervisor, Mary Anne Ojeda, continues to represent Senior Services at the Village of Oak Park Health Department's iPLAN strategic planning meetings.
- A new Care Coordinator and Case Liaison have been hired and will join the team on August 29, 2022.

Adult Protective Services

- We have been awarded the Adult Protective Services contract beginning October 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023 with the option for two 1-year extensions.
- FY 23 continues with high intake reports of abuse, neglect, and exploitation. If this trend continues, we expect to have the number of intakes increase by more than 10%.

Choices for Care

- Nancy Hickey, long-time Choices for Care Coordinator, has resigned and will retire effective September 1, 2022.
- Choices for Care and Care Coordination Unit staff are shifting division of work responsibilities to provide backup coverage for billing to provide coverage during planned billing staff leave, and to cover until hiring a new Choices for Care Coordinator is complete.

HomeMeds

- Staff are training and attending meetings to learn about day-to-day operations and best practices from organizations currently running the program.

Money Management

- Additional participants are needed for the money management program. Meeting with Care Coordination Team to ensure appropriate referrals.
- Planning for September follow up with Wednesday Journal to highlight our Money Management program as a follow-up to the recent article in chicagocaregiving.com.

Transportation

- Drivers have completed nearly one hundred and twenty rides to the Farmers Market since the beginning of the season
- Providing Data for setup of Ecolane routing software and attending ongoing training sessions

Nutrition

- Hot, cold, and frozen congregate meals are available for pickup on Tuesdays and Fridays.
- Participants eat together outside after bingo and other programs.
- We distributed Farmers Market coupon booklets with our partners from the Oak Park Public Library and Park District of Oak Park and visited Mills Park Tower, The Oaks, and Heritage House. We distributed approximately 250 coupon booklets, and more are still available. Coupon booklets are also available during meal distribution times at Senior Services.
- Next Blood Drives – September 20 and December 14, 2022 – click here to register https://donate.communityblood.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/35664
- Jessica Lainez has joined our team in the Nutrition Outreach and Activity Assistant position. Her customer service, kitchen, and food service experience, paired with her history of event coordination and passion for promoting wellness and serving the community, make her an excellent fit for this role.
- Two hundred seventy-five shelf stable meal boxes have been ordered and will be disseminated to participants by the end of September.
- Nutrition Advisory Council will meet on August 22, 2022, to provide input regarding meals, activities, and other feedback for the nutrition site. There are twenty-two respondents interested in attending.
- Tai Chi for Arthritis has seventeen participants registered who will start on August 29, 2022. We have ten additional on the waiting list.
- Discussions are underway for an additional session.
- Our Book club will start on September 6, 2022, when the group will meet to discuss titles and vote on a selection.
- Desperate need for drivers to deliver meals to homebound residents

Front Office/Aging & Disability Resource Center

- Tonie Moody Sims is serving as the Aging & Disability Resource Center Manager ensuring the front office and benefits teams' professional, effective, and efficient operation based upon the program standards, funding guidelines, and community needs.
- Yazmin Morales has completed her Certification Training for Information & Referral - Customer Service.
- Marsha Steen is now serving and Information & Assistance Specialist and is preparing for certification training from the Alliance of Information & Referral Systems.

OPRF Home Repair Program Data - July 2022

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
July-2022	15	4	19	8	11
2022 Totals	47	20	67	32	35

Are you mourning the death of a loved one you once took care of?

When a loved one passes away that you've cared for a long time, you can suddenly feel out of place and struggling emotionally.

You are not alone. When caregiving ends, sometimes we are left with an enormous amount of grief, guilt, exhaustion, confusion and loss. It can feel overwhelming managing these feelings alone.

There is support available to help you through this transition. Senior Services of Oak Park and River Forest offers a free Grief Support Group to help caregivers process their loss and sudden change of daily life. In a gentle setting with others, caregivers can share their emotions, experiences, and sources of strength in coping.

You are welcome to attend any time to find the comfort you need among others who are going through, or have gone through, the same experience.

Starting September 15
Grief Support for Caregivers

**Meets the 1st & 3rd
Thursdays of the month
5:30-7:00pm
Free to participate**

This group will meet virtually through Zoom until further notice, due to continuing COVID concerns.

For more information or to register, call Devin Andrews, Caregiver Support Specialist, at (708) 725-9116 or email dandrews@oakparktownship.org.



National Farmers' Market Week

August 7-13, 2022



Scan to cast your vote for the Oak Park Farmers' Market

We could win a cash prize of \$10,000!

