
Celebrating the Past

Enhancing the Present

Shaping the Future



Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan
2013 Annual Report

Celebrating
40 years
1974 - 2014

From the Executive Director

As we embark on our 40th year anniversary, it's important to take time to celebrate our past, reflect on enhancements we've made to the present and focus on how we will shape the future for older adults in the years to come.

Celebrating the Past

The Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan (AAAWM) began in 1974 in response to the Older Americans Act. By 1975, AAWM was contracting with Commissions on Aging and other senior service providers throughout the nine county region. When AAWM first started, the sole funding source was the Older Americans Act and fewer than 1,000 clients were served.

Enhancing the Present

Today there is funding from the Older Americans Act, Older Michigianians Act, MI Choice Medicaid Waiver, the Veterans Administration and the Kent County Senior Millage. Over 20,000 older adults are served each year throughout the region.

Shaping the Future

As the population continues to age and more people reach their senior years, the services of AAWM and the aging network will prove to be even more necessary to help maintain independence.

AAAWM will continue to build upon successful programs while also looking for new ways to shape the future for older adults throughout the region.



Tom Czerwinski,
AAAWM Executive Director



Tom Czerwinski and Larry Murray

When the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan (AAAWM) first started, it occupied one small office inside the County building in downtown Grand Rapids. One of the first tasks Larry L. Murray Jr. (founder of AAAWM and Executive Director until 1995) took on was helping establish Commissions on Aging (CoAs) throughout the region.

Larry met with county leadership to convince them of the need to establish entities that would be the direct service providers and receive funding from AAAWM.

Since their inception, CoAs and senior service providers in the region have worked closely with AAAWM to provide a variety of in-home services aimed at helping older adults remain independent.

These partnerships have enabled thousands of older adults to continue to live in their own homes.



From Left to Right: Sister Agnes Thiel (former Advisory Council Chairperson, Ferris Leach (former Board Chairperson) and Larry Murray (first Executive Director).

1965

Congress passes the Older Americans Act (OAA)

1973

Amendments made to the OAA to establish Area Agencies on Aging

When AAAWM first began providing Older Americans Act (OAA) services in 1975 there were ten programs represented. In 1981, the Older Michiganians Act was passed, which brought with it the duties and responsibilities of the state Office of Services to the Aging (OSA), the Commission on Services to the Aging and Area Agencies on Aging.

Over the years, older adults and service providers have advocated with state and federal elected officials for more funding for older adult programs. These efforts have enabled AAAWM to help more seniors stay in their own homes. Today there are over 25 OAA services provided by 85 different agencies throughout our region.



Older adults advocating for senior services in Lansing

Older Americans Act (OAA) Services

In FY 2013, in response to the federal sequestration (reductions for many federally funded services), AAAWM was able to reduce the financial impact this would have on providers. AAAWM used reserves, along with reallocated funds from FY 2012, to cover cuts to services. This limited the impact on older adults throughout our region and allowed them to continue to receive much needed services.

1974
AAAWM
established

1975
AAAWM funding OAA
services in a nine county
region

1981
Older Michiganians Act
passed.

Older Americans Act (OAA) Services

Type of Service	Clients	Units
Adult Day Care	91	30,952
Care Management	351	2,631
Caregiver Services	519	510
Congregate Meals	4,003	209,172
Counseling	100	526
Disease Prevention/Health Promotion	842	122
Elder Abuse Prevention Education	956	39
Grandparents Raising Grandchildren	56	61
Home Delivered Meals	4,483	799,956
Home Support	88	428
Homemaker	1,136	41,128
Information and Assistance	---	16,883
Legal Assistance	364	661
Long Term Care Ombudsman	1,311	1,256
Medication Management	32	347
Outreach and Assistance	849	3,211
Personal Care	224	10,232
Respite	485	28,849
<i>(home chore, homemaker, in-home, overnight, and personal care)</i>		
Senior Center Staffing	----	4,333
Transportation-Assisted	1,009	14,353
Transportation-Public	149	8,610

Michigan Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program (MMAP)

A region-wide team of 53 dedicated MMAP team members spent 4,442 hours counseling Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries in FY 2013. They also spent an additional 4,308 hours training, traveling and providing outreach on Medicare and Medicaid issues throughout our region.

One-to-one contacts were made with 5,143 individuals to educate and empower them to make informed decisions regarding Medicare, Medicaid and prescription drug coverage.

Care Management History

In 1984, AAAWM first received state funding for Care Management services, which assisted older adults with meeting their basic needs. In 1997, AAAWM began directly providing MI Choice Medicaid Waiver (MI Choice) funded Care Management services in Allegan, Ionia, Lake, Mason, Mecosta, Montcalm, Newaygo and Osceola counties. Kent County was added in 1999.

In 2005, AAAWM was one of two state pilots to transition people out of long-term care facilities. When the program first started 39 people were served.

AAAWM was one of the original agencies involved in the Choices for Independence pilot in 2007 and staff played a key role in determining the parameters for the program. Due to its success, AAAWM has continued to offer this program even after the pilot ended.

Choices for Independence

The Choices for Independence program educates adults age 60 and over and their support systems (caregiver, friends, family, etc.) about services available to maintain independent living. They can then choose which services to put into place, but are under no obligation to do so.

In FY 2013, 170 individuals and families met with an Independent Living Consultant to learn about individual and community resources.

1992

Michigan starts
MI Choice services
in select counties

1997

AAAWM begins
providing MI
Choice services

1998

MI Choice
expands to cover
the entire state

MI Choice Medicaid Waiver (MI Choice)

MI Choice is a Medicaid funded program which provides in-home services to older adults and certified disabled individuals who are at risk of nursing facility placement. MI Choice participants partner with a Care Management team (made up of a licensed Social Worker and a Registered Nurse) to develop a care plan centered on an individual's needs.

In order to qualify for the program, an individual must be a certified disabled adult (18-64) or aged 65 and over, medically eligible for nursing home placement, compliant with Medicaid income and asset requirements, and in need of community-based services.

MI Choice assists people who qualify for long term care services in their own homes as well as in group settings (adult foster care and homes for the aged), allowing for a broader choice for long term care assistance.

In FY 2013, AAAWM served 872 MI Choice clients throughout the region.

Nursing Facility Transition

The Nursing Facility Transition (NFT) program helps those living in a nursing home return to the community. Referrals for this program come from nursing facility social workers, family, friends and clients themselves.

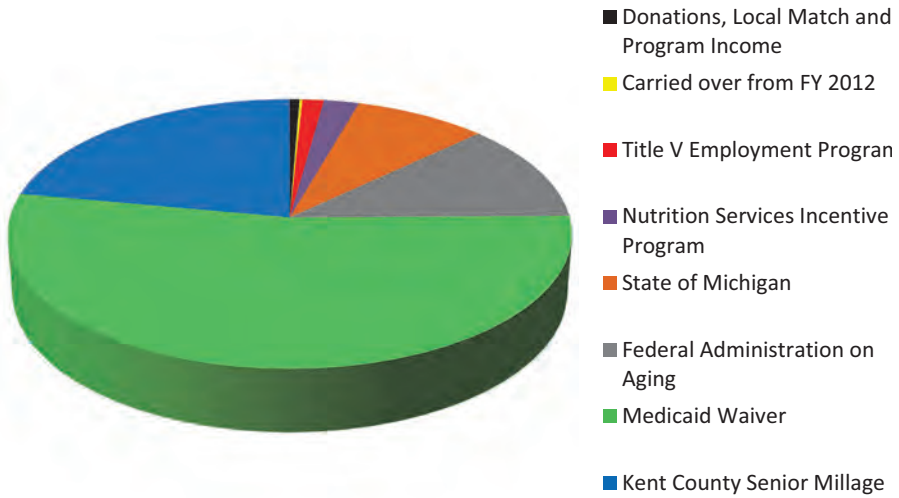
In FY 2013, 138 individuals were successfully transitioned out of a nursing facility and back into the community.

2005

AAAWM is part of the state-wide Nursing Facility Transition pilot program

2007

State pilots Choices for Independence Program



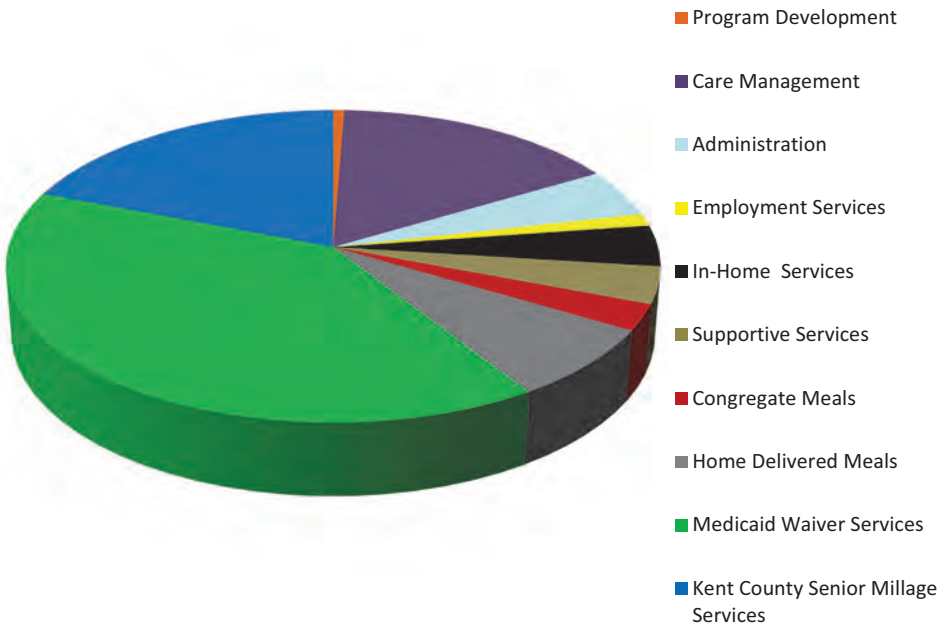
FY 2013 Revenues

Donations	\$	10,624
Local Match		155,258
Program Income		14,706
Carried over from FY 2012		51,611
Title V Employment Program		397,696
Nutrition Services Incentive Program		648,850
State of Michigan		2,452,196
Federal Administration on Aging		3,377,509
Medicaid Waiver		15,205,758
Kent County Senior Millage		6,331,513
Total	\$	28,645,721

AAAWM receives program funding from the Older Americans Act and Older Michiganians Act through the Office of Service to the Aging. Other programs are funded through the Michigan Department of Community Health and the Kent County Senior Millage.

FY 2013 Expenditures

Program Development	\$	173,205
Care Management		4,559,077
Administration		1,413,751
Employment Services		362,935
In-Home Services		1,217,149
Supportive Services		1,094,140
Congregate Meals		778,598
Home Delivered Meals		2,129,828
Medicaid Waiver Services		11,442,320
Kent County Senior Millage Services		5,474,718
Total	\$	28,645,721



Board of Directors

The AAAWM Board of Directors consists of elected officials and consumers from the nine county region and the city of Grand Rapids.

Board members provide leadership to the organization and ensure the agency is fulfilling the mission of helping older adults and those with disabilities live with independence and dignity.

AAAWM Board of Directors

Allegan County

Com. Don Black
Eleanor Nielsen, Chairperson

Ionia County

Com. Larry Tiejema
Tom Lee*

Kent County

Com. Carol Hennessy
Al Page, Vice Chairperson

Lake County

Com. Colleen Carrington Atkins
Marilyn Burns, Secretary

Mason County

Com. Bill Carpenter
Patsy Hagerman
Susan Boes*

Mecosta County

Com. Bill Routley
Com. Art Adleman, Treasurer

Montcalm County

Com. John Johansen
Ralph Harrington

Newaygo County

Com. Philip Deur
Marilyn Snell

Osceola County

Com. Larry Emig
Richard Karns

City of Grand Rapids

Esther Van Hammen
Com. Elias Lumpkins
Com. James B. White*

*** denotes former members**

Advisory Council

The AAAWM Advisory Council consists of representatives from nine counties and the city of Grand Rapids.

Advisory Council members help identify the needs of older adults, disseminate information about available services and the aging network in their communities, identify available untapped resources, advocate on behalf of older adults in West Michigan, and present their recommendations to the Board of Directors.

Advisory Council

Allegan County

Stuart Peet

Ionia County

Kenneth Thompson

Ojars Smits

Norma Kilpatrick*

Kent County

Com. Harold Mast

F. Robert Deane, M.D.

Lake County

Nellie Blue

Nicolette McClure

Mason County

Paula Estle

Robert Sundholm, Chairperson

Mecosta County

Jerrilyn Strong

Montcalm County

Ben Witbrodt

Newaygo County

Adele Hansen

Josephine Toliver

Osceola County

Barbara Hazlett, Vice-Chair

Mary Lou Proefrock

City of Grand Rapids

Keith D. Vandercook

Emeritus

Louise Thomas*

Advocates for Senior Issues

Tom Appel*

Grand Valley State University

Priscilla Kimboko, Vice-Chair

Veterans Services

John Luckett

* denotes former members



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www.aaawm.org

www.facebook.com/AreaAgencyOnAging

Celebrating
40 years
1974 - 2014

Established in April 1974, the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan (AAAWM) exists to help older adults and persons with disabilities live in their community with independence and dignity.

AAAWM is part of a national network of 629 Area Agencies on Aging and a statewide network of 16 Area Agencies on Aging.