

2022 Advocacy Priorities – State and Federal

2022 State Advocacy Priorities – At their January board of directors meeting, the Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan established the following advocacy priorities for 2022.

PROTECT AND PROMOTE THE AGING NETWORK

- Promote the strengths of the Michigan model of long-term services and supports. The model builds on the strengths of Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) to blend/braid MI Choice, Older Americans Act (OAA) and Older Michiganians Act (OMA) funding to assure seamless access for older adults and persons with disabilities regardless of ability to pay or insurance coverage. AAAs add value by integrating community supports and local networks into care planning and service delivery and by coordinating program and planning efforts to address unmet community needs.
- Promote the Medicaid MI Choice program, expand access for all who qualify, seek program improvements which will allow MI Choice to serve Medicaid beneficiaries more effectively, and protect the role of AAAs as administrators of the MI Choice program.
- Expand seamless and equitable access to home and community-based services for persons not eligible for Medicaid.
- Advocate for long-term services and supports (LTSS) built on the strengths of the Michigan model. Create a more specific AAA network plan for LTSS based on core values such as person-centered care, local community networks, partnerships, and connections.

REBALANCE LONG-TERM CARE SPENDING

Rebalance long-term care spending in Michigan to ensure equitable access to meet person-centered preferences and finance the growing demand for aging network services and supports.

SUPPORT DIRECT CARE WORKERS

Address the direct care workforce crisis by advocating for improved salary and benefits, and by creating an infrastructure which will professionalize the workforce and create career pathways through improved training, credentialing, and certification opportunities. Participate in coalitions formed to advocate for DCW such as the IMPART Alliance, the Essential Jobs, Essential Care Coalition, the Wage Coalition, and others.

PARTNER WITH HEALTHCARE

Link the core competencies of the aging network with health care partners to promote health and wellness, support caregivers, address social determinants of health, and mitigate chronic illnesses and disabilities as they affect the population across the life span. Explore initiatives including age-friendly communities, health systems, and public health programs.

2022 National Advocacy Priorities – At their board meeting in December, the USAging board of directors approved the following advocacy priorities:

I. Investing in Cost-Effective Home and Community-Based Services

(HCBS): Invest in Older Americans Act, Medicaid, and other HCBS efforts that help older adults and persons with disabilities live successfully and independently in their homes and communities.

***Aging Network Value** - Iterate the role of the Aging Network (AN) in supporting HCBS and importance of protecting that role.

- OAA
- Medicaid HCBS
- Veteran-Directed Care Program

II. Promoting Successful, Healthy Aging in Community: Strengthen community options that make it possible for older adults to continue to age well and safely at home and in the community.

***Aging Network Value** Iterate the pivotal role of the AN in addressing Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) especially among at risk older adult populations and their caregivers.

- Caregivers
- Social isolation
- Technical assistance and bridging digital divide
- Transportation
- Evidence-Based Programs
- Other appropriations priorities (eg. LIHEAP, block grants)
- Housing
- Elder justice

III. Connecting the Health and Aging Sectors to Improve Care, Reduce Costs

***Aging Network Value to Health Care** – Iterate the pivotal role that the Aging Network plays and could continue to play in improving health outcomes by leveraging existing AN assets and infrastructure with integration of holistic health care delivery.

- Medicare
 - Supplemental Benefits
 - Preserving and Expanding Care Options
 - Expanding Beneficiary Education and Enrollment Assistance
- Ensure evolving models of LTSS data systems and I&R coordinate with AN (e.g., SDOH codes, data sharing, social health referral platforms, etc.)

IV. Creating the Needed Infrastructure for an Aging America

****Aging Network Value – Iterate pivotal role AN played throughout the pandemic as well as prior and concurrent crises around the country showcasing depth of experience and connections in disaster preparedness as well as providing critical community support and innovative strategies for at-risk older adults.***

- Broadband, other tech investments
- Disaster preparedness and response
- Workforce