



Area Agency on Aging of Dane County

MIPPA Program Overview – Leilani Amundson, Elder Benefit Specialist

The Area Agency on Aging (AAA) of Dane County applied for and was awarded a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) to conduct Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA) outreach. The AAA of Dane County serves individuals who are age 60 and over and/or their family members by providing information and assistance in accessing services that will help older adults stay in their own homes and communities. Due to our central role, the AAA is able to execute the MIPPA program with a close network of resources.

Agencies that receive funding DHS under the MIPPA grant must report grant-related activities monthly in the national State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) Tracking and Reporting System called STARS. In order to save a record in STARS as MIPPA activity, these two conditions must be met: work is done through an agency that receives MIPPA grant funding; and at least one MIPPA-related topic must be included for every record that is labeled as MIPPA.

Through this contracted MIPPA Program Specialist role, there are efforts to intensify outreach and assistance activities to senior adults who may be eligible for programs that could reduce their Medicare costs and prescription costs via:

- **Medicaid Topics**

- Various benefit explanation, eligibility/screening, Medicaid application submission
- **Medicare Savings Program (MSP)** - Help seniors with limited incomes and assets pay for some or all of Medicare's premiums, deductibles and co-payments.
- Buy-in coordination process assistance
- Recertification assistance

- **Medicare Low Income Subsidy (LIS)/Extra Help Topics:**

- Benefit assists seniors with limited incomes and assets pay their Medicare Part D premiums, deductibles and co-payments.
- Benefit explanation, eligibility/screening, application submission
- **LINET/BAE**

- **SeniorCare Level 1 (SC1)**

- Wisconsin's prescription drug program for people age 65 and older. There is no monthly premium and the deductible amount is based on the person's income; assets are not counted. SeniorCare Level 1 draws on Medicaid funding and only this level falls under MIPPA topics. People with lower incomes often find SeniorCare to be more affordable than other Medicare drug plans, as well as creditable. Outreach and enrollment assistance is provided.

- **Medicare Preventive Services**

- Starting in 2011 Medicare began covering more preventive services and screenings – all at low or no cost. Preventive health care focuses on preventing disease and maintaining proper health which will allow beneficiaries to live a longer, healthier life.
- Outreach and education is provided