#### Age-Friendly Policies at the Department of Human Services

Dan Pollock | Assistant Commissioner, Continuing Care for Older Adults

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#### Current policies and programs that highlight Age-Friendly



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The Mobile Community Center for Older Adults serves five counties in western Minnesota



"Cycling Without Age" Comes to **Dodge Center** 

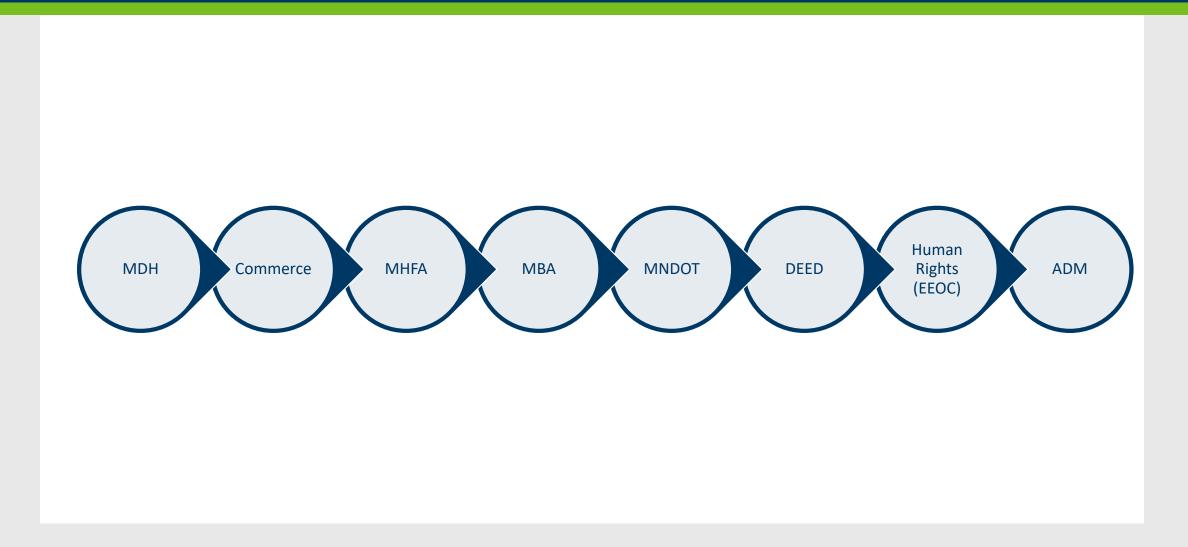


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About one in three seniors experience loneliness according to the latest "National Poll on Healthy Living". But a program that's sweeping the world is looking to socialize and uplift the elderly, all while taking them on a trip down memory lane

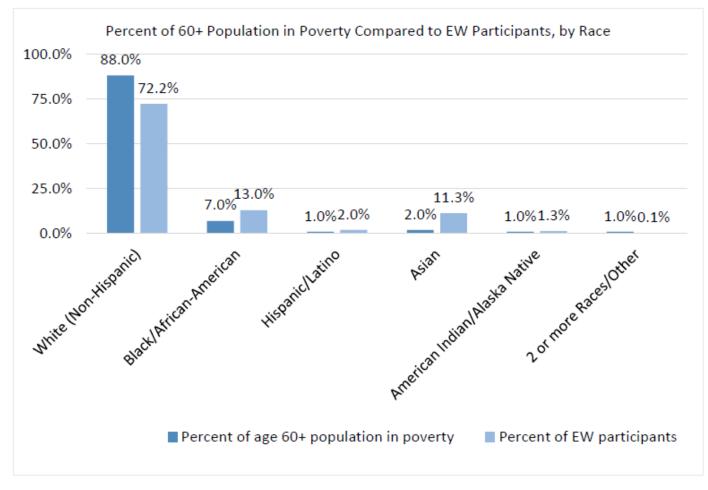
- By the numbers:
  - ~\$1.5 billion in spending on LTSS
  - 400,000+ older adults served
  - 34,000 (EW)
  - 22,000 (SNF)
  - 300,000 calls (Senior Linkage Line)
- Prioritizing equity for underserved minority, tribal and rural communities
- Strengthening county/tribal adult protective services amidst 70,000 allegations of abuse
- Make Minnesota an Age-Friendly state

# State agency or other government partners



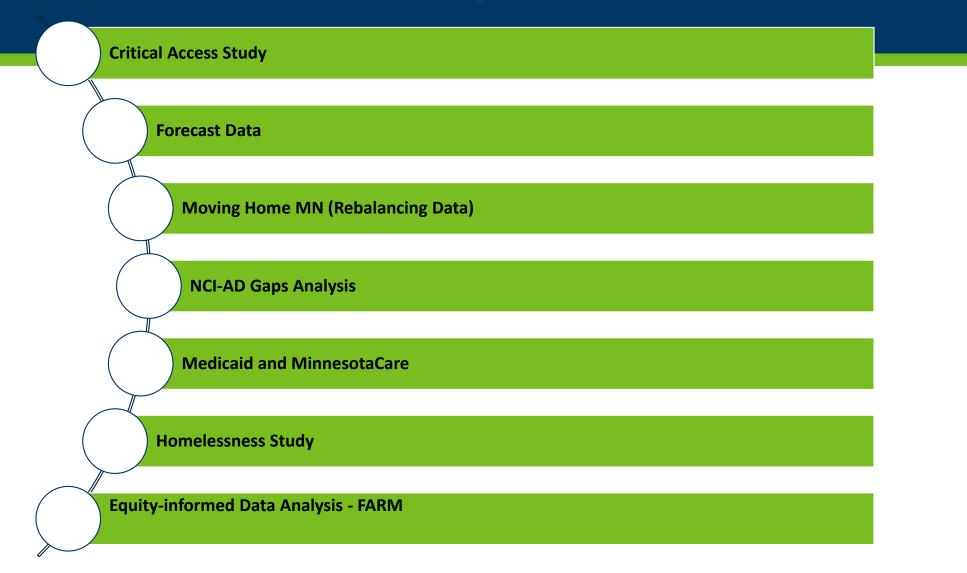
# Gaps/Opportunities in Programs

- Evaluating HCBS Assessments for Racial and Ethnic Disparities
- Data suggests clear differences in waiver enrollment, service use and satisfaction by race/ethnicity
- PCA/homecare much likely to be used by non-white clients than elderly waiver and alternative care
- DHS multi-stage research project will use quantitative and qualitative methods to inform and reduce disparities in HCBS for communities of color and American Indians

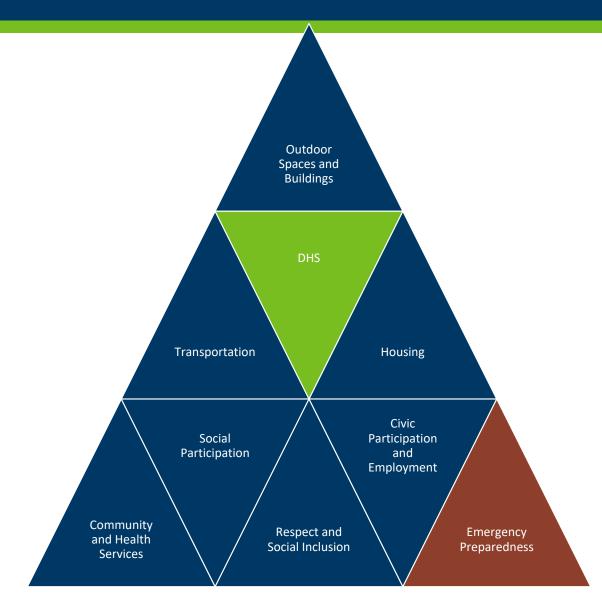


Source: DHS Data Warehouse, State Fiscal Years 2015; Integrated Public Use Microdata Series data, 2014

#### **DHS** Reports



### Age-Friendly Matrix



# Supporting Age-Friendly Communities during a Pandemic

Executive Order 20-12: Waivers under peacetime emergency authority

Minnesota Statutes, section 12A.10 – Additional reimbursement for nursing home and assisted living providers in which one or more residents and/or staff are infected with COVID-19

https://mn.gov/dhs/waivers-andmodifications/ Waivers under peacetime emergency authority, Executive Order 20-12: Fe Medicaid and MinnesotaCare approvals received

- <u>1. Preserving health care coverage for Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare amended (CV17)</u>
- 2. Allowing phone or internet visits for waiver programs (CV15)
- 3. Expanding access to telemedicine services for Children's Health Insurance Program, Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare enrollees (CV16)
- 4. Allowing 90-day supply of prescription maintenance medications (CV19)
- 5. Postponing provider screening and re-enrollment (CV22)
- <u>6. Eliminating cost-sharing for COVID-19 diagnosis, treatment (CV20)</u>
- 7. Expanding telemedicine in health care, mental health, and substance use disorder settings (CV30)
- 8. Allowing phone or video use for targeted case management visits (CV24)

Changes under existing authority to respond to COVID-19

In addition to the changes outlined above under the emergency authority, the commissioner made the changes be the authority of existing laws,

1. Waiving work requirements for certain SNAP participants (CV18)

2. Suspending sanctions for some Minnesota Family Investment Program and Diversionary Work Program pa (CV06)

3. Expediting payments to nursing homes (CV01)

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# Thank You!

#### **Dan Pollock**

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