

Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw County

Senior Prevention Programs

CMHPSM Priority Area: Reduce Prescription and Over-the-Counter Drug Abuse/Misuse

Program Brief 2023-24

Cut down. Annoyed. Guilt. Eye opener.

- CAGE Screenings are provided to those 55+ to mitigate risk of overdose, injury, death, health concerns, homelessness, family conflict, social isolation, and hospital/emergency room visits.
- Screenings also assess for signs of abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
- Targeted Risk Factors
 - Lack of knowledge of prescriptions
 - Lack of knowledge on drug interactions
 - Low perception of risk



118

Seniors were provided the CAGE-Aid Screening.

Individuals that “red flag” during a screening, are provided with harm reduction planning including resources and connection to treatment, if necessary. All seniors who complete are screening are engaged in conversation about substance use prevention, including medication

Get Connected: Linking Older Adults with Resource on Medication, Alcohol, and Mental Health

Sessions are held in-person or virtually, covering topics including an overview of medication, alcohol, and mental health conditions in older adults.

Developed in conjunction with SAMHSA and the National Council on Aging (NCOA), Get Connected is one of few evidenced- based interventions targeting substance use prevention services to seniors. The Get Connected curriculum provides education and linkage to resources on medication, alcohol, and mental health.

90

Seniors Participated in Get Connection Sessions

Participants reported learning in 14 domains including :

- Identifying signs of an alcohol or drug program in an older adult
- Risks of Mixing Alcohol and prescription drugs
- Screenings and assessments to identify need
- Proper disposal of medications
- The importance of speaking with your doctor and pharmacist