



## NEWS RELEASE

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# Michigan aging services organizations finalize SW Michigan partnership

[ST. JOSEPH, Apr. 2, 2025] — In an effort to grow home- and community-based services available to older adults in the region, Region IV Area Agency on Aging and Brio Living Services have agreed to partner to support the critical community-focused work of the Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) of Southwest Michigan.

Effective April 1, 2025, the new partnership will allow PACE of Southwest Michigan personnel to focus on hands-on, quality care, while many administrative functions will be supported by Brio's extensive team of PACE experts.

"Together, our organizations' ability to share widely recognized best practices, knowledge and administrative leadership will achieve superior outcomes and create more opportunities for local older adults to participate in our program," said Michael Zdrodowski, executive director of PACE of Southwest Michigan. "Our team members can focus on providing the best care possible, while Brio provides administrative support. It's a win-win for all of us."

PACE of Southwest Michigan opened the Day Center in St. Joseph, Michigan in Sep. 2012 and has since served more than 759 total participants. The partnership originally consisted of Corewell Health in Southwest Michigan, Region IV Area Agency on Aging, and Corewell Health Hospice and Palliative Care. Corewell Health will remain as a key community care provider to PACE of Southwest Michigan participants so their care and supports can remain local and close to home.

"We began with a small team of caregivers, physicians, and social workers, and enrolled 64 participants during our inaugural year," Zdrodowski said. "Since then, we have expanded to over 100 professionals who currently serve 250 participants throughout Berrien, Cass and Van Buren counties in Southwest Michigan. We partner with more than 90 local and regional service providers to ensure that participants can successfully age in their own homes and communities."

This decision follows six months of due diligence that was carefully considered by the boards of PACE of Southwest Michigan, Region IV AAA, and Brio Living Services.

“We are honored to support the vital work of PACE of Southwest Michigan. This partnership aligns seamlessly with our mission of ‘Offering Choices for Independent Lives’ and expanding home- and community-based services (HCBS) options,” said Christine Vanlandingham, Region IV Area Agency on Aging CEO. “By assisting individuals in their setting of choice, we enhance their quality of life and ensure they can age with dignity and independence. Our longstanding commitment as a founding partner to PACE of Southwest Michigan emphasizes our dedication to providing comprehensive care and support to older adults within our community.”

“We have worked thoughtfully to ensure not just the right skillset fit, but the right ethos and culture fit for all the PACE of Southwest Michigan team members and the people they serve,” said Steve Fetyko, Brio Living Services’ president and CEO. “We are deeply honored to partner with Region IV Area Agency on Aging to support the wonderful work of PACE of Southwest Michigan and are excited about our future together.”

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*Building on a foundation of serving older adults since 1906, **Brio Living Services**, formerly UMRC & Porter Hills, is a faith-based, nonprofit organization whose mission is: Welcoming all, partnering together, enriching lives. Its vision is: A world in which all are empowered to age well. Brio Living Services represents the second largest nonprofit senior living organization in Michigan and serves the most economically diverse population of older adults. With a tradition of exceptional quality and a commitment to cutting-edge care, Brio Living Services and its affiliates serve approximately 8,000 older adults each year, from 23 locations and service lines, across 22 counties in Michigan’s lower peninsula. 734.433.1000 | 616.949.4975 | [MyBrio.org](http://MyBrio.org)*

***PACE (Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly) of Southwest Michigan**, with its Day Center located in Saint Joseph, Michigan, offers a unique healthcare solution for older adults who struggle with health issues that may jeopardize their independence. Providing an alternative to nursing home care, PACE enables participants to live safely at home with the help of PACE services. The mission of PACE of Southwest Michigan is: Surrounding seniors with the care you need to remain in the home you love. Its vision is: A world without barriers to successful aging. PACE of Southwest Michigan serves Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren counties. 269.408.4322 | 855.243.8876 | [Pacesumi.org](http://Pacesumi.org)*

***Region IV Area Agency on Aging** is a private, not-for-profit corporation, established in 1974 for the business of developing age supportive commerce and services. Its primary service area includes Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren counties. Its mission is: Offering choices for independent lives; its vision is: Through choice and range of service, every aging adult lives a quality life. In keeping with its mission, the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) performs three primary activities: advocates on behalf of older and disabled persons; identifies needs of the elderly and disabled, and creates plans for meeting those needs through a system of in-home and community services to enable people to maintain their independence and dignity; and administers federal, state, local, and private funds to support those services. 800.442.2803 | [AreaAgencyOnAging.org](http://AreaAgencyOnAging.org)*

#### **About Corewell Health™**

*People are at the heart of everything we do, and the inspiration for our legacy of outstanding outcomes, innovation, strong community partnerships, philanthropy and transparency. Corewell Health is a not-for-profit health system that*

*provides health care and coverage with an exceptional team of 65,000+ dedicated people—including more than 12,000 physicians and advanced practice providers and more than 16,000 nurses providing care and services in 21 hospitals, 300+ outpatient locations and several post-acute facilities—and Priority Health, a provider-sponsored health plan serving more than 1.3 million members. Through experience and collaboration, we are reimagining a better, more equitable model of health and wellness. For more information, visit [corewellhealth.org](http://corewellhealth.org).*