



GWAAR Updates

Calendar of Events

Links to files may download or open, depending on your settings.

General

Nice to Know

Electronic Visit Verification

The 21st Century Cures Act, signed into federal law in 2016, requires state agencies to implement a system of electronic visit verification (EVV) for personal care and some supportive home care services provided and reimbursed under Medicaid. EVV affects personal care and some supportive home care services provided through Wisconsin Medicaid and BadgerCare Plus fee-for-service (ForwardHealth card), BadgerCare Plus and SSI HMOs, Family Care, Family Care Partnership, and IRIS (Include, Respect, I Self-Direct).

EVV is a process that uses technology to verify care provider visits for personal care or supportive home care services. Workers in Wisconsin must use EVV for each visit starting in November 2020.

To help inform members and participants of the EVV program and to provide additional resources, please share the Wisconsin Department of Health Services' [EVV Member Flyer](https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/library/p-02730.htm) (<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/library/p-02730.htm>) (available in English, Hmong, and Spanish).

Advocacy

[Janet Zander](#), Advocacy & Public Policy Coordinator

Nice to Know

Voting and Older Adults

Wisconsin's spring 2020 elections exposed existing and new barriers older adults face in Wisconsin's electoral process.

The Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) supports improvements to the voting process to ensure every eligible older adult (and adult with disabilities) who wants to vote, can vote, no matter where they live.

To learn more about the steps WAAN is asking state leaders to take to ensure safe, accessible voting is available to all eligible voters, see WAAN's [Voting White Paper](https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2006181) (<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2006181>), [Voting Issue Brief](https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2006180) (<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2006180>) and [Voting Recommendations](https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2006182) (<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2006182>)



Elder Benefit Specialists Services

Atty Kate Schilling, Legal Services Manager

Nice to Know

Reminder: Regional Training Rescheduled

Wednesday, September 30, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. via Zoom

Please note that due to COVID-19, the Elder Benefit Specialist (EBS) legal services program regional trainings originally scheduled for September 30, October 6, October 7, and October 8 have been rescheduled to one virtual training on Wednesday, September 30, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. via Zoom. A training agenda and link will be emailed out to the EBS closer to the date.

This training is *mandatory* and for all EBS--both new and experienced.

We strongly prefer all EBSs watch this webcast live so they can ask questions during the presentation.

Family Caregiver Support

Jane Mahoney, Older Americans Act Consultant

Nice to Know

2020 Virtual Caregiver Coordinator Trainings

Wednesday, September 30, 9:30 a.m. - 1:45 p.m.

Tuesday, October 6, 9:30 a.m. - 1:45 p.m.

Thursday, October 8, 9:30 a.m. - 1:45 p.m.

Registration: <https://gwaar.wufoo.com/forms/caregiver-coordinator-virtual-training-2020>

If you have not registered for one of the 2020 Virtual Caregiver Coordinator Trainings, please do so by *September 23*.

The cost will be \$20 per person. A coordinator of NFCSP and AFCSP from each county and tribe is expected to attend. Details about the day can be found on the agenda here:

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2006184>

Respite Survey

Please complete this brief survey to help us collect unique respite ideas:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RespiteIdeas>

COVID-19/Emergency Preparedness Guide for Kinship Families and Grandfamilies

The Advisory Council to Support Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (SGRG) developed a COVID-19/Emergency Preparedness Resource Guide to help these families during emergencies, including natural disasters or pandemics. The guide contains resources on the following topic areas:

- COVID-19 Resources for Kinship Family and Grandfamily Caregivers
- General COVID-19 Information from the Federal Government
- Tips for “Staying Connected” in an Emergency
- Helplines and Hotlines
- Resources for Health Care and Social Service Providers

Get the guide here: [COVID-19/Emergency Preparedness Resource Guide](https://acl.gov/sites/default/files/programs/2020-08/8-25-2020_Emergency%20Preparedness%20for%20Kinship%20Families%20and%20Grandfamilies_shorterTOC_508accessible_FINAL.pdf)

(https://acl.gov/sites/default/files/programs/2020-08/8-25-2020_Emergency%20Preparedness%20for%20Kinship%20Families%20and%20Grandfamilies_shorterTOC_508accessible_FINAL.pdf)



New Guidebooks Available



Today's Caregiver magazine has created three interesting new guidebooks. There is a cost, but these might be good giveaways and would be easy to mail.

Here's what each guide covers:

<i>Getting Friends and Family Members to Help</i>	<i>Successful Respite Solutions</i>	<i>Holiday Caregiving</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating your informal care team • Coping with family who won't help • Setting healthy boundaries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieving guilt-free time off • Evaluating respite service options • How to find free days for yourself 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing stress during the season • Managing expectations and getting help • Surviving holiday travel

Find the guides here: https://caregiver.com/cg-community/book-club/guides?utm_source=Caregiver+Newsletter&utm_campaign=e6e0eb18ff-caregiver-guides-eblast_single&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_8c5d5e6a5e-e6e0eb18ff-93239289&mc_cid=e6e0eb18ff&mc_eid=7d3e92c8b3

Seeking Wisconsin Family Caregiver Stories

Here's an opportunity from Family Caregivers Rock for your family caregivers to share their stories:

Have you ever wanted to share your caregiving thoughts or experiences to support other family caregivers? Thanks to a generous grant from the Aline Zerrenner Dementia Friendly Fund, Family Caregivers Rock is looking for submissions from Wisconsin family caregivers who care for a loved one with a memory-related diagnosis to compile into a book called "*A Not So Lonely Journey*" which is a follow up to a previous book called "*A Lonely Journey*." Submissions will be published in the family caregiver's own words.

Sharing your thoughts and journey can be as easy as writing a letter to a friend. Your contributions will help to support other family caregivers and help family, friends, employers, and co-workers understand the journey of a family caregiver. What an opportunity this is to give a voice to Wisconsin family caregivers!

Submissions are due November 15, 2020 with an expected published date of March 2021. Contact FamilyCaregiversRock@outlook.com for the full details, also noted here:

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2006187>

Family Caregivers Rock is a nonprofit based in Appleton, Wisconsin that supports the health and wellness of family caregivers in Wisconsin through community projects, events and granting wishes to family caregivers.

Health Promotion

[Angie Sullivan](#), OAA Consultant - Health Promotions Specialist

Nice to Know

September is Falls Prevention Month

Fall Prevention Materials for Older Adults

Falls affect us all - whether personally or someone we love or care about. Every second of every day an older adult falls. In 2015 alone, more than one in four adults reported falling and more than 28,000 older adults died because of falls – that's 74 older adults every day. There are simple steps you can take to prevent falls and decrease falls risks. The CDC developed the STEADI (Stopping Elderly Accidents, Deaths & Injuries) initiative which includes educational materials and tools to improve fall prevention. You can download materials or order free hard copies from CDC-INFO on demand fall prevention at <https://wwwn.cdc.gov/pubs/CDCInfoOnDemand.aspx>. These would be great resources to include in Home Delivered Meals or Carry-Outs.



For more information regarding the STEADI Fall Prevention information visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/steady/about.html>

Only Leaves Should Fall - Fall Prevention Event



Tuesday, September 22

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Free Facebook Event: <https://www.facebook.com/SafeCommunitiesMDC/live>

Registration is not required

Please join the Dane County Falls Prevention Task Force of Safe Communities for a LIVE virtual chat with Dr. Zorba Paster! He will speak about strategies for maintaining independence and keeping upright by preventing a fall. Share the flyer: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2006185/>

