



## Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources

### Calendar of Events

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

### General GWAAR

#### Need to Know

##### ACE Meeting: Save the Date!

The next ACE meeting will be held virtually September 29<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m. Invite and agenda to come!

#### Nice to Know

##### Promoting Inclusivity: Creating Accessible Documents

August 19, 10:30 a.m.

Register: [https://dhswi.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_n3YioY4IR7i8I2p7e6iQXg](https://dhswi.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_n3YioY4IR7i8I2p7e6iQXg)

Sharpen your skills or learn something new! It's up to all of us to know how we can ensure the information we share is available to everyone. An important component of equitable access includes the availability of print, electronic, and web-based information for people with disabilities.

Join us to learn the "why" of making content accessible and "how" to create documents, captions for videos and images, and more.

*Technology needed:*

- Computer access
- Microsoft Office Word and Power Point

*Who should attend and why?*

Anyone who prepares written documents communicated to a public audience with accessibility needs through traditional or electronic mediums. Many of the tools we use to create accessible content are easy to learn and it will become second nature to fit this into anything you develop in the future.

##### Applications Open for Arts & Aging Training Opportunity

Wisconsin continues to lead the way in creating "Aging in Place" initiatives for older adults. The artists involved with *The Remember Project* (<https://rememberproject.org/>) are now offering distance-learning workshops for professionals and volunteers in the field of Aging. Thanks to a generous grant from Bader Philanthropies there is no registration fee. Priority focus regions include the Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC) of southwest Wisconsin (including the counties of Buffalo, Crawford, Jackson, Juneau, La Crosse, Monroe, Pepin, Richland, Sauk, Trempealeau, and Vernon), and east central Wisconsin (including the counties of Adams, Calumet, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Marquette, Outagamie, Waupaca, Waushara, and Winnebago). However, applications from throughout the state are welcome.



The ultimate goal of *The Remember Project* is to assist community members and leaders consider new ways to think about memory loss and to become aware of local resources supporting families dealing with a diagnosis of dementia or Alzheimer's disease. This program takes a unique approach to building awareness, sharing information, and inviting authentic community conversations.

"We are launching our Wisconsin distance-learning professional opportunity in September," said *The Remember Project* founder, Danette McCarthy, "and we are excited to help communities grow stronger in their use of the arts to reduce the fear, stigma, and isolation associated with memory loss."

Applications are due on August 20th. Learn more and apply at this link:

<https://rememberproject.org/coming-up/arts-aging-workshops>

## Advocacy

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*Janet Zander, Advocacy & Public Policy Coordinator*

### **Nice to Know**

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#### **State Legislation Update**

##### *Voting/elections bills*

The following elections bills opposed by GWAAR were passed by the legislature and sent to Governor Evers on Aug. 5. At a press conference on 8/10/21, Governor Evers vetoed these bills along with two other election bills.



**Proposal: [SB203 \(-1537\)](#) [View Bill History](#): relating to: the secure delivery of absentee ballots and providing a penalty.**

**Proposal: [SB204 \(-2032\)](#) [View Bill History](#): relating to: absentee ballot applications, unsolicited mailing or transmission of absentee ballot applications and absentee ballots, canvassing absentee ballots, electronic voter registration, and providing a penalty.**

**Proposal: [SB205 \(-1935\)](#) [View Bill History](#): relating to: absentee voting in certain residential care facilities and retirement homes and providing a penalty.**

**Proposal: [SB212 \(-2033\)](#) [View Bill History](#): relating to: defects on absentee ballot certificates, certain kinds of election fraud, and providing a penalty.**

**Elder Abuse:** On Aug. 5, the legislature also sent SB 17, one of the elder abuse bills GWAAR is supporting, to the Governor's desk. SB 17 was signed into law by the Governor on 8/06/21 and is now 2021 Wisconsin Act 76.

**Proposal: [SB17 \(-0712\)](#) [View Bill History](#): relating to: increased penalties for crimes against elder persons; restraining orders for elder persons; freezing assets of a defendant charged with financial exploitation of an elder person; sexual assault of an elder person; physical abuse of an elder person; and providing a penalty.**

To print information including accessible links use this file:

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2006959>

## Family Caregiver Support

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*Jane Mahoney, Older Americans Act Consultant - Family Caregiver Specialist*

### **Need to Know**

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#### **New Policy Memo: Supplemental Services Revision**

The state's policy capping NFCSP Supplemental Services expenditures at 20% of your annual allocation has been permanently removed. This started as a change due to COVID-19 but has been made permanent as of August 16, 2021. Please see Policy Memo from Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources:

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2006957>

### **Nice to Know**

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#### **Statewide Caregiver Support Community Call/Webinar**

*Tuesday, August 24, 10:00 a.m.*

Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/97290291726>

Dial by your location: 1-312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 972 9029 1726

Agenda: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2006958>

We will be hearing about the Alzheimer's Poetry Project (see below), 2-1-1's new Caregiver Outreach program, and the After Caregiving Workgroup will unveil their work. All that plus updates and Janet Zander's Advocacy Report!

#### **The Alzheimer's Poetry Project: Poetry for Life (PFL)**

*Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. -11:00 a.m.*

Call-in Show - no registration is required  
(609) 663-1816. No access code needed.

The Alzheimer's Poetry Project is a free, ongoing virtual event for people living with dementia, their family, friends, and caregivers. Please join poets Gary Glazner and past Poet Laureate of Madison, Dr. Fabu Carter for the 30-minute show. Each week they will perform classic well-loved poems and create an original group poem with the callers. They explore using creativity and imagination and how they may be useful in caring for those with dementia and share laughter and have fun.



Gary will be sharing more about this project during the August 24 statewide call (see above).

#### **Activities for Relative Caregivers of Children and Their Families**

This September the Wisconsin Adoption & Permanency Support Program is hosting six in-person events around the state for Relative Caregivers of Children and their families Take a look at this flyer:

<https://wisapsp.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/KINnect-In-Person-Events.pdf> for events near you.

Please share this information with the grandparents and relative caregivers you are working with.



## Health Promotion

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

### ***Need to Know***

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#### **Reminder: Health Promotion Webinar**

Tuesday, August 24

1:00 -2:30 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/93425377234> Meeting ID: 934 2537 7234

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,93425377234# US (New York)

+13017158592,,93425377234# US (Washington DC)

Dial in US Toll-free: 877 853 5257, 888 475 4499, 833 548 0276 or 833 548 0282

Meeting ID: 934 2537 7234

All are welcome to join the Health Promotion Webinar! Below is our agenda:

- I. Welcome
- II. American Rescue Plan Act and Title III-D presented by Cindy Ofstead, Director, Office On Aging
- III. Increasing Access to Health Promotion Programs for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing presented by Carly Bieri, Sign Language Interpreter, Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- IV. GWAAR Updates
- V. WIHA Updates

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions [Angela.Sullivan@gwaar.org](mailto:Angela.Sullivan@gwaar.org)

### ***Nice to Know***

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#### **Reminder: Depression in Older Adults -- Please Complete Survey**

More than two million of the 34 million Americans age 65 and older suffer from some form of depression (National Institutes of Mental Health). Unfortunately, symptoms of depression are often overlooked and untreated when they coincide with other medical illnesses or life events that commonly occur as people age (e.g., loss of loved ones). Fortunately, clinical depression is a very treatable illness. More than 80% of all people with depression can be successfully treated with medication, psychotherapy or a combination of both.

According to a Mental Health American Survey on attitudes and beliefs about clinical depression:

- Approximately 68% of adults aged 65 and over know little or almost nothing about depression.
- Only 38% of adults aged 65 and over believe that depression is a "health" problem.
- If suffering from depression, older adults are more likely than any other group to "handle it themselves". Only 42% would seek help from a health professional.
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HealthyIDEAS is a depression self-management program designed to detect and reduce the severity of depressive symptoms in older adults with chronic conditions and functional limitations. It includes screening and

assessment, education, referral to appropriate health professionals, and behavioral activation. Aging Units/ADRC's are uniquely positioned to provide this one-on-one intervention that can be implemented in-person, virtually or by telephone. Please complete the attached survey to assist GWAAR in assessing



current and future mental health evidence-based programs in Wisconsin. If you have any questions regarding the survey, please contact Angie Sullivan [angela.sullivan@gwaar.org](mailto:angela.sullivan@gwaar.org) or 608-228-8081. Thank you!

Survey Link:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=ZHYIjp1ATEymtHggECDW6ivwh8tXiodKp0X3gZgU8C5UOEpJR0U2RzhLR0ZHMEVSS1RDRzAzN1pZQy4u>

HealthyIDEAS link to more information: <https://www.ncoa.org/article/evidence-based-program-healthy-ideas>

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## Business Development Center

[Sky Van Rossum](#), Business Development Coordinator

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### Nice to Know

#### **Bureau of Labor Statistics: The Latest Consumer Price Index news**

CPI for all items rises 0.5% in July; shelter, energy, food, new vehicle indexes rise (08/11/2021)

In July, the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers rose 0.5 percent on a seasonally adjusted basis; rising 5.4 percent over the last 12 months, not seasonally adjusted. The index for all items less food and energy increased 0.3 percent in July (SA); up 4.3 percent over the year (NSA).

Translated, this means that for every dollar budgeted to support network activities, those same activities cost \$1.05 cents now.

Illustrating this point a bit further, if a county is providing meals at a cost of \$10, that same meal actually costs \$10.50. The potential impact on a county providing 25,000 meals per year would be an unbudgeted added expense of \$12,500.

The good news is that the 5.4 % is down from a high of over 7% just two months ago. If you have questions or would like to discuss how to mitigate the impact on your programs, contact Sky Van Rossum at 608.228.8088

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## Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP)

[Ingrid Kunding](#), Project Manager

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### Nice to Know

#### **Reminder: Help Spread the Word: Cardiovascular Genetic Testing Used in New Fraud Trend**

Please consider sharing information about the latest growing genetic testing fraud trend which focuses on cardiovascular genetic testing. This type of Medicare fraud is impacting Medicare beneficiaries in all parts of the state. Scammers are offering Medicare beneficiaries genetic testing cheek swabs to obtain their Medicare information for fraudulent billing purposes or possibly medical identity theft

Help protect your community by sharing this press release:

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2006910>

