



Volume 3, No. 47, Week of December 14, 2021 Office (608) 243-5670 Fax (866) 813-0974 info@gwaar.org

## Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources

Calendar of Events

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

### GWAAR

#### Need to Know

##### Reminder: Save the Dates for the 2022 ACE Meetings!

Wednesday, January 12, 2022, Virtual

1:30-3:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 13, 2022, Virtual

1:30-3:00 p.m.

Wednesday, July 20, 2022

In person; schedule and venue TBD

Focus: Leadership Development

Wednesday, October 12, 2022

Schedule and format/venue TBD

We're looking forward to reconnecting in 2022! GWAAR will host four ACE meetings in 2022. Aging Unit and ADRC Directors will get specific details in emails from Rosanna.



### Advocacy

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

#### Nice to Know

##### Contact Your Federally Elected Officials Now!

Members of Congress will soon be heading home for the holidays, so contact them now about these important issues. For contact information for your Members of Congress see: Wisconsin Members of the 117th Congress - <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2004017>

##### Ask U.S. Senators Baldwin and Johnson to Pass the Build Back Better Act Now

The \$1.75 trillion *Build Back Better* (BBB) Act passed in the House last month but has not yet been passed by the Senate.

*Build Back Better* is one of the most consequential pieces of legislation in a generation. This critical social spending bill contains \$1.2 billion of Older Americans Act (OAA) provisions. The additional OAA funding included in this bill is even more essential for the older adults you serve as FY 2022 appropriations decisions have been pushed out to mid-February 2022. The longer-term investments included in BBB will improve your ability to serve growing numbers of older adults over the next several years.

Provisions in the BBB Act also include a retroactive waiver of state and local match requirements on the American Rescue Plan Act relief funding provided by Congress earlier this spring. BBB funding also recognizes caregiving as infrastructure—providing better support for family caregivers, better pay for home health workers and getting eligible people off Medicaid waiting lists.

We need you to take action now—and engage your local networks to act as well! Contact U.S. Senators Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson and urge them to pass this critical investment and to pass it before the Senate adjourns for the year. Let them know how OAA services help their constituents and how Medicaid home and community-based services and the challenges of the direct care workforce affect older Wisconsinites.

USAgging, our national partner, has included talking points for your calls and emails in their action alert found here: <https://www.usaging.org/content.asp?admin=Y&contentid=1374>

### ***Older Americans Act (OAA) Federal Fiscal Year 2022 Appropriations***

Last month, the U.S. Senate released their remaining FY2022 appropriations bills, including the Labor-HHS-Education package including most aging & disability programs. Funding levels proposed by the Senate generally reflect smaller increases than those proposed by the House earlier this summer. Negotiations continue between the two Houses and a final agreement has yet to be reached.

The current continuing resolution (CR) was set to expire on Dec. 3, 2021. While advocates had hoped to avoid another CR, Congress - while not able to come to a final agreement - was able to avoid a government shutdown (in the middle of a pandemic). On Thursday evening, Dec. 2, 2021, the House passed a CR to fund government operations at the 2021 fiscal levels through Feb. 18, 2022. That same evening, a few hours later, the Senate unexpectedly also approved the CR which allowed time for it to get to the President's desk for his signature to avoid a shutdown.

Efforts to come to a final agreement on the 12 appropriations bills that fund the government for the remainder of fiscal year 2022 (which ends Sept. 30, 2022) have resumed. To avoid yet another CR or government shutdown, their work must be completed by Feb. 18, 2022.

It is really important for U.S. Senators Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson and your U.S. Representative to hear from you and other constituents now regarding the critical need for permanent funding for Older Americans Act (OAA) and other aging services programs.

Let your federal elected officials know what this funding means for the older adults and caregivers in your community, tribe, or state.

*For contact information for your Members of Congress see: Wisconsin Members of the 117th Congress - <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2004017>*

### **Guardian Training Bill Signed into Law**

On Dec. 3, 2021, Governor Evers signed Senate Bill 92 into law (now 2021 Wisconsin Act 97) The new law:

- Establishes initial training requirements for guardians, requiring every proposed guardian of the person or the estate to complete training on duties and responsibilities under the law and limits of a guardian's decision-making authority, while also requiring additional training on topics applicable to the respective guardianship type;
- Establishes that a proposed guardian must submit a sworn and notarized statement to the court that the person has completed the training requirements for their respective type of guardianship prior to permanent guardianship being granted; and
- Requires the Department of Health Services to award a grant to an entity to develop, administer, and conduct Web-based on-line guardian training modules that can be accessed for free, with printed versions available for free upon request.

The new training requirement first applies to petitions for guardianship filed on the first day of the 13th month beginning after the legislation becomes effective (the day after the law is published by the Legislative Reference Bureau). The law was published on Dec. 4, 2021. 2021 Wisconsin Act 97 - <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2021/related/acts/97>

## Family Caregiver Support

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[Bryn Ceman](#), Older Americans Act Consultant -Family Caregiver Support Specialist

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

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#### **Five Goals to Improve Lives of Family Caregivers**

A national approach to recognizing caregivers' critical role is spotlighted in a report from the Family Caregiving Advisory Council, brought together by groups supporting the Recognize, Assist, Include, Support, and Engage (RAISE) Family Caregivers Act.

Recommendations to create a national strategy would aid 48 million Americans caring for a loved one

1. Increasing awareness of family caregivers
2. Engaging family caregivers as partners in health care and long-term services and supports
3. Improving access to services and supports for family caregivers
4. Strengthening financial and workplace security for family caregivers
5. Generating research, data and evidence-informed practices

Read more here: <https://www.aarp.org/caregiving/basics/info-2021/raise-report.html?intcmp=AE-CAR-R1-C1>

#### **Becoming a 'Sudden' Caregiver of a Loved One**

While many people evolve in their roles as family caregivers, you'll likely encounter family caregivers thrust into the role. Jumping into the deep end during a crisis creates an additional level of stress. Read about one caregiver's experience here:

[https://www.aarp.org/caregiving/basics/info-2021/sudden-caregiver.html?CMP=EMC-MIM-DIS-OTH-CAREGIVING-HOL2021\\_PEMEM\\_T1-1058400-1418001-12092021\\_SuddenlyFCG\\_HDL\\_Caregiving-5991119-&encparam=iYCgHnVuABhwEtnykN46EUietagg1rPr5HLGhgk8NjQ%3d](https://www.aarp.org/caregiving/basics/info-2021/sudden-caregiver.html?CMP=EMC-MIM-DIS-OTH-CAREGIVING-HOL2021_PEMEM_T1-1058400-1418001-12092021_SuddenlyFCG_HDL_Caregiving-5991119-&encparam=iYCgHnVuABhwEtnykN46EUietagg1rPr5HLGhgk8NjQ%3d)

#### **Reminder: Caregiver Teleconnection December Calendar**

Check out the December calendar of free teleconnection calls:

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2007197>

It's easy to register for the calls:

- online at [www.caregiverteleconnection.org](http://www.caregiverteleconnection.org) or call 866-390-6491



#### **Reminder: Alzheimer's Association December Virtual Education**

This month's free education sessions are listed here:

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2007198> Learn more or register at <https://training.alz.org>



## Health Promotion

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[Angie Sullivan](#), Older Americans Act Consultant -Health Promotions Specialist

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

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#### **Wisconsin Coalition to End Social Isolation and Loneliness - Letter-to-the-editor**

Governor Evers recently declared December 15, 2021, Loneliness and Social Isolation Awareness Day in Wisconsin to bring attention to the growing challenges and new initiatives to support people in Wisconsin communities.

In conjunction with the declaration, the newly formed Wisconsin Coalition to End Social Isolation and Loneliness has developed a letter-to-the-editor you can submit to your local daily or weekly newspaper or other editorial outlets. The idea is to encourage people to reach out to friends, family and neighbors to let them know that someone is thinking of them. The letter can be adapted and customized as best works for you and is available at <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2007203>

Please consider signing and submitting this letter-to-the-editor or your own version to encourage the community to rally around those who are alone and lonely. If you do, and it's published, please also share a copy.

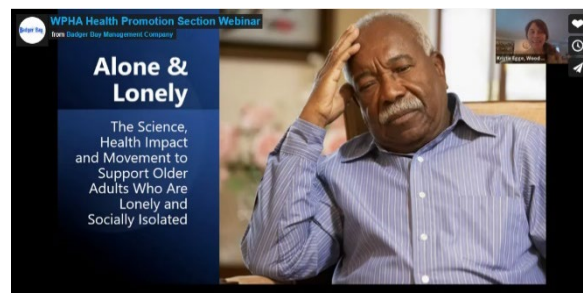
If you have questions regarding the letter-to-the editor, please contact Kris Krasnowski at the Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging [kris.krasnowski@wihealthyaging.org](mailto:kris.krasnowski@wihealthyaging.org)

#### ***Watch Alone and Lonely: The Science, Health Impact and Movement to Support Older Adults Who are Lonely and Socially Isolated in Wisconsin.***

While the pandemic has both exacerbated the issues and heightened awareness, loneliness and social isolation have long been recognized as a serious public health problem. In this webinar, you will learn more about the issues, the challenges in supporting lonely and socially isolated people, and community responses ranging from national efforts to a new state initiative using a collective impact approach to deploy meaningful responses to the negative health impacts of social isolation and loneliness.

The event, conducted by Angie Sullivan, GWAAR OAA Consultant and Kris Krasnowski, Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging Director of Communications, is available via this 60-minute recording: <https://vimeo.com/654985888/188838dc62>

The webinar was sponsored by the Wisconsin Public Health Association.



## Business Development Center

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

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

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#### **Consumer Cost Increases**

From the Bureau of Labor Statistics (12/10/21): "The all items index rose 6.8 percent for the 12 months ending November, the largest 12-month increase since the period ending June 1982. The index for all items less food and energy rose 4.9 percent over the last 12 months, while the energy index rose 33.3 percent over the last year, and the food index increased 6.1 percent. These changes are the largest 12-month increases in at least 13 years in the respective series."

The highest consumer costs increases since 1982 will mean increased budgeting pressures in 2022. The average family has seen a 20% increase in the cost of groceries. Beef alone has risen 33%.

As it relates to the Aging Unit and ADRC Programs, look for increases from meal and transportation providers. Prepare you own programs for continued increases in cost and coverage of those costs at least through June of 2022. Update pricing for services to reflect these ongoing pressures.