



Volume 4, No. 44, December 13, 2022
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Advocacy

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

Nice to Know

Forums on the proposed purchases of MyChoice Wisconsin and Inclusa

Two national for profit health insurance corporations have announced proposals to acquire local Family Care Managed Care Organizations (MCOs). **Molina** intends to acquire **MyChoice Wisconsin**. MyChoice Wisconsin has more than 16,800 Family Care members in 39 counties. Molina already owns TMG, Wisconsin's largest IRIS consulting agency with more than 17,600 participants (73 percent of the entire IRIS membership). **Humana** intends to acquire **Inclusa**. Inclusa has more than 15,500 Family Care members in 68 counties. Both Molina and Humana are large scale, for profit, corporations operating in multiple states, and their primary business is health care insurance.

DHS oversees Family Care MCOs and has requirements through its contracts to ensure quality care. DHS's Managed Care Contract **is the state's primary tool to direct how Family Care operates after the acquisitions occur.**

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) is hosting online forums December 14 and 15 to hear from stakeholders and the public about the proposed purchases of Inclusa by Humana, Inc. and My Choice Wisconsin by Molina Health Care, Inc. [Learn more about these proposed asset purchases.](#)

The forum will include a brief presentation about the proposed asset purchases and the process DHS is taking to review the transactions with a focus on ensuring uninterrupted services for members. Attendees will then have time to give comments and suggestions to DHS.

There will be a sign language interpreter at the online forums. If you have any other accessibility needs, please contact DHSDMSCommunications@dhs.wisconsin.gov by Monday, December 12.

Please register for these forums by following the links below:

- [Wednesday, December 14, 9-11 a.m.](#)
- [Thursday, December 15, 6-8 p.m.](#)

If you cannot attend the online forums or would prefer to provide written comment, you can:

- Email your comments to dhsltccomments@dhs.wisconsin.gov
- Mail your comments to:

Acquisitions
DHS/DMS/BPP
1 West Wilson, Room 518
P.O. Box 309
Madison, WI 53701-0309

Governor's Office Announces Upcoming Listening Sessions on State Budget

Governor Evers announced a [statewide tour](#) to gather input on his 2023-25 executive budget. The governor will host three budget listening sessions before the end of the year, including one virtual listening session and two in-person events one in Kenosha and one in Green Bay. Additional listening session locations and dates will be announced in the new year.

- Budget Listening Session in Kenosha
Tuesday, December 13, at 5:30 p.m.
Register to attend [here](#).
- Virtual Budget Listening Session
Wednesday, December 14, at 6 p.m.
Register to attend via Zoom [here](#).
- Budget Listening Session in Green Bay
Tuesday, December 20, at 5:30 p.m.
Register to attend [here](#).



Tony Evers

Office of the Governor | State of Wisconsin

Additionally, written comments may be submitted at any time [here](#).

The biennial state budget is the single most important piece of legislation Wisconsin lawmakers create, profoundly effecting the lives of everybody who lives in our state. The budget bill's journey will begin on February 15, 2023, when Governor Evers unveils his budget proposal for Fiscal Years 2023-25 during his Biennial Budget message at 7 p.m.

You are encouraged to sign up to communicate your budget priorities to the Governor and his staff. See the WAAN priorities posted at: <https://gwaar.org/waan-issues-and-initiatives>. Check back regularly as more will be added in the coming weeks.

Aging Plans

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

Nice to Know

NADTC Lunch and Learn on Ageism, Recording Now Available

This past week the National Aging and Disability Transportation Center (NADTC) hosted a Transportation Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Lunch & Learn Webinar, specifically on addressing ageism. The training is worthwhile and less than an hour! The recording and other webinar-related materials can be found here <https://www.nadtc.org/event/transportation-diversity-equity-and-inclusion-dei-initiative-lunch-and-learn-series-3/>.

systemic ageism is age-related bias across society.

Systemic ageism shows up in:

 cultural MESSAGES	 distribution of RESOURCES	 policies and RULES
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Family Caregiver Support

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

Need to Know

Reminder: Have Five Minutes? Please Share the Family Caregiver Involvement - Hospital Discharge Survey

Please consider completing and sharing this survey directly with caregivers, colleagues, and others whom you feel could offer insight: <https://forms.office.com/r/Jhw6C5KmBa>

The purpose of the Family Caregiver Involvement - Hospital Discharge Survey is to collect Wisconsin family caregiver experiences at the time of a loved one/care recipient's hospital discharge. Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources, Inc (GWAAR) is collecting this information to learn about caregiver involvement at the time of discharge. The survey will take less than five minutes of your time to complete and will provide valuable information to further advocacy efforts. We have extended the survey until December 15, 2022.

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For this survey, a "family caregiver" is defined as any relative, partner, friend, or neighbor who has a significant personal relationship with and provides a broad range of assistance for, an older person or an adult with a chronic or disabling condition. Responses to this survey will be combined with overall results to understand the hospital discharge process in urban cities, rural communities, and elsewhere throughout the state of Wisconsin. The data collected will be shared to promote advocacy efforts within the legislation, administrative rules, and healthcare systems and associations. Information collected will be kept anonymous.

* Required

1. Are you a family caregiver now or have you been a family caregiver in the past three years?

*

Yes

No

Reminder: County and Tribal/Aging Unit Caregiver Coalition Poll

The purpose of this poll is to gather information about the status of Caregiver Coalitions throughout the state so we can provide education about Caregiver Coalitions for newer Aging Unit staff and county staff. We understand that coalitions may have evolved over time, and we desire to learn what is working well and not so well today. Complete the survey here: <https://forms.microsoft.com/r/dS765nKnd3> The survey will take you less than five minutes to complete. The survey will close on January 13, 2023 so there will be time to review and compile the results before the Caregiver Support Community Statewide Webinar on January 24, 2023.

From the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB): Beware Debt Collection Activities

There are approximately 48 million family members and friends caring for adults with health or functional needs in the United States, and nearly one in six adults is supporting the health and well-being of an older adult through illness or disability.

Although the Nursing Home Reform Act (NHRA) prevents a nursing home "from requiring a person other than the resident to assume personal responsibility for any cost of the resident's care," some nursing homes and debt collectors do bill or sue residents' family members and friends for the cost of care on the basis of their admission contracts.

...in Consumer Financial Protection Circular 2022-05, the practices of nursing homes and the debt collectors they hire may violate federal laws administered by the CFPB and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). The CFPB and CMS have released a joint letter urging nursing homes and debt collectors to examine their practices for compliance with federal law.

If you or a consumer you are working with has experienced this, you can share this information with your State Department of Health and your State Attorney General. You can also submit a complaint to the CFPB if you believe that a debt collector, such as a company or law firm acting on behalf of a nursing home, may be engaging in unlawful debt collection or credit reporting practices.

For further details including how to file a complaint, click here: <http://bit.ly/3hm1DK6>

Nice to Know

WI DPI Creates Brain Health Unit

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) created a new unit designed for Middle and High School Students called “Advocacy for Self and Others: Brain Health”. The new unit is available to middle and high school teachers statewide. Students will learn about brain health, what is normal aging, the effect of music on the brain, concussion and brain injury prevention and awareness, dementia, providing care and the skill of advocacy. Students will lead a brain health advocacy campaign in their schools and communities. For more information, view the flyer: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewfile/id/2007647>

The DPI will pilot the program with teachers across Wisconsin. Pilots will take place in the Spring and Fall of 2022.

For more information about this exciting project, please contact:

- Kathleen Smith – Kathleen.smith@dhs.wisconsin.gov
- Kristen Felten – Kristen.felten@dhs.wisconsin.gov

November Recording Now Available for Wisconsin Caregiver Support Community Statewide Call

Please find the notes, attachments, and recordings to November's Caregiver Support Community Statewide call here <https://gwaar.org/wisconsin-caregiver-support-community-monthly-calls>.

Health Promotion

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

Nice to Know

Save the dates! 2023 Quarterly Health Promotion Webinar Dates & Times Now Set

- Tuesday, February 7 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 2 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, August 1 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, November 7 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Zoom links will appear in the GWAAR Digest several weeks prior, as well as outlook calendar invites (with link embedded) to the Health Promotion Coordinators. Anyone is welcome to attend and learn more about the Health Promotion and Disease Prevention efforts with the Wisconsin Aging Network. If you would like your name and email to be added to the health promotion webinar list, please contact Angie Sullivan at angela.sullivan@gwaar.org.

