



Volume 6, No. 16 April 16, 2024
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Join us for Aging Advocacy Day May 14!

www.gwaar.org/aging-advocacy-day-2024 | #WIAgingAdvocacyDay #WIAAD24

Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

Nice to Know

Reminder: Employment opportunity: VSDP Care Consultant

The Veteran Self-Directed Program (VSDP) helps Veterans needing assistance choose their own caregivers, services, and supports to be able to safely and successfully remain living in their home. In conjunction with the Veteran and their family, the VSDP Care Consultant is responsible for assessing the Veteran's abilities and level of functioning, identifying areas of need and preferences for meeting those needs, developing a care plan to meet the needs; assisting the Veteran and family caregiver with setting up and purchasing goods and services within their individual budget allocation; and assisting the Veteran with monitoring service provision. This position requires a significant amount of travel within the North Chicago, Tomah, Madison, Milwaukee, and Minneapolis VAMC catchment areas. Ideal candidate will be located in Central part of the state (Stevens Point, Wausau, nearby areas) and/or Dane County area.

Read the complete job description: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008093>

Reminder: Older Americans Month (OAM) 2024 Materials Available

Every May, ACL leads the nation's observance of Older Americans Month (OAM). This year's theme is **Powered by Connection**, which recognizes the profound impact that meaningful relationships and social connections have on our health and well-being. Join us in exploring the vital role that connectedness plays in supporting independence and aging in place. Use these materials to celebrate OAM with your community. Don't forget to follow #OlderAmericansMonth for the latest from ACL and to see what others are planning!

Visit the site to learn more and access materials:

<https://acl.gov/oam/2024/older-americans-month-2024>



ACL.gov/OAM
#OlderAmericansMonth



Advocacy

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

Nice to Know

Reminder: National Healthcare Decisions Day (NHDD) – April 16 (TODAY!)

National Healthcare Decisions Day is celebrated annually on April 16th, the day after the date traditionally known as Tax Day. The date was chosen based on this quote from Benjamin Franklin, “...in this world, nothing is certain except death and taxes.” So, by April 15th of each year make sure your taxes are completed and on April 16th review your health care wishes.

NHDD is a way to encourage people to have conversations about their wishes for care through the end of life. This day, as well as events held throughout the year, are intended to empower people to complete advance directives by providing education on the importance of advance care planning and sharing the tools (forms, resources, guides, training) to help them express their wishes regarding healthcare.

Numerous events are held each year in April, as well as throughout the year. We are aware of the following:

- Brown County:
<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewfile/id/2008094>
- Chippewa County:
<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008113>
- Fox Valley, Appleton:
<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008095>
<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008099>
<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008100>
- Kenosha County:
<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008096>
- LaCrosse:
<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewfile/id/2008097>
- Portage County:
<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008098>

Note: If you are holding an advance directives workshop or training in your area that isn't listed here, please send us your information.

For more information and access to advance directive forms:

- Visit the Wisconsin Medical Society website at:
<https://www.wismed.org/wismed/wismed/about-us/advance-care-planning.aspx>
- For answers to your questions or for assistance with forms, see this contact list on the Wisconsin Medical Society's website - [Advance Care Planning Wisconsin Contacts - April 2023.pdf - Google Drive](#) (includes Wis. healthcare facilities and community organizations such as ADRCs/aging units):
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hQRKHcXCEZQ21pdEYITo5ExaOuQbr6-L/view?pli=1>
- For additional information and resources, go to: <https://theconversationproject.org/>

-continued-

- Advance directive forms and guides can be found at:
 - [Advance Directives | Wisconsin Department of Health Services](https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/forms/advdirectives/index.htm)
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/forms/advdirectives/index.htm>
 - [Guardianship Support Center Resources \(gwaar.org\)](https://gwaar.org/guardianship-resources)
<https://gwaar.org/guardianship-resources>
 - [Do-it-Yourself Consumer Packet: POA for Health Care](#)
 - [Power of Attorney for Health Care State Form](#)
 - [Power of Attorney for Health Care: An Overview](#)
 - [Requirements for a Valid Power of Attorney for Health Care](#)
 - [Responsibilities of a Health Care Agent Under a Wisconsin Power of Attorney for Health Care](#)
 - [Revoking a Power of Attorney for Health Care](#)
 - [Ten Reasons to Complete a Power of Attorney for Health Care](#)
 - [Advance Care Planning & Advance Directive \(wismed.org\)](https://www.wismed.org)
 - [Let'sTalk, Fox Valley Fox Valley Advance Care Planning Partnership \(fvacpp.org\)](https://www.fvacpp.org)

Reminder: Aging Advocacy Day 2024 – Registration open through April 29!

Are you interested in speaking out on issues affecting older adults and family caregivers? **On May 14, 2024**, join members of the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN), aging network professionals, older adults, and family caregivers at an in-person Aging Advocacy Day (AAD) 2024 event in Madison to “tell your story” and help educate your state Senator and Assembly Representative and/or their staff about issues impacting Wisconsin’s aging population.



Your voice matters!

Registration closes April 29, 2024.

More information and registration:
<https://gwaar.org/aging-advocacy-day-2024>.

Pre-Advocacy Day Virtual Training
Tuesday, May 7, 2024 | 1:00-2:00 p.m.

The virtual training is not required to attend Aging Advocacy Day, but is recommended.

To help attendees prepare for legislative visits, the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network is hosting a virtual information session with a brief overview of this year’s issues and talking points. Those unable to attend Aging Advocacy Day in-person are also welcome to attend the virtual event and are encouraged to contact their state legislators independently or as part of a local, in-district meeting.

Additional information on in-district meetings will be posted online the week of April 22 at <https://gwaar.org/aging-advocacy-day-2024>.

Family Caregiver Support

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

Nice to Know



Webinar: Strategies to Address Social Isolation and Loneliness for People Living with Dementia and their Caregivers

Tuesday, April 23 | 1:00 p.m.

Registration is still open for the National Alzheimer's and Dementia Resource Center's next webinar, Strategies to Address Social Isolation and Loneliness for People Living with Dementia and their Caregivers.

Additional information and the registration:

https://rtiorg.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_0p-TJzW3SpScvpp8DggHxQ#/registration



Older Adult Mental Health Awareness Day Symposium

Thursday, May 2, 2024 | 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Registration is now open for the 7th Annual Older Adult Mental Health Awareness Day (OAMHAD) Symposium, which will be held on Thursday, May 2, 2024. This virtual event is free and includes a full day of sessions on how to best meet the mental health needs of older adults. In partnership with Rush University's E4 Center of Excellence for Behavioral Health Disparities in Aging, the National Council on Aging (NCOA) anticipates offering free continuing education credit for several professions.

The event will include a keynote address from "Black-ish" star Jenifer Lewis and actionable steps participants can take back to their own communities.

View the agenda and register: <https://connect.ncoa.org/oamhad2024-agenda>.

Save the date! May 2 Veteran Respite Resource Event

Thursday, May 2 | Community Living Alliance, 1414 Mac Arthur Rd, Madison, WI 53714

Connect with local Madison organizations and veteran caregivers. Learn about respite care in-home care services, health and wellness options and much more!

To reserve your spot, RSVP here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MQ55BR9>

If you are interested in being an exhibitor for the event, please complete this form:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FRC9DH6>



VETERAN RESPITE RESOURCE EVENT

SAVE THE DATE!

Who? Connect with local Madison organizations and veteran caregivers

What? Community supports for veterans, veteran caregivers, and their families

Why? Learn about respite care, in-home care services, health and wellness options and much more!

When? May 2, 2024 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Where? Community Living Alliance
1414 Mac Arthur Rd, Madison, WI 53714

RSVP HERE
[HTTPS://WWW.SURVEYMONKEY.COM/R/MQ55BR9](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MQ55BR9)

Respite available on site.
Reservation Required. Space Limited.

Community Living Alliance
Bringing Health, Independence & Dignity Home

1414 Mac Arthur Rd, Madison, WI 53714
(608) 242-8335
<https://www.clanet.org/>

The flyer features three photographs: a man and a woman in a military embrace, an older man in a blue cap and glasses, and an older woman in a white neck brace.

Health Promotion

Angie Sullivan, Older Americans Act Consultant - Health Promotions Specialist

Need to Know

Reminder: Quarterly Health Promotion Webinar

Tuesday, May 21 | 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Save the date! The next Quarterly Health Promotion Webinar is scheduled for Tuesday, May 21 from 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. We will have a presentation on technology resources available from Older Adults Technology Services (OATS) from AARP, and learn about a free, intergenerational, virtual opportunity to reduce social isolation and loneliness. Register today!

Registration link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYqcOyrqzkqHtH9WEIzJcAHP9O57XJVLLSD>

Medicare Outreach and Assistance

[Alyssa Kulpa](#), Medicare Outreach Coordinator

Nice to Know

Reminder: Medicare Improvement for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA) Outreach Idea

Every month, the GWAAR Medicare Outreach Coordinator, Alyssa Kulpa, shares a MIPPA outreach idea.

April's Idea of the Month is "Be Powered by Connection for Older American Month!" Idea of Month resources are an ideal model for your organization to use to meet your outreach goals, educate Medicare beneficiaries, and encourage participants to become advocates for their own health care.

Download the April Idea of the Month: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008084>

View past ideas: <https://gwaar.org/idea-of-the-month>

Nutrition

[Pam VanKampen](#), Older Americans Act Consultant - Nutrition Specialist/Senior Center Representative

Nice to Know

ican! One-Year Anniversary Webinar

Tuesday, April 30 | 9:00 a.m.

Join the Nutrition and Aging Resource Center as they celebrate the one-year anniversary of the launch of Instructional Campus on Aging Nutrition! (ican!). Learn how the interactive platform can provide more information and education about the senior nutrition program, specifically focused on Area Agencies on Aging, local service providers, State Units on Aging, congregate and home delivered meal programs staff and volunteers and more. The webinar will provide an overview of the ican!, module information and how to integrate employees and volunteers.

Registration: https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_7uQd5iyWRTqwCJReHaOCcw#/registration

Healthy Aging Webinar: Food Safety for Older Adults

Wednesday, May 8 | 1:00 - 2:10 p.m.

May is Older Americans Month, a time to recognize the contributions of our older citizens. It's also the perfect time to talk about food safety risks for older adults. Adults aged 65 and over are particularly vulnerable to foodborne illness and are more likely to be hospitalized or die from it.

According to the CDC, nearly half of people aged 65 and older who have a lab-confirmed illness from Salmonella, Campylobacter, Listeria, or E. coli are hospitalized.

Hear federal experts share resources and discuss communication strategies for reaching adults aged 65 and over with vital food safety information.

Learn about new focus group research on older adult's knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors related to food safety at home.

Registration and more information:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_COWLi7YbTRypOJz-QTFsZA#/registration



Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol

[Ingrid A. Kunding](#), Senior Medicare Patrol Program Director

Nice to Know

Medicare Fraud Prevention Week, June 3 - 9, 2024

Please join the Senior Medicare Patrol in recognizing Medicare Fraud Prevention Week, June 3 - 9, 2024.

Medicare Fraud Prevention Week focuses on the actions everyone can take to prevent Medicare fraud, errors, and abuse. Medicare Fraud Prevention Week runs the week of June 5, or 6/5, because most people become eligible for Medicare when they turn 65. Medicare Fraud Prevention Week is hosted by the Senior Medicare Patrol, known as the SMP.

Resources for Medicare Fraud Prevention Week are available on the SMP Resource Center website:

<https://smpresource.org/medicare-fraud-prevention-week/>

Please contact us directly if you'd like materials to help us spread the word about Medicare-related fraud and scams. More information will be provided in the coming weeks.

Download the flyer: <https://smpresource.org/download-file/30062>



The flyer features a photograph of four diverse senior citizens smiling. The title 'Medicare Fraud Prevention Week' is at the top in white on a dark blue background. Below the photo is an orange banner with the text 'Actions Everyone Can Take'. The main content is divided into two columns. The left column lists six target groups: Beneficiaries, Caregivers, Families, Partners & Professionals, Health Care Providers, and Community, each with a brief description and a checkmark icon. The right column is titled 'ABOUT SMP' and describes the organization's role in protecting, detecting, and reporting fraud. At the bottom, the SMP logo is displayed, along with the website 'www.smpresource.org' and the phone number '1-877-808-2468'. A small note at the bottom left states 'SUPPORTED BY GRANT # 90MFR0007 FROM ACO'.

Medicare Fraud Prevention Week

Actions Everyone Can Take

THE WEEK OF 6/5

- Beneficiaries**
Learn how to read your Medicare statements.
- Caregivers**
Educate yourself and loved ones on how to prevent and detect health care fraud.
- Families**
Talk to loved ones about protecting their Medicare number.
- Partners & Professionals**
Share SMP information on social media. Invite the SMP to speak.
- Health Care Providers**
Talk to patients about health care-related scams.
- Community**
Look out for your older neighbors.

ABOUT SMP

Your local Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) is ready to provide you with the information you need to PROTECT yourself from Medicare fraud, errors, and abuse; DETECT potential fraud, errors, and abuse; and REPORT your concerns.



SMP
Senior Medicare Patrol
Preventing Medicare Fraud

www.smpresource.org 1-877-808-2468

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