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Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

Nice to Know

In the news

America's Health Rankings 2024 Senior Report was recently released and can be found on the Aging Plans page of the GWAAR website | Find what you need | 2025-2027 Writing the Context | 2024 Senior Health Report.

Read the overview: <https://www.americashealthrankings.org/learn/reports/2024-senior-report>

View the rankings: https://assets.americashealthrankings.org/app/uploads/ahr_2024seniorreport-statesummaries_all.pdf#wisconsin

Janet Zander, Advocacy and Public Policy Coordinator, was interviewed by Public News Service and noted that while the report shows some positives, they are overshadowed by the concern of “seniors not having enough money to cover basic expenses.”

Read the article: <https://publicnewsservice.org/2024-06-03/senior-issues/some-well-being-metrics-improve-for-seniors-but-troubling-trends-loom-large/a90618-2#>

GWAAR 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 Dane, Waukesha, or Milwaukee County areas.

Read the full job description: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewfile/id/2008217>

Advocacy

Janet Zander, Advocacy and Public Policy Coordinator

Nice to Know

Reminder: Older Americans Act Reauthorization

In 2025, the Older Americans Act (OAA) will celebrate its 60th anniversary! The OAA is currently reauthorized through Sept. 30, 2024. A strong OAA reauthorization is key to ensuring a network of national, state, tribal, and community-based organizations can plan for and implement programming that aims to ensure all older adults, especially the most vulnerable, can age well with health and economic security.

Read the action alert: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008219>

In-District Aging Advocacy Day Events

The Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) hosted its 8th Annual Aging Advocacy Day on May 14, 2024, in Madison. Advocates from across Wisconsin gathered to learn from and meet with other constituents from their Senate and Assembly district and develop their advocacy skills around WAAN's top policy priorities. In the afternoon, advocates meet with their legislative representatives to provide information and share personal stories to help them understand how specific policy issues and proposals impact individuals, families, and older constituents.

To build on this important advocacy, WAAN is encouraging advocates in the state to meet with their legislators in the district alongside other aging network partners. In-district advocacy events allow residents to individualize discussions with their legislators, speak directly with participants of services, and continue long-term relationship building.

Statewide aging network partners are helping to coordinate, plan, and host these in-district events with aging advocates. Aging and Disability Professionals Association of Wisconsin (ADPAW), senior centers, and other network partners throughout Wisconsin are needed to reach out and connect with other partners and individual advocates in all corners of the state to help ensure that all Wisconsin Representatives and Senators are invited to at least one in-district advocacy event. Our goal is to have all senate and assembly districts covered by individual county or regional area in-district meetings.

ADPAW regional leaders, aging unit/ADRC directors/managers, senior centers, and other network partners do not need to take on this responsibility alone. WAAN members, with the assistance of AARP Wisconsin, are committed to assisting with the planning of these meetings and the training of in-district hosts. For questions, please contact: Emily Petersen, Advocacy and Policy Manager- Aging, Milwaukee County Department of Health and Human Services at Emily.Petersen@milwaukeecountywi.gov and/or 414-639-6532.

Please use this form to let us know your plans for an in-district meeting:

<https://forms.office.com/g/ahPYY75wK2>

Together, the Wisconsin aging network can reach all legislators in their communities this summer to share our most important policy priorities.

For more information on upcoming in-district events (schedule coming soon) and for resource and training materials go to:

<https://gwaar.org/aging-advocacy-day-2024>.

Aging Plans

[Nick Musson](#), Older Americans Act Consultant

Need to Know

Aging Plan training: Writing the Context, replay available

This session reviewed the components of a context section and how to find and use data for this section of the plan. To view the replay, visit gwaar.org | Technical Assistance | Aging Plans | Find What You Need | 2025-2027 Writing the Context | Writing the Context 5-30-24 replay.

Watch the replay: <https://gwaar.org/writing-the-context-5-30-24-replay>

Family Caregiver Support

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

Need to Know

May's Caregiver Coordinator Statewide Webinar, replay and resources available

The replay and resources from May's Caregiver Coordinator Statewide Webinar are now available.

Watch the replay:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IwKxMjBMhoM>

View the notes: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008216>

Read the Family Caregiver Advocacy Update: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008214>

Review the Caregiver Grant Programs Best Practices, FAQs, and Reporting Presentation document:

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008215>

Previous month's recordings and notes can all be found on the Family Caregiver Support page of the GWAAR website: <https://gwaar.org/wisconsin-caregiver-support-community-monthly-calls>

Alzheimer's Family Caregiver Support Program:

<https://gwaar.org/alzheimers-family-caregiver-support-program>

National Family Caregiver Support Program:

<https://gwaar.org/national-family-caregiver-support-program>



Nice to Know

Caring for Caregivers Program

Thursday, June 20 | 1:00-2:00 p.m.

This is an evidenced-based training series, offered by Better Care Playbook Implementation Lab. The



training is devoted to reducing caregiver burnout, strain, and injury by providing necessary training.

More specifically, they offer their model to health care systems! If you have hospital contacts who may have an interest in learning about billing for caregiver training using the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule, please share!

Learn more: <https://bettercareplaybook.org/resources/caring-caregivers-program-practical-approaches-improving-caregiver-and-patient-outcomes>

Register for the webinar: https://chcs.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_IRP9-hcCQJ-RLtCzF10etQ#/registration

Reminder: National Survey of Kinship Caregivers

Please share! Kinship caregivers can get a small payment for completing a National Survey conducted by The Ohio State University.

Learn more or take the survey:

https://osu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_aeHqgeSytn1VUZo



Reminder: Local grant opportunity

We know times are tight! If your agency or a partner agency is interested in hosting a caregiver conference, possibly an in-district meeting related to older adult & family caregiver issues, or if you have another event you need additional funds for, consider a Spark Good Local Grant, through Walmart.Org



*Grants range from \$250 to \$5000!

*The next grant cycle submission ends on 7/15/24 - you still have time!

*Great timing! The event could be part of your 2025 - 2027 Aging Plan!

Learn more about the grants:

<https://walmart.org/how-we-give/program-guidelines/spark-good-local-grants-guidelines>

Health Promotion

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

Nice to Know

Reminder: Connectwi.org is now live!

The Wisconsin Coalition for Social Connection now has a website! The website has resources for older adults and people with disabilities to stay connected and tools for professionals working to end social isolation and loneliness. Check it out!

Visit the new site: <https://connectwi.org/>



Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol

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

Nice to Know

Wisconsin Governor Proclaims June 3 – 9, 2024, as Medicare Fraud Prevention Week

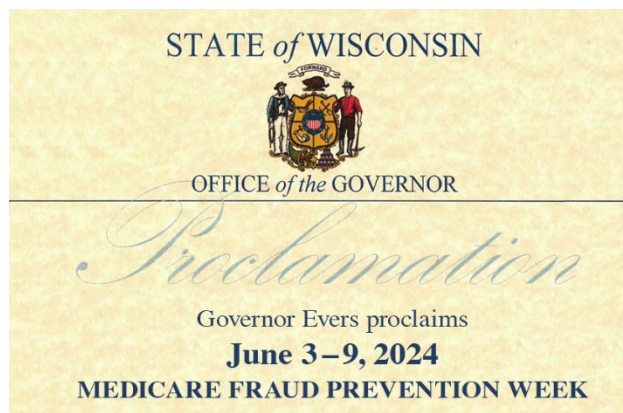
We are proud to announce that Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers has officially proclaimed June 3 - 9, 2024, as Medicare Fraud Prevention Week! Please view the announcement on our website and share the news during Medicare Fraud Prevention Week.

Read more:

<https://www.smpwi.org/wisconsin-governor-proclaims-june-3-9-2024-as-medicare-fraud-prevention-week/>

View the proclamation:

<https://www.smpwi.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Medicare-Fraud-Prevention-Week-Proclamation.pdf>



Get the summer issue of The Scoop

The summer issue of the Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol's quarterly newsletter "The Scoop" is now available.

You are welcome to share this newsletter with anyone you think might find the information helpful – whether it be consumers, Medicare beneficiaries, neighbors, family and friends, those who work with older adults, etc. We hope you find this information useful!

Read The Scoop:

<https://www.smpwi.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/SMP-Scoop-Newsletter-Summer-2024.pdf>



The Scoop
SUMMER 2024
PROTECT DETECT REPORT



Fraud Prevention

Medicare Fraud Prevention Week Teaches Everyone How to Prevent Fraud

By the Senior Medicare Patrol Resource Center

The Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) Scoop is prepared by the Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources, Inc. to help Medicare beneficiaries and their advocates prevent, detect, and report health care fraud, abuse, and errors.

Please feel free to share this publication with others who may benefit from its contents.

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GWaar
Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources, Inc.

SMP
Senior Medicare Patrol
Preventing Medicare Fraud

Fraud costs Medicare an estimated \$60 billion per year. It costs Medicare beneficiaries time, stress, the financial penalties, and potentially their health. It costs families, friends, and caregivers to worry and lost work when helping their loved ones recover from being victims of Medicare fraud.

"Medicare fraud has a devastating impact on both beneficiaries and the Medicare program," said Ingrid Kuntziger, Senior Medicare Patrol Director. "We teach people how to avoid experiencing

Medicare fraud. By preventing fraud from happening, this program helps individuals and protects the Medicare program for generations to come."

Learn how to protect yourself and your loved ones by joining the Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) and their partners for Medicare Fraud Prevention Week which runs the week of June 5, or 6/5, because most people become eligible for Medicare when they turn 65.

"We're excited to teach people how about how to protect

Continued on page 2

The Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol is part of the Medicare Fraud Prevention Program, a national effort to help Medicare beneficiaries and their advocates prevent, detect, and report health care fraud, abuse, and errors. The program is a joint effort of the Medicare Fraud Prevention Program and the Medicare Fraud Investigation and Control (MFIC) program. The program is a joint effort of the Medicare Fraud Prevention Program and the Medicare Fraud Investigation and Control (MFIC) program.