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Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

Need to Know

Next ACE meeting, Wednesday July 10

July 10 | 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

A Teams meeting invite was emailed out on June 6 and the agenda will be emailed in early July. Contact Rosanna Mazzara for invitation details.
(Rosanna.Mazzara@gwaar.org)



Nice to Know

Elder Abuse Hotline: Increasing awareness and assisting victims

As we recognize National Elder Abuse Awareness Month, we wanted to remind you about a nationally recognized resource available to Wisconsin residents.

The Elder Abuse Hotline is entering its fifth year and has been providing a valuable service to hundreds of residents and others who are referred to the hotline each year.

In July, Joanna Reinstein of the Wisconsin Elder Abuse Hotline will receive a 2024 USAging Aging Achievement Award in the Elder Abuse Prevention category.

What is Elder Abuse?

According to the World Health Organization, Elder Abuse is “a single, or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust which causes harm or distress to an older person.”

Individuals who suspect that they are a victim of elder abuse or know someone who may be experiencing abuse are encouraged to learn more about the signs at www.ReportElderAbuseWI.org and make a report through Wisconsin Elder Abuse Hotline at 1-833-586-0107.

REPORT ABUSE

1-833-586-0107

GWAAR employment opportunity: Senior Medicare Patrol Volunteer Coordinator

The Volunteer Coordinator is an essential team member within the Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) program, a federally funded grant program. The goal of the Senior Medicare Patrol is to raise awareness and identify Medicare fraud, errors, and abuse. The program focuses on educating and empowering Medicare beneficiaries to be good health care consumers and to recognize potential misuses of Medicare. The Volunteer Coordinator is responsible for recruiting, training, and oversight of the volunteer team, along with coordinating the presence of volunteers at community events. The Volunteer Coordinator will deliver educational presentations and conduct outreach, provide support with the toll-free helpline to answer inquiries and provide beneficiary education regarding billing issues and suspected fraud, and work to develop and strengthen partnerships with other agencies and professional associations. The position is remote with a flexible location within the state of Wisconsin.

Read the full job description: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008226>

Reminder: 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>

Webinar on Supporting LGBTQ+ Inclusive Aging Networks

Tuesday, June 18 | 1:00-2:15 p.m.

Join the ACL-funded National Resource Center on LGBTQ+ Aging (a project of SAGE) and AgeOptions Thrive with Pride for an "office hours" webinar celebrating LGBTQ+ Pride Month.



Advocacy &
Services for
LGBTQ+ Elders

We refuse to be invisible®

The webinar will feature a discussion on LGBTQ+ inclusive programs and outreach and is intended for area agencies on aging, aging and disability resource centers, centers for independent living, ombudsman programs, Senior Medicare Patrol programs, State Health Insurance Assistance Programs, Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA) programs, and community centers serving older adults.

The webinar will feature automated Zoom captioning. For more information or additional accessibility requests, please contact Sherrill Wayland (she/her/they) at swayland@sageusa.org. SAGE has compiled additional resource on their LGBTQ+ Pride Month page.

Register for the webinar: <https://bit.ly/3Rnwr2u>

View the SAGE website: <https://www.sageusa.org/celebrate-pride-2024-with-sage/>

National Resource Center on LGBTQ+ Aging: <https://www.lgbtagingcenter.org/>

AgeOptions Thrive with Pride: <https://www.thrivingwithpride.org/>

Advocacy

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

Nice to Know

Reminder: 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>.

Family Caregiver Support

Bryn Ceman, Older Americans Act Consultant - Family Caregiver Support Specialist

Need to Know

Reminder: 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

Falls Free Wisconsin for Caregivers! Check It Out!

Caregivers give so much to others. It's especially important to take steps to prevent your own falls to be able to continue to care for loved ones.

Falls Prevention and Training information related to Balance & Strength, Hearing Loss, Home Safety, Medications, and Safe Footwear.

View the site: <https://fallsfreewi.org/prevent-falls/caregivers/>



Reminder: Caring for Caregivers Program

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

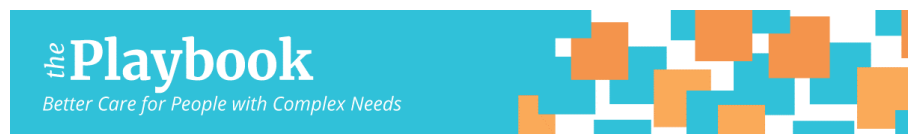
This is an evidenced-based training series, offered by Better Care Playbook Implementation Lab. The

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



Health Promotion

Angie Sullivan, Older Americans Act Consultant - Health Promotions Specialist

Nice to Know

PBS Recording of GenteFuerte (Spanish Version of StrongBodies) now available!

The Spanish Version of StrongBodies, GenteFuerte, is now available. You can view this amazing resource here: <https://bit.ly/4aUbTyR>

The UW Madison Division of Extension created this resource with assistance from several colleagues across the state including Cristy Alvarado - GWAAR Community Health Worker. Please share this resource widely.

If you have any questions regarding GenteFuerte, please contact Jen Whitty MPH, RDN / Health Promotions Coordinator for the Health & Well-Being Institute at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Extension jennifer.whitty@wisc.edu



Virtual Health Promotion Programming Opportunity for OAA Title III-D Funding

UW Madison Division of Extension Online StrongBodies Series

Offered via Zoom

Class meets Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. weekly for 11-12 weeks

Aging Units/ADRCs can reserve spots for county residents (\$50/Participant).
Purchased spots don't expire.

Reserve spots here: : <https://bit.ly/3RmQjfC>

After Extension receives your request for spots, you will be mailed an invoice for payment, customizable flyer for upcoming series for recruitment and link to online registration for the virtual class so you can register local residents.

Participant demographic information will be sent to you for your WellSky (SAMS) reporting after the deadline for each series.

For more information about StrongBodies visit: <https://healthyliving.extension.wisc.edu/programs/strongbodies/>



Upcoming 2024 Virtual StrongBodies series:

Summer Series - July 9 - September 26 (registration deadline Friday, August 2)

Fall Series - October 1 - December 19 (registration deadline Friday, October 25)

2025 dates coming soon!

For more information contact: Jen Whitty MPH, RDN / Health Promotions Coordinator for the Health & Well-Being Institute at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Extension jennifer.whitty@wisc.edu

Medicare Outreach and Assistance

[Alyssa Kulpa](#), Medicare Outreach Coordinator

Nice to Know

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

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

June's Idea of the Month is "Collaborative Outreach: Supporting Medicare Beneficiaries and Elder Abuse Awareness in June." 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 June Idea of the Month: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008218>

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

Continuing Education Hours (CEH) Opportunity for SHIP counselors and supervisors

Wednesday, June 26 | 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

There will be an optional SHIP training coming up on June 26, 2024 "Utilizing Medicare Minutes to Educate, Engage, and Empower" presented by Alyssa Kulpa, GWAAR Medicare Outreach Coordinator.

Intended audience: SHIP counselors and supervisors looking to enhance their utilization of Medicare Minutes provided by the SHIP TA Center.

Objectives:

- Learn about the SHIP TA Center and Medicare Minutes.
- Explore strategies for integrating Medicare Minutes into consistent Medicare outreach efforts.
- Understand how Medicare Minutes can be used to educate, engage, and empower SHIP counselors, Medicare beneficiaries, and other professionals within your community.

DHS has partnered with the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point to issue Continuing Education Hours/Units (CEH/CEU) to SHIP training participants. You must attend LIVE trainings to be eligible for CEHs/CEUs. Your attendance is verified using Zoom attendance reports and completion of the survey after the live event.

Outlook event: [https://zoom.us/meeting/tzMucO-gpz8qEtHrQVkkinnjBCips5PDFBPK/ics](https://zoom.us/join/ztMucO-gpz8qEtHrQVkkinnjBCips5PDFBPK/ics)

Zoom link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87376894085?pwd=JKHq9WNxkiqlq6BahqMNqSbvlVfUMm.1>

For questions regarding the training, email Alyssa Kulpa, GWAAR Medicare Outreach Coordinator, at alyssa.kulpa@gwaar.org.

For questions regarding the Continuing Education Hours (CEH) Opportunity, email Pam Watson, MIPPA Grant Coordinator, at pamela.watson@dhs.wisconsin.gov.

Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol

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

Nice to Know

Reminder: 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 Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) Scoop is prepared by the GWAAR SMP team 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.

TO CONTACT WI SMP
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SMP
Senior Medicare Patrol
Preventing Medicare Fraud

FRAUD PREVENTION

Medicare Fraud Prevention Week Teaches Everyone How to Prevent Fraud

By the Senior Medicare Patrol Resource Center

Fraud costs Medicare an estimated \$60 billion per year. It costs Medicare beneficiaries time, stress, their medical identities, and potentially their health. It costs families, friends, and caregivers worry and lost work when helping their loved ones recover from falling victim to Medicare fraud.

"Medicare fraud has a devastating impact on both beneficiaries and the Medicare program," said Ingrid Kundinger, 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 3, or 5th, because most people become eligible for Medicare when they turn 65.

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

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The Wisconsin SMP is a program of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Division of Senior and Disability Services, Bureau of Senior Services. The Wisconsin SMP is a program of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Division of Senior and Disability Services, Bureau of Senior Services. The Wisconsin SMP is a program of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Division of Senior and Disability Services, Bureau of Senior Services.