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Office: 608-243-5670 Fax: 866-813-0974
info@gwaar.org www.gwaar.org



Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

Need to Know

Reminder: Next ACE meeting, Wednesday July 10

July 10 | 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

A Teams meeting invite was emailed out on June 6. Contact Rosanna Mazzara for invitation details. (Rosanna.Mazzara@gwaar.org)

View the agenda: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008235>



Nice to Know

Accepting Applications: GWAAR Board of Directors

If you'd like to play a role in shaping the direction of programs and services for older people in the state, we invite you to volunteer for our Board of Directors. Our mission is to provide aging offices with training, technical assistance, and support to improve the well-being of older people in Wisconsin. To apply, please fill out our [online application](#) and submit to john.schnabl@gwaar.org.

View the application: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2005629>

If you have any questions about volunteering on the Board of Directors, please contact John Schnabl at john.schnabl@gwaar.org.

Share the ADRC and Tribal ADRS Customer Survey through July 12

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services is currently seeking public input on potential updates to aging and disability resource center (ADRC) and Tribal aging and disability resource specialist (ADRS) outreach materials.



**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
of HEALTH SERVICES**

With this survey, they are hoping to learn which creative concepts (such as taglines, color palettes, logos, and other visual elements) resonate most with Wisconsin residents, and why.

They would like help in distributing a survey via email/website to current and former ADRC and Tribal ADRS customers, including older adults, adults with disabilities, caregivers, and family members.

A [downloadable survey announcement template](#) is posted on the ADRC and Aging SharePoint site for your use. **Announcement template:** <https://bit.ly/3xzn9TW>

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Or, use the sample language below:

You are invited to take a survey on Wisconsin's ADRC marketing and outreach materials!

Are you familiar with Wisconsin's aging and disability resource centers (ADRCs) or a Tribal aging and disability resource specialist (ADRSs)? Are you a current or former customer, caregiver, family member, or involved community member? If so, we are interested in hearing from you.

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services is currently seeking feedback on potential updates to statewide ADRC and Tribal ADRS outreach materials. We want to know which creative concepts (such as taglines, color palettes, logos, and other visual elements) resonate most with you, and why.

The survey will remain open through Friday, July 12.

Take the survey now: <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7877368/Internal-ADRC-Concept-Testing>
[\(Wisconsin Department of Health Services Internal Aging and Disabilities Resource Center \(ADRC\) Creative Concept Testing Survey \(alchemer.com\)\).](#)

Your feedback is valuable. Thank you for helping us as we work to broaden awareness among Wisconsin residents of ADRC and Tribal ADRS services.

This project is made possible through dedicated, limited-term funding from the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to improve and modernize ADRCs throughout Wisconsin ([American Rescue Plan Act: Modernizing Aging and Disability Resource Centers | Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#)).

Visit the site: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/arpa/hcbs-adrc.htm>

If you have any questions about the surveys or the campaign, please contact ADRC Outreach Program Coordinator Liz Merfeld (elizabeth.merfeld@dhs.wisconsin.gov).

Reminder: GWAAR employment opportunity: Public Interest Elder Law Attorney

The attorney in this position will assist in the supervision and training of elder benefit specialists working in Aging & Disability Resource Centers across a 15-county region within the state. The attorney will also provide daily legal and technical assistance regarding state and federal public benefit programs and provide direct legal representation to older adults.

A Juris Doctor degree from an ABA-accredited law school and admission to the State Bar of Wisconsin is required. We are seeking candidates who have a demonstrated commitment to working with clients aged 60 and older, people with disabilities, and/or individuals with low-income. Knowledge of state and federal benefit programs and/or health care programs is strongly preferred. The ideal candidate will have direct client experience in estate planning, Medicaid law, housing law, consumer law, administrative hearings, and/or general civil matters. Occasional overnight statewide travel is required.

Read the full job description: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008225>

Additional GWAAR employment opportunities:

Senior Medicare Patrol Volunteer Coordinator

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

VSDP Care Consultant

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

Advocacy

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

Nice to Know

On Their Minds: Older Adults' Top Health-Related Concerns

From medical and dental care to medications, insurance and nursing homes, health-related costs weigh heavily on the minds of older Americans of all backgrounds, a new poll suggests.



Asked to rate their level of concern about 26 different health-related topics for people over 50 in their community, five of the six issues that the most people cited as very concerning involved health costs.

The sixth – financial scams and fraud – also had to do with money.

According to new findings from the University of Michigan's National Poll on Healthy Aging, those same six topics rose to the top no matter what age group, gender, race, ethnic group, region of the country, size of community, political ideology or income group older adults came from.

[Poll Report: On Their Minds: Older Adults' Top Health-Related Concerns \(umich.edu\)](#)

View the report: <https://bit.ly/3KYvONS>

Aging Plans

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

Need to Know

Aging Plan Palooza happening this week

Thursday, June 27 | 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

This week is the Aging Plan Development Support meeting “Aging Plan Palooza.” We will focus on a variety of topics to give you the needed pieces to complete your plan. The virtual meeting is scheduled for June 27 from 1 to 2:30 p.m. We will be reviewing the aging plan instructions and required documents, public hearings, RBA, coordination between Title III and Title VI, resources for building socially connected communities and an overview of commissions, boards, and councils. The meeting agenda also includes login information for the meeting.

All Aging Plan resources are located at the Aging Plan Technical Assistance webpage at:

<https://gwaar.org/plansamendmentsassessments>

View the agenda: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008234>

Teams meeting link: <https://bit.ly/45CGLmr>

Meeting ID: 225 374 360 399 | Passcode: eGYEgv

Family Caregiver Support

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

Need to Know

Reminder: Family Caregiver priorities and survey opportunity

Nearly every person served by the Aging, Disability, and Independent Living (ADIL) Network has one or more family members or friends who provide them with care or some form of help. We at the [Wisconsin Family and Caregiver Support Alliance \(WFACSA\)](#) are working to identify which priorities in the [2022 National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers](#) most strongly align with our state's needs. Sharing what your agencies and organizations currently do and would like to see us focus on in the future, will be key to strengthening caregiver supports across our state.



Wisconsin Family and Caregiver Support Alliance (WFACSA): <https://wisconsincaregiver.org/alliance>

2022 National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers: <https://acl.gov/CaregiverStrategy>

For this reason, we request your input through this [professional survey](#) to learn about the needs of family caregivers. Your expertise is vital to understanding needs across our network and state. We have also generated a [family caregiver-specific survey](#) which has been shared on our Wisconsin Family Caregiver Support FB page and by other members of the Alliance. We ask that you share this link with family caregivers that you work with as well.

Professional Survey Link: <https://bit.ly/3zapxRp>

Family Caregiver-Specific Survey Link: <https://bit.ly/3xqPITp>

What we learn from these surveys will be helpful for our state and shared with the national [RAISE Caregiver Advisory Council and ACL](#) to design improvements in caregiver supports across federal programs.

RAISE Caregiver Advisory Council and ACL:

<https://acl.gov/programs/support-caregivers/raise-family-caregiving-advisory-council>

Thank you in advance for taking the time to share your professional expertise with us and for helping to gather family-caregiver feedback. Nearly everyone has been, will be, or will need a caregiver at some point in their lives. Together we can make sure those caregivers are supported when the time comes.

Nice to Know

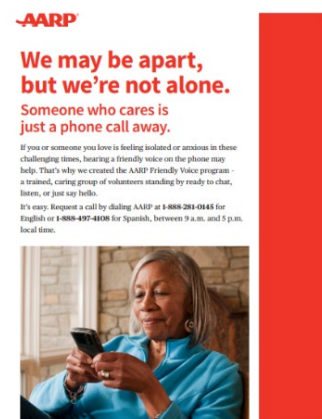
Have you heard of AARP's Friendly Voices Program? Check It Out!

This program is operated by trained AARP Friendly Voice volunteers; they will provide a call to say hello.

Learn more about the program: <https://www.aarp.org/home-family/friends-family/friendly-voice/>

Link to their flyer to share with caregivers and others:

<https://www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/home-and-family/family-and-friends/pdf/2021/aarp-friendly-voices-program.pdf>



Caring across Generations webinar

TODAY, June 25 | 2:00 p.m.

The National Alliance for Caregiving and Caring Across Generations presents *Care in Common: Shifting the Care Conversation*, a presentation of findings of the recent national survey measuring beliefs, perceptions, and behaviors around caregiving in the U.S., and a demonstration of the Care in Common playbook, a messaging and mobilization guide for organizations and policymakers. This event will be held on Tuesday, June 25 at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom. Use the form to RSVP and you'll receive an email with a link to join the webinar. Have questions? Email info@caringacross.org.



Webinar registration: <https://go.caringacross.org/a/shifting-care-conversation>

Reminder: Caregiver training from Caregiver Teleconnection!

Check out these FREE training opportunities:

Caregiving is Not A Cookie Cut Process: Difficult Situations, High Conflict Relationships and Its Impact on You as a Caregiver with Dr. Jamie Huysman, PsyD, LCSW. This workshop will discuss growing healthy relationships, understanding how to navigate more difficult caregiving situations, and even dealing with what might be toxic relationships and clinical layout for the listener's plans of action to prevent such a situation or navigate the difficult situation more effectively.



Watch or share the webinar: <https://youtu.be/VgjG9DC6kE0>

The Pride of Caring: A Series for LGBTQ+ Caregivers The Impact of Gender and Sexuality on Caregiving with Dr. Elliot Montgomery Sklar, PhD, MS and Lucy Barylak, MSW. Does sexuality and gender identity matter in the caregiving journey? Join us for an interactive discussion and to share your perspectives. We'll highlight ways in which caregiving experiences can be different for members of the LGBTQ+ community, and why that matters.

Watch or share the webinar: <https://youtu.be/qHce6TEUGlw>

The Pride of Caring: Mental Health and Caregiving: A Matter of Importance for LGBTQ+ Adults LGBTQ+ adults more commonly experience mental health concerns than their non-LGBTQ+ peers. The stress of caregiving and the isolation that caregivers experience can further these concerns. This program will focus on identifying resources to support LGBTQ+ caregivers in their journey.

Watch or share the webinar: <https://youtu.be/Jz7xFmltfM4>

Reminder: 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/>



Health Promotion

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

Nice to Know

Falls Prevention Awareness Month event listing

Falls Prevention Awareness Month (FPAM) will be here before we know it! If you are hosting an event or activity in September during FPAM, please share it with others! Submit your activity using the link below and it will be shared on the FallsFreeWI.org website. We can't wait to hear about what everyone will be up to.

The Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging encourages you to use their materials and align with their theme, "Age With Confidence, Prevent Falls" in your communities!

Submit Your FPAM Event: <https://wiha.wufoo.com/forms/w1eeci1604bpoe4/>

Falls Free® Wisconsin listing: <https://fallsfreewi.org/events/list/>



Reminder: Falls Prevention Awareness Month Placemat Contest!

The Falls Free Wisconsin Coalition's Awareness Workgroup is holding a contest for Falls Prevention Awareness Month (FPAM). The goal is to create a placemat with falls prevention education for older adults to be used by partners throughout the state during FPAM in September.

The submitted placemats will be judged by members of the Falls Free Wisconsin Coalition, and monetary prizes will be awarded to cover printing costs for the top 3 winners! We encourage submissions in Spanish, Hmong, or other languages.

See submission requirements, example placemats, and additional information by clicking the flyer on the right.

Link to view full flyer: <https://bit.ly/3xllwcm>

Happy designing! We can't wait to see what you all come up with. Submit your placemat designs by Friday, July 26.

How to Enter:

- Email submissions to falls@wihealthyaging.org.
- Include submitter's name, organization, city, state, email address, and phone number.

Deadline: Friday, July 26, 2024.

Judging and Awards:

- Placemat submissions will be shared on the Falls Free Wisconsin website to be shared with statewide partners for use throughout WI.
- Judges from the Falls Free Wisconsin Coalition will choose the top 3 winners.
- Monetary prizes will be awarded to the organization to cover printing costs for 1st-3rd places: 1st place: \$125; 2nd place: \$100; 3rd place: \$75.

Questions? Contact falls@wihealthyaging.org. Need examples for inspiration? Check out North Carolina Falls Prevention Coalition's 2023 placemat contest submissions at bit.ly/4d4ECUa.



Happy designing! Thank you for all that you do to prevent falls in Wisconsin!



FallsFreeWI.org

Nutrition

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

Nice to Know

Meal Prioritization/Waitlist/Right Meal for You Call Recording available

You can access the PowerPoint and recording from the June 20, 2024 call here: <https://bit.ly/4eAkCcJ>

The training modules with supporting materials on how to use the form and process will be posted at the link above as well by 7-1-24.

Let your GWAAR Nutrition Team Rep. know if you have any questions or if you plan to utilize the process. We will have monthly office hours and a quarterly call for all agencies using or interested in learning more about the process. Dates will be available soon.

Thank you for your patience as we are finalizing the training modules.

HDM Assessor Peer Sharing Call Recording available

Thank you to those who participated in the first call. You can find the recording as well as the HDM Assessor Training Modules that were discussed here: <https://bit.ly/4cfBLqy>

We will be doing one more peer-sharing call this year on Nov. 12th from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. so please save the date.