**Medicare Outreach Idea of the Month**

July 2024

**NEW! Medicare Mingle: A Casual Meetup for**

**Wisconsin SHIP Counselors**

Are you a SHIP counselor looking for support, advice, or simply a chance to network with your peers? Look no further than **Medicare Mingle**, a gathering designed to foster collaboration, share experiences, and enhance your Medicare outreach efforts. Hosted in a relaxed and welcoming environment, Medicare Mingle is the perfect opportunity to connect, learn, and leave feeling refreshed and energized.

**What is Medicare Mingle?**

Medicare Mingle is a casual and informative meetup aimed at supporting Wisconsin SHIP counselors in their crucial role of guiding individuals through the complexities of Medicare. Counselors come together to discuss various topics, share insights, and provide mutual support. Whether you're seeking advice on a complex case, looking for new outreach strategies, or simply wanting to connect with fellow counselors, Medicare Mingle offers a unique opportunity to engage with your colleagues. Alyssa Kulpa, Medicare outreach coordinator, will be the host of the meeting and there to support SHIP counselors with their Medicare outreach efforts.

**Join the Next Medicare Mingle**

Don't miss out on the chance to network with other SHIP counselors! Bring your questions, insights, and enthusiasm to the next Medicare Mingle. This provides a great opportunity to talk about the Medicare Open Enrollment period in the fall to discuss how others are preparing for it! Together, we can create a strong network of support, share valuable knowledge, and make a significant impact on our communities.

**2024 Medicare Mingle Dates:**

**11:00am-12:00pm**

***July 31st -*** [***Zoom Link***](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89099132049?pwd=CZcljNNIdWf8lArGcuEnuKXagFPCjW.1)***,*** [***Add to Outlook***](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/tZ0tfuCprTkqHt27Pt7uhP5VM-cg_i7AeLAG/ics)

***August 28th -*** [***Zoom Link***](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84763095536?pwd=iw0VLDXGIOFRd9Y5n3br2YcdgASmOK.1)***,*** [***Add to Outlook***](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/tZAqceqopz4vGdJDJMTBCPSBRHFzWAKO4-tr/ics)

***September 25th -*** [***Zoom Link***](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88386375662?pwd=u1y0yTm5dckmXjxdLBiPsVe4Ld3HYJ.1)***,*** [***Add to Outlook***](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/tZwuf--rqT4sHNbEDmnlRgNLfLr7oenRSIM2/ics)

By attending Medicare Mingle, you'll not only enhance your skills and knowledge but also contribute to a collaborative and supportive community of SHIP counselors. Join us and be part of a movement that makes a difference, one conversation at a time!

For assistance with your Medicare outreach questions, please contact Alyssa Kulpa, Medicare Outreach Coordinator at (608) 228-8098 or via email at Alyssa.Kulpa@gwaar.org.

**Updates on the** [**Medicare Outreach and Assistance Resources webpage**](https://gwaar.org/medicare-outreach-and-assistance-resources)**:**

* [Trainings – Medicare Outreach and Assistance](https://gwaar.org/granttee-trainings-and-information)
	+ [2024 Medicare Mingles](https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008244) added.
* Plan Finder Tools
	+ [CMS Memo – Plan Finder Enhancements for 2025](https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008222) added.

**Upcoming Optional Wisconsin SHIP Trainings**

**Growing Partnerships: Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP)**

* **Date:**Wednesday, August 7, 2024, from 11a.m.–12 p.m.
* [Zoom link](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89981623766?pwd=6rymD9KtE8kGAA0Y3unw4gUPHAJ6bn.1); [Outlook event](https://zoom.us/meeting/tZ0kf-iurDgtHNJM2MSqLnmBPIi9Pq58xsfn/ics)
* **Intended audience**: SHIP counselors and supervisors seeking to enhance their understanding of the Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) program and its potential for partnership in Medicare outreach efforts.
* **Objectives:**
	+ Gain insight into the Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) program.
	+ Explore the expanded SMP Volunteer team and their role in advancing mission delivery.
	+ Learn when to refer to and partner with SMP for successful Medicare outreach in Wisconsin.

**Continuing Education Hours (CEH) Opportunity**

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. Please email Alyssa Kulpa, GWAAR Medicare Outreach Coordinator, at alyssa.kulpa@gwaar.org with any questions regarding the trainings and please email Pam Watson, MIPPA Grant Coordinator, at pamela.watson@dhs.wisconsin.gov with any questions regarding the Continuing Education Hours (CEH) Opportunity.