



Volume 6, No. 36 September 3, 2024
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Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

Need to Know

Reminder: New GWAAR Partners Resource site now available

Don't forget to register and check out the new GWAAR Partners Resource-External site, for GWAAR Aging Units and others. This was designed to provide our partners a secure and convenient location to access information you need to support your clients and staff and other important resources.

Partner Users must register to access this site:

<https://gwaar.org/registration-for-the-gwaar-partner-resource-external-site>

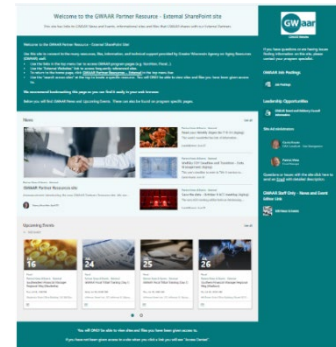
Once your access has been granted you will receive an email of notification and login security instructions.

All information has been copied over from the document library that was temporarily being used to house GWAAR information, such as the claim form and other training and webinar materials.

Please note: Updated claim forms are available on both the new and old SharePoint sites.

If you have any issues or questions related to the new site, please email Carrie Kroetz:

carrie.kroetz@gwaar.org



Nice to Know

Reminder: VSDP Care Consultant Employment Opportunity

Read the full job description: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008300>

Reminder: Accepting Applications for GWAAR Board of Directors

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.

Reminder: Accepting Applications for GWAAR Advisory Council

View the application: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2005628>

If you have any questions about volunteering on the Advisory Council, please contact Nick Musson at nick.musson@gwaar.org.

Advocacy

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

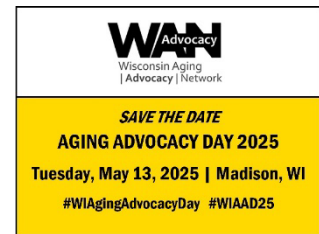
Need to Know

Reminder: Save the Date! Aging Advocacy Day 2025 – Tuesday, May 13

The Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) will hold our 9th Annual Aging Advocacy Day (AAD) 2025 event in Madison on Tuesday, May 13, 2025.

Updates available at <https://gwaar.org/aging-advocacy-day-2025>

Event sponsor opportunities: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008298>



Nice to Know

Crisis Hostels – Public Hearing & Public Comments

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services proposes to create an emergency and permanent rule for the certification and operation of crisis hostels, as required under section 6m. of 2023 Wisconsin Act 249 (“Act 249”), which created s. 51.043, Stats. A crisis hostel is a mental health stabilization program with a maximum of 15 beds that provides voluntary crisis stabilization services to individuals 18 or older to prevent or de-escalate an individual’s mental health crisis and avoid admission to a more restrictive setting. Crisis stabilization services in a hostel setting are provided to an individual for 23 hours or less, and those services are defined as short-term, intensive, community-based services to assist an individual experiencing a mental health crisis avoid inpatient hospitalization.

See Scope Statement for more details: [Wisconsin Legislature: SS 080-24 Scope Statement](#).

<https://bit.ly/47ezEkU>

Public Hearing and Comment Period for Statement of Scope

Public Hearing - Friday, September 6, 2024 : [Wisconsin Legislature: SS 080-24 Notice of Rescheduled Preliminary Hearing](#) (Hearing will be held virtually on Microsoft Teams).

<https://bit.ly/4erpdNF>

Submit Public Comments by Friday, Sept. 6, 2024: [Submit Comment for SS 080-24 \(wisconsin.gov\)](#)

<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/feedback/agencyform?cite=scope/080-24>

DHS seeking feedback on IRIS FEA

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) wants to hear what Fiscal Employer Agents (FEAs) for the IRIS program are doing well, as well as how they can better serve participants. They want IRIS participants, families and friends, caregivers and providers, IRIS contract staff, advocates, and other partners to share their thoughts. This is a wonderful opportunity to share your thoughts to make services better. If you want to request a paper copy of this survey or want to take it in another language, email DHSIRIS@wisconsin.gov.



The survey will close on September 13.

Take the survey: <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7967743/2024-IRIS-FEA-Feedback-Survey>

Emergency Preparedness

[Jayne Mullins](#), *Older Americans Act Consultant; Elder Abuse Program Specialist*

Nice to Know

September is National Preparedness Month – Are you ready?

Preparedness Month is recognized every September across the country as part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Ready Campaign. Storms can happen almost without warning so people living in the Midwest need to be prepared for tornadoes and possible flooding.

Share these resources:

<https://wem.wi.gov/preparedness-month/>

<https://readywisconsin.wi.gov/be-informed/>

Sign up for the newsletter: <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WIDMA/signup/35010>



Family Caregiver Support

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

Nice to Know

Reminder: Registration open for Planning Ahead fall session

Planning AHEAD is a 7-session course (one hour each) that guides participants through a variety of topics. This course features a workbook to help people with the tasks and decisions associated with end-of-life.

Extension's Planning AHEAD Program focuses on helping participants know how to make preparations for advance care planning, financial planning, legal and living wills, and other end-of-life planning. The next session will be happening in September and October. All Wisconsin adults are eligible (and encouraged!) to enroll. Please share with the individuals and families you work with.

Information and registration:

<https://aging.extension.wisc.edu/programs/planning-ahead/>

View the flyer: <https://bit.ly/4cKOBN1>

Join us and begin

Planning AHEAD

for the end of this life

What is Planning AHEAD?
Planning AHEAD is a 7-session course (one hour each) that guides participants through the tasks and decisions associated with end-of-life. This course features a workbook to help people with the tasks and decisions associated with end-of-life.

Who is the program for?
This program is for people who:

- Are in or close to planning for the end of life in order to "take care" for family members
- Have lost a loved one
- Are in the process of losing a loved one and are dealing with the transition

When is the program?

- Thursdays | Sept. 26 - Nov. 7, 2024 | 11:00 a.m. - Noon
- The program will be held online via Zoom.

How do I sign up?

Scan to register or visit go.wisc.edu/s28c3m7

Scan or visit go.wisc.edu/planning-ahead-participants to download a fillable copy of the Planning AHEAD workbook and get more information.

Planning AHEAD program topics

- Getting Started
- Handling Financial Changes
- Advance Medical and Legal Directives
- Estate Planning
- Choices in End-of-Life Care
- Final Wishes
- Understanding Grief

For questions regarding the program, please contact: Sara Ritchie by emailing sara.ritchie@wisc.edu



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Fiscal

[Carrie Kroetz](#) *Older Americans Act Consultant – Data Management*

Need to Know

Reminder: Wellsky Title III data deadline Oct. 18

This year's deadline to enter in Title III services to Wellsky/SAMS AND make sure all client and service data is accurate for the reporting period **October 2023-September 2024** is **October 18th!** For fiscal claim forms, your September (and all prior monthly claims) are due by **November 8th!** This information is then used for the GWAAR region and State of Wisconsin Federal Older American's Act Report.

If, upon reviewing and correcting data, services are removed from Title III to Title VI, NOAA or Family Care, as examples, you must let your fiscal staff know as it will impact your claim forms.

The list of Error and Informational reports to run can be found on the GWAAR Data Management "old" SharePoint Site, along with an instructional guide. We are continuing to work on providing users access to the new GWAAR Partner Resource site.

Thank you, everyone, for your continued work on this and all the hard work you put into it throughout the year! Please feel free to contact me with any questions or book an appointment with me.

carrie.kroetz@gwaar.org

[Carrie Kroetz - Appointment Scheduler \(office365.com\)](#)

<https://outlook.office365.com/book/CarrieKroetzAppointmentScheduler@gwaar.org/>

Nutrition

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

Nice to Know

September is National Food Safety Education Month!

Partnership for Food Safety Education invites you to participate in the Collective Day of Action on Wednesday, Sept. 18. using their toolkit. The day aims to unite educators, partners and federal liaisons to create a loud voice across social media channels. The theme for the day will be "From Farm to Fork," sharing the story of the chain of prevention and why safe food handling is important for good health. Remember to use the hashtags #NFSEM2024 and #dayofaction.



Learn more: <https://www.fightbac.org/nfsem/>

View the toolkit:

<https://www.fightbac.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/NFSEM-2024-Idea-Generator.pdf>

Reminder: EAT WELL, AGE WELL. Hispanic Heritage Month (October) is now posted on the GWAAR website at <https://gwaar.org/eat-well-age-well>

National Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15 to recognize contributions and influence of Hispanic Americans to the history, culture, and achievements of the United States.

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008303>

Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol

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

Nice to Know

Please welcome our new Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) Volunteer Coordinator, Susan Krolow!

As the SMP Volunteer Coordinator, Susan brings a wealth of experience in managing and supporting older adult volunteers. With a background in volunteer recruitment, retention, training, and outreach through the United Way of Marathon County's RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program), Susan is adept at fostering meaningful engagement and ensuring impactful volunteer experiences.

Known for exceptional customer service skills and a deep commitment to community service, Susan is dedicated to advancing SMP's mission to educate and empower Medicare beneficiaries to protect themselves from becoming a victim of scams and to minimize waste in Medicare. In addition to her professional expertise, Susan actively volunteers in her community, reflecting a genuine passion for service and support.

Outside of work, Susan enjoys rock hounding on Lake Michigan, making handmade jewelry, and traveling. Susan is also a proud parent to two adult daughters who bring immense joy and inspiration to her life.

Welcome Susan!

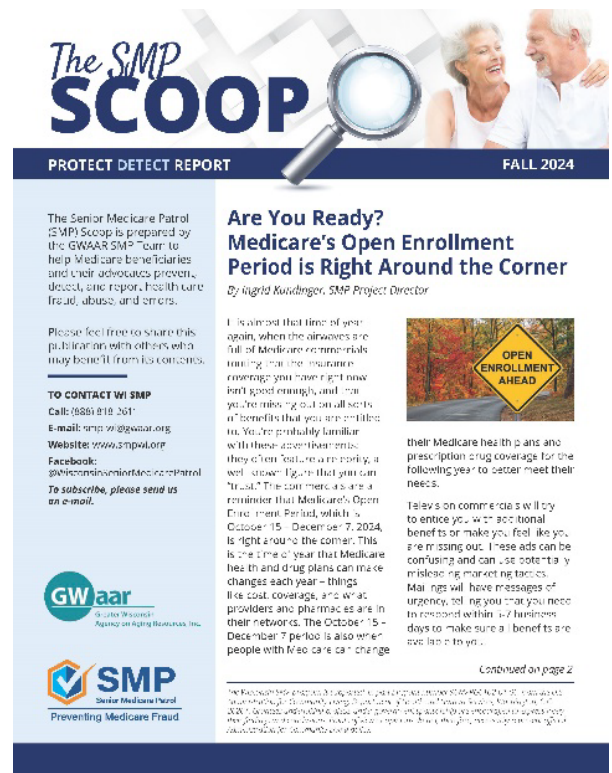


The Fall 2024 edition of The Scoop now available

The Fall 2024 edition of the Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol's quarterly newsletter – The Scoop is now available. Are you ready for Medicare's Open Enrollment Period? This issue includes information and reminders for this enrollment period, along with information on falls prevention, an introduction of new team members, a review of vaccines covered by Medicare, and so much more!

Read the Fall 2024 issue of The Scoop:

<https://www.smpwi.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/SMP-Scoop-Newsletter-Fall-2024.pdf>



The cover of the Fall 2024 issue of 'The Scoop' newsletter features the title 'The SMP SCOOP' in a stylized font with a magnifying glass over the word 'SCOOP'. Below the title is the subtitle 'PROTECT DETECT REPORT' and the date 'FALL 2024'. The main article is titled 'Are You Ready? Medicare's Open Enrollment Period is Right Around the Corner' by Ingrid Kunding, SMP Project Director. The cover also includes contact information for the Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol (GWAAAR) and the Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) logo.