



Volume 6, No. 49 December 3, 2024  
 Office: 608-243-5670 Fax: 866-813-0974  
 info@gwaar.org www.gwaar.org



## Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

### Nice to Know

#### Reminder: Leadership opportunities: GWAAR Board of Directors and GWAAR Advisory Council

GWAAR is looking for thoughtful, civic-minded, energetic individuals to serve on its 11-member board and 9-member Advisory Council. Members play a critical role in guiding and overseeing the agency’s actions and initiatives.

**Learn more:** <https://gwaar.org/leadership-opportunities>



#### Reminder: Medicare Outreach Coordinator employment opportunity

The Medicare Outreach Coordinator, in conjunction with the GWAAR benefit specialist supervising attorney team, provides training and technical assistance to Elder Benefits Specialists and the broader community of State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) counselors.

**Read the full job description:** <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008362>

## Advocacy

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

### Need to Know

#### Governor’s Budget listening sessions happening December 2-16

Governor Evers will once again be convening budget listening sessions across the state of Wisconsin. The listening sessions will help inform the Governor on what’s impacting communities most and what resources are needed to help continue to build thriving communities.

**Please help spread the word!** It’s incredibly important that the Governor hears directly from the people of Wisconsin. The listening sessions will follow a similar format as previous sessions and folks can register using the registration links below. The first session was held Monday, Dec. 2 in Appleton. If you missed that or are unable to attend other local sessions (LaCrosse, Milwaukee, Ashland), there will be a virtual session held Monday, Dec. 16.



#### Wednesday 12/4 - LaCrosse 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Northside Elementary School, 1611 Kane St, LaCrosse, WI 54603

**Registration Link:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/governor-evers-la-crosse-budget-listening-session-tickets-1054140004129?aff=oddtcreator>

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**Tuesday 12/10 - Milwaukee 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.**

ThriveOn King, 2153 N Doctor M.L.K. Jr Dr, Milwaukee, WI 53212

**Registration Link:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/governor-evers-milwaukee-budget-listening-session-tickets-1055127939069?aff=oddtcreator>

**Thursday 12/12 - Ashland 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.**

Ashland High School, 1900 Beaser Ave., Ashland, WI 54806

**Registration Link:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/governor-evers-ashland-budget-listening-session-tickets-1055194458029?aff=oddtcreator>

**Monday 12/16 – VIRTUAL 4:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m.**

**Registration Link:** [https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUtduqpqTgoE9Pizvu2wqHuwv84YCKT\\_Odl](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUtduqpqTgoE9Pizvu2wqHuwv84YCKT_Odl)

**Reminder: Older Americans Act (OAA) Reauthorization to Advance Contact Your Senators to Urge Support**

After several months of quiet negotiations between the House and Senate OAA committees, and intensive lobbying by our national partner (USAgings), **the Senate will attempt to advance the OAA Reauthorization Act of 2024 this week! The House is expected to follow suit quickly.**

When the Senate returns to Capitol Hill, it is anticipated that they will advance an amended OAA reauthorization bill that reflects negotiations between the Senate and House committees with jurisdiction over OAA. USAgings has learned that the Senate intends to “hotline” the bill immediately after the Thanksgiving recess. This means that Senators are informed that leadership intends to move the bill under a process reserved for non-controversial legislation—then Senators are given a short period of time during which to object to use of that “unanimous consent” process. If no Senators object to advancing the bill under that process, then the bill can move quickly to the floor. Such unanimous consent bills don’t require much Senate floor time and are often dealt with in batches when the Senate isn’t focused on more high-profile, recorded-vote measures.

Despite this promising news, **your advocacy is needed to get the bill across the finish line!** Please use the email template below to contact Senator Baldwin and Senator Johnson and urge them to support the OAA Reauthorization Act of 2024.

**Take Action Now**

**1. Send an email to Senators Baldwin and Johnson requesting their support of the OAA Reauthorization Act of 2024!**

You can use the email template on the following page, or use the [online version](#) and customize the content of the email to include your agency information.

**Customizable online version available here:** <https://oneclickpolitics.global.ssl.fastly.net/promo/63S>

Whichever version you use, be sure to **customize it to your agency/community**. If using the template below, send your email to their DC and district offices (you can find the contact information on pages 1 and 2 of this [document](#)). <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2007697>

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**Email Template to Your Senators:**

Note: Areas with yellow highlighting require customization.

Dear [Senator Baldwin or Senator Johnson]:

On behalf of [AGENCY NAME] in [AGENCY LOCATION AND STATE], we are writing to urge you to support advancing the bipartisan Older Americans Act (OAA) Reauthorization Act of 2024 (S.4776), which we expect to be considered by the Senate in early December.

The bipartisan Senate bill, amended with the House’s input, includes critical updates to the law that help agencies like ours better serve older adults and their family caregivers. Because the Act expired in September, it’s imperative that Congress act quickly this year to ensure the continued health and well-being of the 11 million older adults and family caregivers who receive OAA services in communities across the country.

Sincerely,

[NAME, affiliation, address, etc.]

2. Engage your provider network. Urge your vendors/providers, advisory board members and other important stakeholders to send their own emails to your state’s Senators. Please do all you can to amplify the message and engage others who understand the value of OAA in their community! Forward this Alert to your networks or edit it to be best received by your agency’s advocates. Your advocacy will help to ensure OAA is reauthorized before the new year!

**Nice to Know**

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**Caregiver Nation Summit 2024**

Last week, Wisconsin caregiver advocates Kristin Voss, Beth Fields, Bryn Ceman and Janet Zander traveled to Washington, D.C. to participate in Caregiver Nation Summit 2024. The event brought together leaders, advocates, and family caregivers who drive real change for the caregiving community. The event included a trip to Capitol Hill so advocates could meet with Members of Congress and fight for policies that will support America’s 53 million family caregivers. Members of Congress were urged to act on the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act, a critical step to provide the recognition, resources, and support caregivers so deeply deserve.

It’s time to show we value and support family caregivers in our society and to ensure they receive the assistance they need to care for their loved ones without sacrificing their own health and well-being.

Wisconsin’s participants were proud to stand with advocates from across the country to make a real impact and drive change for family caregivers.



## Data Management

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

### ***Need to Know***

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#### **Reminder: Important dates and information for PeerPlace Training**

##### **PeerPlace Training Details:**

**November 6, 2024 - PeerPlace “go-live” date.** Users may begin entering data into the PeerPlace system. Note that WellSky information will remain available for viewing and creating reports through the end of calendar year 2024.

**Log in:** After Nov. 6, when PeerPlace went live, you use the new website address to log in: <https://peerplace.dhs.wisconsin.gov>.

**Do not use** the training site link “dhs-apps.wisconsin.gov,” for logging in.

**PeerPlace Information Page for Aging:** this page contains detailed information related to PeerPlace training including live webinar schedules, live webinar registration links, job aids, user group information, and key dates.

#### ***PeerPlace Training and Drop-in calls (registration required for some):***

##### ***Reminder: Register for upcoming webinars***

##### ***Wednesday, December 4, 2–3:30 p.m.: [Advanced Reporting Training](#)***

This webinar is highly recommended for all users and will focus on how to create reports from templates developed by PeerPlace, create customized reports, and utilize the PeerPlace View Builder feature.

##### ***Thursday, December 5, 2–3:30 p.m.: [PeerPlace Resource Database User Webinar](#)***

The PeerPlace internal resource database is comprised of information about aging and disability resources and service providers throughout the state. All PeerPlace users are encouraged to attend this session to learn how to locate applicable resources for their customers.

**Registration is required to attend all live webinars.** All webinars will be recorded and available for viewing on demand. Recordings of all completed webinars are on the [PeerPlace Training Vimeo Showcase](#).

***The above links may be shared with PeerPlace users who do not have access to the [ADRC and Aging SharePoint site](#).***



DHS PeerPlace  
Training

## Family Caregiver Support

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

### ***Need to Know***

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#### **Reminder: Replay for Caregiver Coordinator Statewide call available**

The recording, notes, and other meeting materials are now posted and can be found at <https://gwaar.org/wisconsin-caregiver-support-community-monthly-calls>

## Nice to Know

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### **Webinar: From The Campaign To Concrete: How Policymakers Can Support Our Nation's 53 Million Family Caregivers**

Thursday, December 5 | 10:00 a.m.

A National Alliance for Caregiving (NAC) briefing in partnership with the John A. Hartford Foundation! Join NAC for a virtual, nonpartisan briefing detailing policy options the incoming administration should consider to better support family caregivers.



#### **For more information and registration:**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_ykijvJzmRmaGEcigDkSVpQ#/registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ykijvJzmRmaGEcigDkSVpQ#/registration)

### **Reminder: Specialized Aging Support: Providing Care for Those with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities at High-Risk and Living with Dementia webinar**

Monday, December 9 | 2:00 p.m.

Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) face lifelong battles of inclusion and access to services. Throughout the aging process, even more significant needs for support present as they experience Alzheimer's disease and other related dementias (ADRD) at a staggering rate. As individuals with Down syndrome and other IDD diagnoses face everyday challenges associated with ADRD, they also face the struggles of providers and caregivers unsure of the next steps.



Learn from Arc Jacksonville's Specialized Aging Support program, which launched the next phase of services, developing an interactive day center for those living with and at high risk of dementia, caregiver support, and education, and trainings focused on IDD and dementia.

#### **More information and registration:**

[https://rtiorg.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_60hLL8BjRS6OOOrFL1tuhA#/registration](https://rtiorg.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_60hLL8BjRS6OOOrFL1tuhA#/registration)

## Fiscal

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

### **Need to Know**

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#### **Updates:**

- The 2024 Re-Ob/De-Ob Request form link is available on the Fiscal Resources site. This form is used to request to de-obligate and re-obligate funds from Title III B-C1-C2-D-E, SSCS, Alzheimer's\*, EBS\*, or Elder Abuse contract funds. (\*Only if your contract is with GWAAR.) **Please complete by Dec. 15, 2024.**
- If completing a Re-Obligation request, by completing this form you are requesting additional contract funding, if available, which must be spent by Dec. 31, 2024, for expenses from Jan.-Dec. 2024. By completing this form, you understand any requests are not guaranteed and must be claimed by the Final Claim form, due March 5, 2025.

#### **Upcoming:**

- The Budget to Actual document will also be forthcoming shortly. This document compares your submitted Final Budget for 2024 against the actual expenses reported. We will host a webinar to assist Aging Unit Fiscal staff in reviewing the information and how to address inconsistencies.

## Health Promotion

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

### **Nice to Know**

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#### **Join Our Health Promotion Advisory Group!**

Are you a Health Promotion Coordinator, Aging Unit Director, or Manager passionate about improving health and wellness for older adults? We're seeking dedicated professionals to join a new Health Promotion Advisory Group designed to strengthen and enhance our collective efforts in implementing OAA Title III D evidence-based health promotion programs.



#### **Why Join?**

This group will meet quarterly to:

- Share challenges, successes, and best practices in implementing evidence-based programs.
- Collaboratively develop solutions to common barriers in service delivery.
- Assist in planning engaging and relevant agenda items for quarterly health promotion webinars.

#### **Benefits of Participation**

- Gain valuable insights and ideas from peers.
- Play a key role in shaping effective health promotion strategies.
- Network with other leaders in aging services.

#### **Get Involved**

Together, we can advance the health and well-being of older adults in our communities.

**To express your interest or for more information, please complete this form:** <https://bit.ly/410vtbB>

Let's work together to make a lasting impact in Wisconsin! For questions, contact Angie Sullivan OAA Consultant - Health Promotion at [angela.sullivan@gwaar.org](mailto:angela.sullivan@gwaar.org)

## Nutrition

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

### **Need to Know**

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**Reminder: Please join us on December 17 for the Home Delivered Meal Assessor Peer Sharing call**

*Tuesday, December 17 | 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.*

We are excited to host the second Home Delivered Meal Assessor Peer Sharing call on Dec. 17 from 2 to 3 p.m. This call is for anyone who does the HDM initial and annual reassessments.

Tentative Agenda:

- How do you handle No Shows or not canceling meals?
- Other agenda items? Please send to [pam.vankampen@gwaar.org](mailto:pam.vankampen@gwaar.org)

[Click here to join the meeting](https://bit.ly/3AsrSbz) | <https://bit.ly/3AsrSbz> Meeting ID: 214 394 008 477 | Passcode: dgk4rb

**Dial in by phone** | [+1 608-338-1382](tel:+16083381382), [685336459#](tel:+16083386853) United States, Madison | [Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: 685 336 459#

## Nice to Know

### New issue of The Dish available

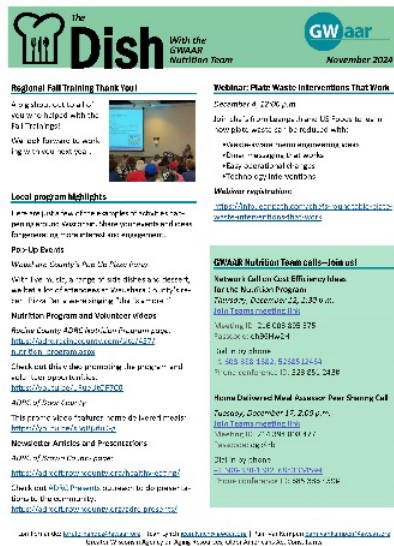
The latest issue includes information on Nutrition team calls, local program highlights and an eye-catching winter soup idea.

**Read it here:**

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008388>

**View past issues here:**

[https://gwaar.org/weekly-dish\\_1](https://gwaar.org/weekly-dish_1)



The Dish With the GWAAR Nutrition Team November 2024

**Regional Fall Training Thank You!**  
A special shout out to our staff who participated with the Fall Training!  
We look forward to working together next year.

**Local program highlights**  
Learn about a few of the examples of what we have done in our communities. These organizations are doing some really interesting things.

**Pay-It-Forward**  
Woodland County's Pay-It-Forward program is a great way to help others in need. We have a list of participating businesses in our newsletter. Please let us know how you are doing!

**Multi-County Program and Volunteer roles**  
Woodland County ADRC Nutrition Program is looking for volunteers. <https://www.wcadc.org/2024/11/27/multi-county-program/>

Check out this video promoting the program and what you can do to help. <https://www.wcadc.org/2024/11/27/multi-county-program/>

ADRC of Snow County  
The program also features some other great stories. <https://www.wcadc.org/2024/11/27/multi-county-program/>

**Molecular Analysis and Interpretation**  
ADRC of Snow County  
<https://www.wcadc.org/2024/11/27/multi-county-program/>

Check out this video promoting the program and what you can do to help. <https://www.wcadc.org/2024/11/27/multi-county-program/>

ADRC of Snow County  
<https://www.wcadc.org/2024/11/27/multi-county-program/>

**Webinar: Plate Waste Interventions That Work**  
December 4, 2024 (pm)  
Join us for a webinar featuring Dr. Lisa Foy, who will discuss plate waste interventions that work. <https://www.wcadc.org/2024/11/27/multi-county-program/>

**Webinar registration:**  
<https://www.wcadc.org/2024/11/27/multi-county-program/>

**GWAAR Nutrition Team Calls—Join us!**  
Webinars Call us for more information. <https://www.wcadc.org/2024/11/27/multi-county-program/>

**Home Delivered Meal Assistance Peer Sharing Call**  
Tuesday, December 17, 2024 (pm)  
<https://www.wcadc.org/2024/11/27/multi-county-program/>



**Featured recipe: Sweet Potato Soup and Yig-Yong technique**

For all winter months, the soup is a great idea. It's easy to make and can be served hot or cold.

**Yig-Yong technique:**  
This is a technique used in Chinese cooking to cook ingredients in a wok. It involves tossing the ingredients in a hot wok with a small amount of oil. The ingredients are cooked quickly and evenly, resulting in a tender and flavorful dish.

**Sweet Potato Soup**  
Yield: 4 servings  
Ingredients:  
2 Tbsp olive oil  
2 yellow onions, finely chopped  
2 carrots, finely chopped  
4 cups vegetable or chicken stock  
3 sweet potatoes, peeled and cubed  
2 cups milk  
Salt and pepper, to taste  
Directions:  
Add oil to the pot. Add onions and carrots. Cook for 5 minutes. Add sweet potatoes. Cook for 10 minutes. Add stock and milk. Simmer for 15 minutes. Season with salt and pepper. Serve hot.