



Volume 7, No. 4 January 28, 2025
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Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

Need to Know

Reminder: Accepting applications for GWAAR Board of Directors and Advisory Council

Use Your Leadership Skills to Support Older People in Wisconsin

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 or view applications at: <https://gwaar.org/leadership-opportunities>



Abuse in Later Life Grant

Need to Know

Reminder: Direct Services Elder Abuse Training - February 26

Wednesday, February 26 | 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
(lunch is on your own)

Walworth County Health & Human Services Building
1910 County Road NN, Elkhorn

The purpose of this training is to enhance older victims' safety and quality of life by strengthening collaboration among direct service providers.

Who should attend?

The training is open to state-based organizations and agencies that work with adult protective services, victim services, system-based advocates, and aging network professionals.

Any questions on this training, please contact Doreen Goetsch 608-219-5013 or by email at

Doreen.Goetsch@gwaar.org

Registration: <https://bit.ly/3PRck59>

View the flyer:

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008429>



Date/Time:
February 26, 2025 8:00am - 4:30pm

Location:
Walworth County Health & Human Services Building
1910 County Road NN, Elkhorn

Register here:
<https://wisdoj.eventsair.com/direct-services-elder-abuse-training--walworth-county/feb-26>

About:

The purpose of this training is to enhance older victims' safety and quality of life by strengthening collaboration among direct service providers.

Topics include:

- Types of Abuse in Later Life
- Understanding types of abuse in later life and abuser tactics
- Collaborating to create a victim-centered response
- Planning for victim safety
- Existing services for older victims



Any questions on this training, please contact Doreen Goetsch 608-219-5013 or by email at Doreen.Goetsch@gwaar.org

Advocacy

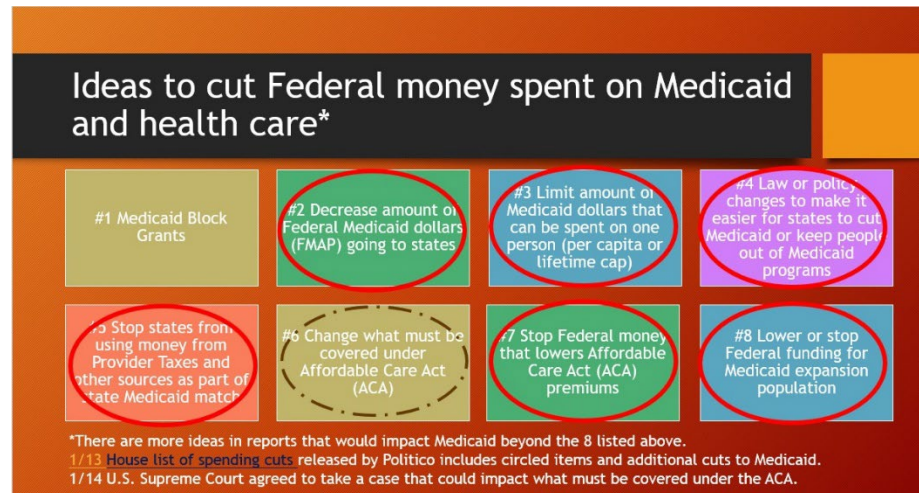
[Janet Zander](#), Advocacy and Public Policy Coordinator

Need to Know

Action Alert: Medicaid Cuts Will Harm Wisconsinites

Members of Congress are meeting right now to consider which of the proposed \$2.17 trillion in federal Medicaid cuts will be included in a major reconciliation bill. This bill can move quickly and pass with fewer votes, so **it's critical that they hear from you NOW**. Tell them Medicaid cuts should not be included.

Congress's ideas to cut Medicaid would mean much less federal Medicaid money would be available to help fund Wisconsin's Medicaid programs. Federal Medicaid funding cuts will leave states with budget holes too big to fill and bad choices to make – eliminate needed care, reduce the care and services people need, and/or pay providers less to provide care.



The proposed cuts are so large they will impact everyone in Medicaid. **Some proposed cuts are already gaining traction, but your calls are making others reconsider.** Members of Congress want and need to know how cuts would affect their constituents and the financial health of their communities.

Make your voice heard!

Take Action: Contact Your Federal Legislators

Make three phone calls today!

1. Contact Wisconsin's two U.S. Senators, **Sen. Tammy Baldwin** (202) 224-5653 and **Sen. Ron Johnson** (202) 224-5323 and your U.S. Representative (use your ZIP code to [Look up your U.S. Representative](#)). When you call, **ask to speak to the staff person in charge of Medicaid or Health policy**. Let them know you are a constituent, and your issue is time sensitive. Let them know how Medicaid helps you, your family, or someone you care about and what it would mean if services and supports were reduced or stopped. Urge your legislators to reject any proposals that reduce federal Medicaid funding.
2. After you hang up the phone, **send a follow up email** with your name, contact information, and your Medicaid story. **Sending an email helps them remember the details you shared.** See [Wisconsin Members of the 119th Congress](#) for contact information, or use our [online email tool](#) and personalize your message with the information.

More information on Medicaid in Wisconsin can be found in the WAAN Action alert and the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities – Medicaid Fact sheet. :

View/Share the WAAN Action Alert: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008446>

View the Wisconsin BPDD - Medicaid Fact Sheet: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008445>

Nice to Know

Save the date: Disability Advocacy Day: March 12, 2025

Disability Advocacy Day is a day-long event focused on connecting Self-Advocates with their legislators to talk about issues that matter to them.

Join us in-person in Madison on March 12, 2025 to meet with your elected officials! Registration will open in early February.



Reminder: Save the date: Alzheimer's Association Wisconsin Advocacy Day

Registration is open

Tuesday, March 4 | 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Best Western Premier Park Hotel, Madison, Wisconsin

You're invited to the Alzheimer's Association Advocacy Day and gather at the Wisconsin State Capitol and show our elected officials how Wisconsinites are impacted by Alzheimer's disease.



You will hear from key state policymakers and take away tools to empower your advocacy efforts on behalf of all who are impacted by Alzheimer's and dementia. In the afternoon, you can meet with your state lawmakers and ask them to support our policies! Lunch is included for all participants.

To register online, please visit: <http://bit.ly/WIAdvocacy2025>

If you have any questions about this year's Advocacy Day or any state policy activities, please contact Vanessa Kent by email at vkent@alz.org or by phone at 608-318-4057.

Reminder: Wisconsin Supreme Court Election webinars

January: Wisconsin Supreme Court Election: Ethics and Money

Tuesday, January 28 | 6:00 p.m.

Speakers include: Jay Heck from Common Cause; former Supreme Court Justice Janine Geske; Attorney Doug Keith from the Brennan Center.



Registration:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlkfuuqrzlvHdx6_fwiv500PYEtp_VN5P6z#/registration

February: Wisconsin Supreme Court Election: Judging Judicial Candidates

Tuesday, February 25 | 6:00 p.m.

Speakers include: Chad Oldfather from Marquette University Law School; Rob Yablon of the State Democracy Research Institute; Attorney Jeff Mandell of Law Forward,; and George Penn of United to Amend.

Registration: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/X3idkeSTQm2phphk6gclQ#/registration>

Data Management

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

Need to Know

Updated Participant Registration forms are now available on the GWAAR Partner Resources site in the Aging/Data Management Library: <https://gwaar.sharepoint.com/sites/PartnerResources>

Reminder: PeerPlace Training Resources

Users may now enter data into the PeerPlace system using this address:

<https://peerplace.dhs.wisconsin.gov>.

PeerPlace Training Details:

Site for registered users:

<https://share.health.wisconsin.gov/ltc/teams/ADRC/sitepages/PPTrg.aspx>

PeerPlace Information Page for Aging:

https://share.health.wisconsin.gov/ltc/teams/ADRC/SitePages/PeerPlace_Aging.aspx

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.

Recordings of completed webinars can be found on the [PeerPlace Training Vimeo Showcase](#):

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/11338036>.

GWAAR will be coming out shortly with PeerPlace Aging Office Hours for Q&A, as well as program specific trainings. In 2025, we will be conducting regional PeerPlace trainings.



DHS PeerPlace
Training

Family Caregiver Support

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

Need to Know

Reminder Trualta caregiver resources now available in Wisconsin

GWAAR and DHS are incredibly excited to announce that the 24/7 online caregiver resource, Trualta is now back and available free of charge for all the Wisconsin caregivers you work with!

Trualta Login/registration:

<https://wisconsincaregiver.trualta.com/login>

View the flyer: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2007769>

Trualta staff training sessions

As part of this re-launch, we have scheduled two staff trainings. You are not required to attend, but it is highly encouraged that Caregiver Coordinators or the staff responsible for your agency's caregiver grant programs, attend at least one training.

We will also be recording the training so that new staff can view the recording and learn about Trualta as part of their initial onboarding and training.

Next Trualta training TOMORROW

Wednesday, January 29 | 10:00 -11:00 a.m.

Jan. 29 meeting link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82062669969?pwd=glpShX3sHaoEcaPz9OyZHbWpxl6rtH.1#success>



Nice to Know

Reminder: Champions in Care Forum replay available

Just in case you missed it! Here's another chance to watch "Champions in Care Forum: Why Caregiver Input Matters in Defining Value in Healthcare." As the U.S. grapples with defining value in healthcare and medical interventions, there is growing recognition that integrating caregiver experiences and perspectives are vital to understanding a patient's disease or condition journey. Yet, how to identify and collect relevant data from family caregivers to inform medical interventions remains in nascent stages.

Webinar hosted by the National Alliance for Caregiving

Watch the replay: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FftbS21xfi8>



Fiscal

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

Need to Know

ARPA Extension contract: now that September claims have been processed, we are able to provide the remaining allocations to the state for GWAAR to receive a new ARPA contract (Oct 2024-Sept 2025). Just as a reminder, this is a new contract not an amended contract extending out the date as before and should be used for expenses from Oct 2024-Dec 2024 for this calendar year, and then Jan 2025-Sept 2025 for expenses in 2025. The allocations will be posted on the Final claim form, until the ARPA funds are available on the claim form Aging Units should report the expenses in Cash Match or using other contract funds on their Oct-Dec claim forms and then adjust as necessary on the Final claim.

Other updates:

- Report 99 in PeerPlace – currently this custom report has not been created in PeerPlace. This will not prevent you from submitting your October claim. We continue to work with BADR and PeerPlace to have this available and will let you know when it is – along with providing training on how to run the report.
- 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. 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

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

Need to Know

UPDATE - Quarterly Health Promotion Webinar

Tuesday, February 4 | 9:00 a.m.

Register today for the Quarterly Health Promotion Webinar. There has been a last-minute change in the agenda. I'm excited to announce that we will have Eric Levitan, Founder and CEO of Vivo, will be presenting on a new exciting fitness program based on Science of Strength Training and consists of small-group, interactive zoom classes taught by live instructors. We will also be having question and answer time allotted to address Peer Place questions.

View the agenda: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008427>

Please submit your PeerPlace Questions ahead of time via this link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/Wqqzw0cHtV>

Webinar registration link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUudu2orzMphNQGUggAHa2ZW2wNmaZTkUsd>



Falls Free Wisconsin Coalition Webinar: Understanding Alcohol-Related Older Adults Falls in Wisconsin

Thursday, January 30 | 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Join the Falls Free Wisconsin Coalition for a FREE webinar and release of the "Understanding Alcohol-Related Older Adult Falls in Wisconsin" data report. Learn about the impacts of alcohol as we age and statewide alcohol-related falls data.

Speakers include:

- Elaina Andreychak, Wisconsin Department of Health Services
- Dr. Ben Weston, Medical College of Wisconsin
- Maureen Busalacchi, Wisconsin Alcohol Policy Project
- Suzanne Morley, Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging

Registration is required: <https://bit.ly/4gVFhZi>

View the flyer:

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008447>

Falls Free Wisconsin Coalition Webinar

Understanding Alcohol-Related Older Adult Falls in Wisconsin

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10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Join the Falls Free Wisconsin Coalition for a FREE webinar and release of the *Understanding Alcohol-Related Older Adult Falls in Wisconsin* data report. Learn about the impacts of alcohol as we age and statewide alcohol-related falls data. Speakers include:

- Elaina Andreychak, Wisconsin Department of Health Services
- Dr. Ben Weston, Medical College of Wisconsin
- Maureen Busalacchi, Wisconsin Alcohol Policy Project
- Suzanne Morley, Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging

Registration is required.
Register here: bit.ly/4gVFhZi

FallsFreeWI.org

Nice to Know

Reminder: Registration is now open for the 2025 Wise Wisconsin Virtual Learning Series!

Feb. 5 through March 12 | Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. on Zoom

Registration is required. Connection link will be sent out the Monday prior to the series and reminders will go out weekly. Sessions will be recorded and available on YouTube once they are available.

UW-Madison Division of Extension's Life Span program presents Wise Wisconsin Virtual Learning Series. Extension Faculty, staff and partners from around the state will host sessions on topics that will help you increase joy and satisfaction in your life, provide you with new skills and resources, and help you connect with others during the cold, snowy winter months. Registration includes all sessions.

Contact Sara Richie, Life Span Program Manager at sara.richie@wisc.edu with questions about the series

Registration: <https://bit.ly/3Cstp24>

Detailed session information:

<https://aging.extension.wisc.edu/programs/wise-wisconsin-program/>

YouTube recordings: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLWYkTfj_LDJYBR1mYv2h3IIndQp45gcU



WISE WISCONSIN
Virtual Learning Series

Join us on Wednesdays at 9am from February 5th - March 12th! This free series will have sessions on the following topics:

- **February 5:** Renovate Today, Stay Tomorrow:
How to Successfully Age in Place
- **February 12:** The Master Naturalist Program
- **February 19:** Inflation's Impact on Finances
- **February 26:** 8 Dimensions of Wellness
- **March 5:** The Art of Caregiving
- **March 12:** Edible Landscaping

To register, go to:
<https://go.wisc.edu/8517lv>



For archived recordings and program descriptions, go to:
<https://aging.extension.wisc.edu/programs/wise-wisconsin-program/>

Contact Sara Richie,
Life Span Program
Manager, at
sara.richie@wisc.edu
with questions about
the series.



Nutrition

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

Need to Know

Save the dates: 2025 Nutrition meeting dates

Meal Prioritization/Waitlist - "Right Meal & Services for You" Calls (9:00-10:00 a.m.)

An email with more detailed information about the updated resources will be sent before the meeting. The meetings are held on Teams and will be recorded.

- 1/24/25
- 2/21/25
- 3/21/25
- 6/20/25
- 8/15/25
- 11/14/25

[Click here to join the meeting now](#) | Meeting ID: 290 848 179 447 | Passcode: A4aREM
Dial in by phone | [+1 608-338-1382](tel:+16083381382), [451418114#](tel:+1608451418114) | Phone conference ID: 451 418 114#

Stepping Up Your Nutrition Leader Call (2:00 – 3:00 p.m.)

This call is for all the current and interested leaders of this fun, informative Nutrition Ed Class. Please join us and your peers. The call is held on Teams and will be recorded. Please let Pam VanKampen know if you have any questions about the class or how to become a leader. Pam.vankampen@gwaar.org

- 1/30/25
- 4/24/25
- 7/31/25
- 11/20/25

[Click here to join the meeting](#) | Meeting ID: 214 340 884 640 | Passcode: 9wS7VD
Or call in (audio only) | [+1 608-338-1382](tel:+16083381382), [83218773#](tel:+160883218773) | Phone Conference ID: 832 187 73#

-continued-

Dietitian/Diet Techs Call (2:00 – 3:00 p.m.)

Please save the date. Sara Koenig, the state dietitian, will be joining each call this year!

Agendas will be out closer to the date. Please let us know if you have any topics you would like featured.

Meetings will be held quarterly from 2 to 3 pm, are held on Teams and will be recorded. We will use this same login for each meeting. We look forward to an exciting year!

- 2/27/25
- 6/26/25
- 9/4/25
- 12/4/25

[Click here to join the meeting now](#) | Meeting ID: 234 136 223 685 | Passcode: Jd3WY9LN

Dial in by phone | [+1 608-338-1382](tel:+16083381382), [195045346#](tel:+1608338195045346) | Phone conference ID: 195 045 346#

Home-Delivered Meal Assessor Calls (2:00 – 3:00 p.m.)

We have increased the meetings to quarterly based on your feedback. Please let your GWAAR Nutrition Team Representative know what topics or discussion questions you have for your peers.

Meetings will be held quarterly from 2 to 3 p.m., are held on Teams and will be recorded. We will use this same login for each meeting. The GWAAR Nutrition Team (Jean, Lori, Pam and Ryan)

- 2/25/25
- 6/24/25
- 8/26/25
- 11/18/25

[Click here to join the meeting](#) | Meeting ID: 214 394 008 477 | Passcode: dgk4rb

Dial in by phone | [+1 608-338-1382](tel:+16083381382), [685336459#](tel:+1608338685336459) | Phone conference ID: 685 336 459#

Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol

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

Nice to Know

Reminder: New “Scam Spotlight” now available!

Check our new “Scam Spotlight” on the Wisconsin SMP website. This monthly feature will highlight a new scam impacting Medicare beneficiaries, also highlighting the way that SMP can help. The first spotlight focuses on resolutions that Medicare beneficiaries can make to PREVENT, DETECT, and REPORT Medicare-related fraud and scams.

Visit the website: <https://www.smpwi.org/>

Read the Scam Spotlight:

<https://www.smpwi.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/01-January-2025-New-Year.pdf>



Wisconsin SMP
January 2025 **SCAM SPOTLIGHT**
Welcome to 2025!

As we go into the New Year, we all make resolutions to follow.

The Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol has some resolutions for this year that you can use too!

Medicare Fraud is the intentional misuse or misrepresentation of information to receive payments, benefits, or services from Medicare. The fraudulent misuse of the system costs Medicare an approximately \$60 Billion per year. This affects not only Medicare beneficiaries, but everyone, as it is wasting taxpayer dollars and makes the Medicare system unstable for future generations. If your New Year's resolution is to protect yourself from scams this year, follow the steps below to help **PREVENT**, **DETECT**, and **REPORT** Medicare Fraud.

This year I will.....

PREVENT fraud.

The easiest way to stop Medicare fraud is by preventing it.

- Treat your Medicare card like a Social Security Card – Keep it in a safe location when not using and don't share it with anyone other than trusted healthcare professionals.
- Don't use your Medicare number for prize drawings or raffles.
- Be cautious of "free" medical services – Remember, someone always pays. Either you or Medicare!
- Know that Medicare won't call or visit to sell you anything

DETECT Medicare Fraud on my statements.

Detecting fraud is an important step in stopping it.

- Check your Medicare Summary Notices or other statements for:
 1. Services you did not receive
 2. Double-billing (being charged multiple times for the same service)
 3. Services provided that were not ordered by your doctor
- Use your My Health Care Tracker from Wisconsin SMP to keep a personal record of what happens at your healthcare appointments

REPORT any fraud I see.

If you do notice potential fraud on your Medicare Summary Notice or other statements, please report it:

- Call your Healthcare provider to see if it is an error
- Gather information and documentation
- Contact Wisconsin SMP at 1-888-818-2611

SMP
Senior Medicare Patrol
Preventing Medicare Fraud

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