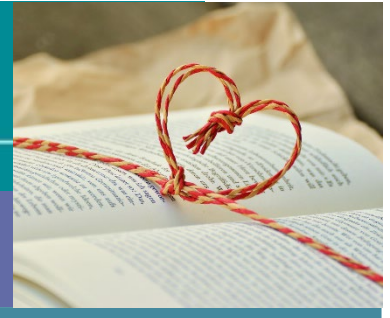




Volume 7, No. 6 February 11, 2025
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Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

Nice to Know

Did someone share this newsletter with you?

Would you like a copy delivered to your inbox? If so, simply [sign up](#) and you'll receive our weekly newsletter. You can find instructions and recent issues on our website.

If you've already signed up and are not receiving the newsletter, contact us at communications@gwaar.org and we can help troubleshoot any delivery issues.

Newsletter signup: <https://gwaar.org/newsletter-sign-up>

Signup and past issues: <https://gwaar.org/newsletters>



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.

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. For questions, contact Doreen Goetsch 608-219-5013 or 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 9:00am - 4:30pm

Location:
 Walworth County Health & Human Services Building
 1910 County Road NN, Elkhorn
[Register here.](#)

<https://wisdoj.eventbrite.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

Wisconsin Medicaid Coalition

Many changes to Medicaid are being discussed and developed at the federal level with an aim to reduce federal Medicaid spending. Proposed federal Medicaid cuts could be advanced in a continuing resolution or budget resolution bill, reconciliation bill(s), as part of a federal funding freeze, or a host of other mechanisms. The bottom line is no matter how these cuts would be implemented, they would have a severe negative impact on Wisconsin's Medicaid participants, providers, workers, and state and local budgets. The potential ramifications could be felt throughout the federal and state budgets, and not just on Medicaid programs but also far beyond Medicaid.

The Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR), Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities (BPDD), Disability Rights Wisconsin (DRW), and Kids Forward are convening a "big tent" coalition for organizations in Wisconsin with an interest in Medicaid. The goal of the Medicaid coalition is educating state and federal policymakers about what Medicaid means to Wisconsin, what proposed changes would mean for systems and individuals engaged with Wisconsin's Medicaid programs, and how it could impact federal funding for Wisconsin to support other programs and services.

If you are interested in receiving information regarding proposed changes to Medicaid and opportunities to engage on this issue (sign-on letters, action alerts, invitations to calls/ meetings with stakeholders/decision makers, etc.), please fill out this short online form: <https://forms.gle/eQmNR9P7a9biHXfe6>.

Once you complete the online form, you will be added to an email distribution list for information-sharing purposes. The distribution list will be managed by staff at DRW and information shared through the list will be vetted by the conveners.

Please feel free to share this invitation with others you think may be interested.

For additional information, see:

- [2025 Budget Stakes-Millions Could Lose Health Coverage or See Costs Rise](#) – Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
<https://www.cbpp.org/sites/default/files/1-30-25health-policybrief.pdf>
- [List of Medicaid programs in Wisconsin](#) – Wisconsin DHS
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p02383.pdf>
- [What Medicaid Brings to Wisconsin](#) – The Commonwealth Fund
<https://interactives.commonwealthfund.org/2025/medicaid-fact-sheets/Wisconsin.pdf>
- [10 Things to Know About Medicaid](#) – Caring Across Generations
<https://bit.ly/40Wjx9a>
- [Medicaid in Wisconsin](#) – KFF
<https://files.kff.org/attachment/fact-sheet-medicaid-state-WI>

Members of Congress will be in their district the week of February 17. You can request an in-district meeting, attend a listening session and talk about Medicaid, or ask them to hold a forum to hear directly from constituents about what Medicaid cuts would mean for them. See Wisconsin Members of the 119th Congress for contact information - <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008426>

Save the date: Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Day 2025

Tuesday, May 13 | 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Event registration will open on March 10

Additional information and sponsorship opportunities available:

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

Share the ad below in your newsletters and encourage your readers to join the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) in May.



Event participants will have a chance to share their stories and meet with their representatives.

Stay tuned for more information, including registration, coming soon!

Download the ad: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008462>

Registration opens March 10

Aging Advocacy Day!

May 13, 2025, Madison, WI

10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Registration and check-in begin at 9:00 a.m.

Best Western Premier Park Hotel, 22 S. Carroll St., Madison and the Wisconsin State Capitol

Share your story with state legislators about issues affecting older adults and caregivers in Wisconsin! Training is provided prior to your meetings with state lawmakers at the State Capitol.

Make a Difference. Let Your Voice Be Heard!

Aging Advocacy Day 2025 helps connect advocates with their legislators to share the WAAN priorities and discuss state policy solutions to improve the health and well-being of the state's older adults.

2025 priorities include: Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Investment, Direct Care Workforce Supports, Home-Delivered Meal Funding, and Healthy Aging Grants – Falls Prevention.

Registration opens March 10 at: <https://gwaar.org/aging-advocacy-day> or contact your local aging unit or ADRC.

Registration deadline is April 25, 2025
#WIAgingAdvocacyDay2025 #WIAAD



Plus, keep reading to check out many other advocacy opportunities happening in Wisconsin!

Nice to Know

Disability Advocacy Day 2025: Registration is Open!

Wednesday, March 12 | 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Monona Terrace, One John Nolen Drive, Madison, Wisconsin

Join the Survival Coalition in Madison on Wednesday March 12th with other advocates from around the state and meet with your elected officials. This is a great opportunity to share your story and educate your legislators on disability rights!



Survival Coalition

of Wisconsin Disability Organizations

-continued-

There is limited space available at Disability Advocacy Day and the names of each person who registers are sent to their legislators in advance. Please do not register unless you can commit to attending. We understand that emergencies come up. If you need to cancel, please email us as soon as possible at survivalcoalitionwi@gmail.com

Registration is free but required to attend. Registration deadline is February 26.

View the flyer: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008457>

Registration and schedule information: <https://bit.ly/42OUNCc>

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.



"Working Together to Protect Wisconsin Consumers" 2025 Consumer Protection Conference

Thursday, March 20 | 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Madison College - Goodman South Campus, 2429 Perry Street, Madison, WI

The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection's Bureau of Consumer Protection is hosting a Consumer Protection Conference for organizations that work with consumers and communities targeted by scams and fraud. This includes community-based organizations and chambers of commerce.

The conference, titled Working Together to Protect Wisconsin Consumers, includes:

- An update on consumer protection housing cases,
- An update on complaint reporting,
- How scammers' use of A.I. and cryptocurrency is impacting WI consumers,
- An understanding on how WI consumer protection agency resources are working together,
- Efforts by FTC & DATCP to reach different communities,
- A facilitated session on collaborating and the best ways to continue to work together,
- An opportunity to make connections with those who do similar work to your organization.

Attendance is free and lunch will be provided at no cost to registrants. Registration is required, limited to 100 attendees, and closes at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, February 28, 2025.

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



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: GWAAR PeerPlace Training

Watch for upcoming program specific GWAAR PeerPlace webinar trainings. We are also planning to host in the Spring (tent April-May) 6 in-person regional trainings. These are currently planned as 2-day trainings. We will also be working with GLITC to schedule a Tribal training. Stay tuned!

Notice: Back data entry into PeerPlace

Upon review it has been noticed that some Aging Units have entered data into PeerPlace prior to October 2024. Please note - we were instructed by the state to not enter any previous data (prior to Oct) into PeerPlace as that data has already been submitted to the Federal NAPIS report and will not be included in any reporting - especially for grants that are funded based directly on the number of services provided. Carrie Kroetz will be reaching out to each Aging Unit to review why entries were made and how to adjust.

Family Caregiver Support

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

Need to Know

New technical assistance resource available

Even if you are not new to the Caregiver Grant Programs, I encourage you to check out this new technical assistance resource! The

*Examples - Caregiver Coordinator Checklists and Letters compiles sample checklists to help you prepare for your visits with caregivers.

The sample letters offer suggested communication so that expectations are clear.

View the resource: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008191>



Reminder: Replay for Caregiver Coordinator Statewide call available

The recording, notes, and other meeting materials for the January 28 statewide call are now posted and can be found at <https://gwaar.org/wisconsin-caregiver-support-community-monthly-calls>.

Nice to Know

Reminder: Expert Tips for Caregiver Support Groups - Trualta Recorded Webinar

Are you a Caregiver Coordinator who would like to brush up on your Caregiver Support Group facilitation skills? Or maybe you are newer to your role as a Caregiver Coordinator and want to learn how to start and facilitate a Caregiver Support Group. In either case, Trualta has crafted a webinar training just for you! This webinar as well as other professional staff training, marketing materials, and resources can be found on the Wisconsin Trualta Staff Space page:

<https://trualta.docsend.com/view/s/qi6pwprjtjbeygp2>

Expert Tips for Caregiver Support Groups replay - Trualta: <https://vimeo.com/700493553/3ce9c94f41>



Reminder: Updated FAQs for NFCSP and AFCSP

Please continue to review the *FAQs for NFCSP and AFCSP - categorized - UPDATED document. It was just updated on 1-30-2025. This FAQ document includes information about PeerPlace, records retention, allowable use of program funds, and more.

View the updated FAQs: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008194>



Fiscal

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

Need to Know

GWAAR Fiscal 1st Quarter 2025 Webinar

Monday, February 17 | 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

GWAAR Fiscal Staff will be hosting their 1st Qtr 2025 webinar on February 17th from 10:30-12:00 (this will be recorded). This will cover 2024 closeout information and provide upcoming information for 2025. (Elder Abuse contract holders are optional to attend, but always welcome.)

Please register here: [GWAAR 2025 1st Quarter Fiscal Webinar Registration: https://bit.ly/3EkCZVw](https://bit.ly/3EkCZVw)

Upcoming Training

Watch for upcoming GWAAR Fiscal trainings as we are planning to host in the Spring (tent April-May) 6 in-person regional trainings. These are currently planned as one all-day trainings. We will also be working with GLITC to schedule a Tribal training. Stay tuned!

Claim Form Information

The December Claim is due February 5th and needs to include PeerPlace/SAMS data, as this needs to be reviewed by GWAAR staff before the Final claim submission in the event changes need to be addressed. We continue to wait for the ARPA contract and once we have that we'll post the Final Claim – submission deadline to be determined. Reminder this is a new contract, and the funds cannot be used for expenses prior to October 2024.

“Report 99” for PeerPlace data

Instructions to run reports in PeerPlace to gather your “Report 99” data to include on your December and Final claim forms were emailed out on 2/3/25 – this will also be posted within the Data Management library shortly.

Re-Obligations/De-Obligations requested

All agencies looking to request additional funds within the Title III grants or Elder Abuse must complete the online Re-ob/De-ob form by February 17th. Any requests after that date will only be considered if there are remaining funds to allocate. If your agency has contract funds remaining above the allowed carryover amount for that grant, please complete the de-obligation portion of this form located within Fiscal Resources library.

Budget to Actual

As this project continues to evolve we will be using the full 2024 calendar year expenses to compare against the 2024 budget by the end of April. As we go into 2025, this comparison will occur earlier in the Fall – stay tuned for more information and training.

Health Promotion

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

Need to Know

Reminder: Intergenerational Connections - Scripps AVID

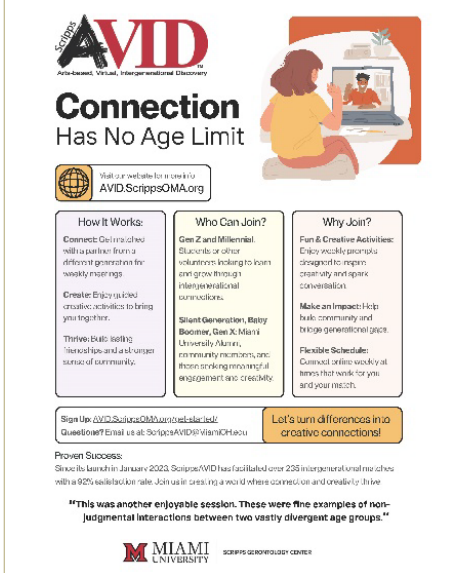
Scripps AVID is actively recruiting participants to be matched with students at Miami University starting the first week of March 2025. ScrippsAVID (Arts-based, Virtual, Intergenerational Discovery) is a digital platform designed to foster meaningful connections across generations through creative engagement. It pairs participants, based on availability and generational differences.

Through guided arts-based prompts, participants share music, storytelling, drawing, and conversation, creating opportunities for social connection, creativity, and personal growth. The program is designed to combat loneliness, bridge generational gaps, and build a supportive network where people at different life stages can learn from each other.

ScrippsAVID is FREE to use and has already facilitated 235 inter-generational matches, with participants reporting a 92% satisfaction rate.

For more information, contact Krysta Peterson at falascck@miamioh.edu

View the flyer: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008458>



The flyer for Scripps AVID features the logo 'AVID Arts-based, Virtual, Intergenerational Discovery' and the headline 'Connection Has No Age Limit'. It includes an illustration of a woman on a laptop. Key sections include: 'How It Works' (connecting participants from different generations for weekly meetings), 'Who Can Join?' (Gen Z and Millennials, Boomers, Gen X, Miami University Alumni), and 'Why Join?' (creative activities, making an impact, flexible schedule). It also provides contact information for Krysta Peterson and a testimonial from a participant.

Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol

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

Nice to Know

February Scam Spotlight: Looking for Love?

With Valentine's Day right around the corner, the February Scam Spotlight is focused on romance scams. Find out what "catfishing" is, and the red flags to watch out for. While this is not directly related to Medicare-related fraud and scams, many of the older adults we interact with at presentations and outreach events tell us stories of romance scams that either they or a friend or family member were involved in. The impact can be devastating.

View the February Scam Spotlight:

<https://www.smpwi.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/02-February-2025-Romance-Scam.pdf>



The flyer is titled 'Wisconsin SMP February 2025 SCAM SPOTLIGHT' and focuses on 'LOOKING FOR LOVE?'. It features a hand holding several small circular icons representing different scam tactics. The text provides a definition of catfishing, lists red flags such as 'Not sure if you're talking to a catfish?', 'Look for these red flags: You get a message from someone claiming to be a celebrity or even royalty. They will never do phone calls or video calls, claiming connectivity issues or a broken camera.', and 'They will profess strong feelings very early, saying that they are in love with you and can't live without you after only knowing you for a few days.' It also includes instructions on how to report a scam to the Federal Trade Commission and the Wisconsin State Police.