



Volume 7, No. 10 March 11, 2025
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Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

Nice to Know

Congratulations Jayne Mullins!



Please join us in celebrating Jayne Mullins, GWAAR OAA Consultant, as she embarks on her well-deserved retirement. Jayne's last day is March 14. Please join us in sending her off with our heartfelt wishes and gratitude.

Thank you, Jayne, for 25 plus years of dedication, hard work, and countless contributions.



Accepting applications: GWAAR Board of Directors and GWAAR 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

Direct Services Elder Abuse Training – May 15

Thursday, May 15 | 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Location: Dunn County Government Center
 3001 US Highway 12 East, Room 54, Menomonie, WI 54751

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

Registration:

<https://gwaar.org/menomomie-elder-abuse-training-5-15-25-registration>

View the flyer:

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewfile/id/2008483>



Date/Time:
 May 15, 2025 (8:00am - 4:30pm)
 Location:
 Dunn County Government Center
 3001 US Highway 12 East, Room 54, Menomonie, WI 54751
<https://wisdoj.eventbair.com/direct-services-elder-abuse-training/may15dunn>
 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
 - Enhancing services for older victims
 Any questions on this training, please contact Erika Dett 608-688-1578 or by email at Erika.Dett@gwaar.org

Advocacy

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

Need to Know



Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Day 2025 – Registration is open!

Tuesday, May 13, 2025, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Registration and information: <https://oneclickpolitics.global.ssl.fastly.net/promo/5m5>

Are you interested in issues affecting older adults and caregivers? Would you like to tell your legislator what aging/caregiver services mean/have meant to you, your family, or those you serve?

If you answered yes, please join members of the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN), aging network professionals, older adults, and family caregivers on **Tuesday, May 13** to “tell your story,” and help educate state legislators about issues impacting Wisconsin’s aging population.

Citizens from around the state will gather in Madison on Tuesday, May 13 for training, to meet with other constituents from your Senate and Assembly district, and for office visits with your legislators.

No experience is necessary; you’ll get the training and support you need before meeting with state lawmakers. Following the training, join others from your state Senate and Assembly district to provide information and share personal stories with your legislators to help them understand how specific policy issues and proposals impact you, your family, and older constituents.

The registration link is also posted at: <https://gwaar.org/aging-advocacy-day-2025>.

Check back regularly for updates!

ACTION ALERT UPDATE:

Urge Your Federal Lawmakers to Protect and Fund Critical Older Americans Act (OAA) Programs

Read the WAAN Advocacy Alert update: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008482>

All eyes are on the March 14 deadline to finalize FY 2025 spending, which is currently at FY 2024 levels under the current continuing resolution (CR). Congress needs to pass a full FY 2025 funding package or another CR by the deadline or risk a government shutdown.

THERE IS STILL TIME - TAKE ACTION NOW

Contact U.S. Senators Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson and your U.S. Representative to let them know how critical OAA funding is to the people you serve and to advocate for the highest possible level of funding (see USAgeing’s [Appropriations Chart](#)) for OAA programs and services, and to extend funding for MIPPA Medicare Low-Income Outreach and Enrollment programs.

-continued-

Find your Members' contact information on these websites: www.house.gov and www.senate.gov (or see **Wisconsin Members of the 119th Congress** - <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008426>).

USAgings' FY 2025 appropriations campaign page:

<https://www.usaging.org/content.asp?admin=Y&contentid=1618>

- **Put your requests in writing!** Use USAgings' customizable templates (AAA/Title VI) to help you format your letter and customize your asks to reflect your agency/program. Give your Members of Congress a sense of how your/their communities are affected—take the time to localize what this funding means for the older adults and caregivers in your community, tribe, or state. Check out USAgings' FY 2025 appropriations campaign page for additional resources. You are encouraged to use your agency's letterhead, but if that is not feasible, send it from your Governing Board, Advisory Council or even yourself as a private citizen. Or do all three!
- **Encourage your board and members to attend any of your federal legislators' virtual or in-person events** and ask that they put in a good word for OAA funding and its impact in your community.
- **Engage your provider network.** Urge your vendors/providers, advisory board members and other important stakeholders to send their own letters to Congress.

Please do all you can to amplify the message and engage others who understand the value of OAA in their communities!

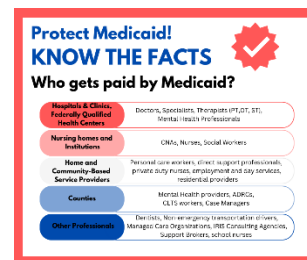
Nice to Know

Protect Medicaid social media toolkit available

To help educate the public and policymakers about the important role Medicaid services play in the health and well-being of 1.2 million Wisconsinites, the Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities (BPDD) has a new social media calendar of Medicaid infographics and text available for anyone to use over the next few weeks.

View the resources:

<https://app.box.com/s/nbeo49an0w46dke3god563i6cdswu93i>



Data Management

[Carrie Kroetz](#), Data Management and Technology Coordinator

Need to Know

Error Reporting 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. We will be reaching out to each Aging Unit to review why entries were made and how to adjust.

Counties Reporting Title VI Services into PeerPlace

Upon review it has been noticed that some County Aging Units have entered data into PeerPlace under the Funding Source of Title VI. We will be reaching out to each Aging Unit to review why entries were made and how to adjust.

-continued-

Program “Outreach” entry into PeerPlace

Upon review it has been noticed that some Aging Units have entered data into PeerPlace under the Program/Service of Outreach. We will be reaching out to each Aging Unit to review why entries were made and how to adjust.

Upcoming error Reports or View Builders to run in PeerPlace will be forthcoming.

“Report 99” for PeerPlace Data

Instructions to run reports in PeerPlace to gather your “Report 99” data were emailed out on 2/3/25 – this has also been posted in the Data Management and Fiscal Resources libraries on our SharePoint site.

Some brief information regarding data:

- Group entries (i.e. Public Information, Social Events and I&A entered into a group) were not transitioned into PeerPlace.
- Services which have a unit type of Sessions, while they must be reported into each individual client – and not as a group entry, will pull in reporting for now as 1 unique session for that Event Profiles entry.
- Under the Program of I&A (not NFCSP I&A) the current unit of service is listed as Hours, however it should state Contacts as it did in WellSky. BADR is addressing this with PeerPlace.

Upcoming GWAAR PeerPlace Training

GWAAR will be hosting weekly webinars on focus program areas and general Q&A sessions. The first webinar will be March 13 from 3-4pm. Registration for this training, and others, have been emailed and the registration links will be posted on the GWAAR SP site within Data Management-Library-Registrations. All webinars will be recorded if you are unable to attend.

We are also planning to host in the Spring (tent April-May) 6 in-person regional trainings. Additionally, we will be working with GLITC to schedule a Tribal focused training.

Dates/Locations/Registration Fees will be forthcoming.

Family Caregiver Support

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

Need to Know

Get ready for our Statewide Caregiver Coordinator March Meeting!

Tuesday, March 18 | 11:00 a.m.

📣 Attention Caregiver Coordinators! Don't miss important updates, resources, and discussions to support caregivers across Wisconsin! Mark your calendar and spread the word!

Check out the agenda here!

👉 <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008476>



Reminder: Trualta re-launch webinar replay available

In case you missed it! You can watch the Trualta Re-Launch Presentation and Training 2025 replay here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zR7OXmudtKE>

The link is also available on the Family Caregiver Support page of the

GWAAR website: <https://gwaar.org/family-caregiver-support-for-professionals>



Fiscal

[Carrie Kroetz](#), Data Management and Technology Coordinator

Need to Know

Upcoming Training

We are planning on hosting 6 in-person, regional trainings in April and May. These are currently planned as a one all-day training. We will also be working with GLITC to schedule a Tribal focused training.

Waivers for Title IIIB and IIIE

The link to the official request for the 2025 Waiver form for IIIB and IIIE has been posted under Fiscal Resources-Library-Links. All Aging Units must complete this form by March 25. These waivers are not guaranteed. Fiscal Staff and Aging Directors should meet to discuss your agency's request – only one submission should be made.

Claim Form Information

The January/February Claim form has been posted. Submissions by Wednesday, March 12th are scheduled to be processed, barring no issues. Reminder, contracts that rollover into the new year (NSIP, ARPA, SHIP, SPAP and MIPPA) will not be on this claim as remaining allocations from 2024 are not yet determined. Due to some changes on the claim for 2025, if you notice any issues, please let us know so we can address and correct as quickly as possible.

New information on the 2025 claim form:

- 1) Carryout Meals – if your agency is providing Carryout Meals, these expenses must now be allocated separately from the Home Delivered Meal service line.
- 2) Your agency will be asked if you include AMSO costs, if you include Indirect costs, the percentage of claimed Indirect costs, and if these costs are applied to each contract (N/A NSIP).
- 3) Reminder – AFCSP is no longer able to be used as match against the NFCSP contract. This went into effect as of January 1st, 2025.
- 4) For AFCSP and Elder Abuse we have added the option to capture agency funds that are used to supplement the program under Cash Match.

Re-Obligations/De-Obligations Requested

As soon as we have all Final claims in to verify remaining contract allocations, re-obligation requests will be finalized, and Aging Units will be notified as soon as possible.

Budget to Actual

Once we have all Final claims submitted and processed, we will send out the Budget to Actual forms for your agency to analyze and respond with discrepancies. More information will be forthcoming on how to complete this project.

Reminder: Dollars & Sense

Check this section for answers to your Fiscal questions.

Q: Will ARPA funds be available on the Jan/Feb 2025 claim?

A: ARPA B, D and E remaining funds, including NSIP, SHIP, SPAP, and MIPPA remaining funds, will not be available until the March claim once GWAAR has finished processing all Final claim form and can include the funds remaining onto the new 2025 claim.



-continued-

Q: Can I back out ARPA expenses applied before Oct 2024 to use up other contract funds, such as IIIB, on the Final Claim?

A: No, the 2024-2025 ARPA contract is a new contract, not an extension of the contract that ended on Sept. 30, 2024. Any expenses backed out would have to be against already applied expenses to the new ARPA contract from Oct-Dec 2024 which wouldn't be possible since it just was released and added to the claim form.

Health Promotion

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

Need to Know

May Quarterly Health Promotion Webinar

Tuesday, May 6 | 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Register here:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0qc--orTktGdPSWnNFkb0NS28WIN6Sagsd>

Save the Date! The next Quarterly Health Promotion Webinar will take place on Tuesday, May 6th from 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

This session will include important updates from GWAAR and the Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging (WIHA). The featured topic will be Compassion Resilience presented by Heather Quackenboss from the UW Madison Division of Extension in LaCrosse, WI. Compassion Resilience explores ways to maintain a compassionate presence in our interactions within our community including our colleagues, partners, neighbors, families, children and those we count on to support us. Throughout the presentation we will explore creating a culture of compassion while maintaining our own well-being.



Nutrition

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

Nice to Know

Unlock the Power of Nutrition for Healthy Aging webinar

Hosted by Wisconsin Institute for Health Aging (WIHA)

Wednesday, March 26 | 11:00 am.

Are you ready to take charge of your health and vitality as you age? Join us for an exciting webinar that dives into the essential vitamins and minerals older adults need to feel their best. Discover how small changes to your nutrition can make a big impact on your energy, immunity, and overall well-being! We'll explore the must-haves for healthy aging, like Vitamin D for strong bones, B12 for a sharp mind, and magnesium and potassium to keep your heart happy. Plus, we'll share practical tips on incorporating nutrient-rich foods into your meals and discuss when supplements might come in handy.

View the flyer: <https://bit.ly/41JNLfM>

Registration: <https://bit.ly/4iHYQ80>



Are you ready to take charge of your health and vitality as you age? Join us for an exciting webinar that dives into the essential vitamins and minerals older adults need to feel their best. Discover how small changes to your nutrition can make a big impact on your energy, immunity, and overall well-being!

We'll explore the must-haves for healthy aging, like Vitamin D for strong bones, B12 for a sharp mind, and magnesium and potassium to keep your heart happy. Plus, we'll share practical tips on incorporating nutrient-rich foods into your meals and discuss when supplements might come in handy. Join us!



Speaker: Pam VanKampen
Registered Dietitian
Nutritionist (RD/N)
GWAAR
March 26
11-12pm
Free Webinar

Scan the QR Code
to Register:



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WISCONSIN
HEALTHY AGING
AGENCY

Reminder: ACL Senior Nutrition Program Anniversary

Every March, ACL celebrates its Senior Nutrition Program and the services it has provided to millions of older Americans since 1972. The program anniversary is an opportunity to promote the program's purpose and impact, engage with partners, and applaud the achievements of the aging services network. Our 2025 theme, A Place at the Table, recognizes the importance of local nutrition programs and the meals being served in communities across the country.

Learn more: <https://acl.gov/snp/celebrate>



Senior Centers

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

Nice to Know

Senior Center Summit: Mental Wellness

Thursday, March 27 | 12:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Join the NCOA on March 27 for the next Senior Center Summit, focusing on Mental Wellness.

Senior centers play a crucial role in supporting healthy aging in their communities and mental health is a vital component. This summit is designed for senior center professionals looking to deepen their understanding, expand their skills, and implement effective mental wellness strategies in their communities.

In these three sessions, you will hear from professionals working in different roles across the aging network to improve the mental well-being of older adults. This is an opportunity for you to gain practical insights, explore valuable training programs, and connect with peers dedicated to strengthening mental health support for older adults. Join us and be part of the conversation.

To learn more and register, please visit: <https://bit.ly/3FIQ0P2>



Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol

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

Nice to Know

March Scam Spotlight now available!

The March Scam Spotlight focuses on the importance of reviewing Medicare Summary Notices.

The only way to know if a Medicare number is being misused is by reviewing Medicare Summary Notices.

This spotlight provides examples of what to look for and some additional resources to learn more about how to read a Medicare Summary Notice.

Read the March Scam Spotlight:

<https://www.smpwi.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/03-March.pdf>

Wisconsin SMP
March 2025 **SCAM SPOTLIGHT**

Detecting Fraud on Your Medicare Statements

Did you know that there is approximately \$60 BILLION lost from Medicare every year due to Fraud, Error, and Abuse? That is a lot of money lost for the Medicare program. Unfortunately, most of the money lost is never recovered. Because of this, the best way to handle Medicare fraud is to prevent it from happening in the first place. We can do this by protecting our Medicare number and only sharing it with our trusted healthcare providers. But what if something does happen? How do we know if our number has been compromised?

Do you read your Medicare Summary Notice (MSN)?

The only way to know if our Medicare number is being misused is by reading our Medicare Summary Notice (MSN) or our Explanation of Benefits (EOB). These statements are mailed out every 1-3 months and summarize all the services and products charged to your Medicare within the listed timeframe. You can also receive these electronically on www.Medicare.gov. We should be reviewing these statements often. We are looking for the following:

- **Products or services that you never received**
Example: Seeing a charge for a wheelchair that you were not prescribed.
- **Double-billing**
Example: Being charged multiple times for a single back brace.
- **Up coding**
Example: Having a \$10 blood test charged as a \$100 cancer screening.

Need help reading your MSN?

You can visit Medicare's [website](http://www.Medicare.gov) to download sample MSNs with a breakdown of each section of the MSN. The SMP National Resource Center also has an excellent 12-minute tutorial about [how to read an MSN](#) on their YouTube channel. For a shorter video on [what to look for in your MSN](#), visit the Milwaukee County Department on Aging's YouTube channel.

SMP
Senior Medicare Patrol
Preventing Medicare Fraud

This project was supported, in part, by grant number 81VPP03026, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201.

Reminder: Spring edition of The Scoop is now available

This issue of the SMP Scoop highlights a new resource, the Scam Spotlight, and provides information about the benefits of lifelong exercise and brain health, safe travel tips, data privacy tips, justice served, and so much more!

You are welcome (and encouraged) to share this newsletter with anyone you think might find the information useful – whether it be consumers, Medicare beneficiaries, neighbors, family and friends, those who work with older adults, etc. Please feel free to contact the Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol if you have any questions.

We can be reached at our toll-free helpline, (888) 818-2611 or by email, smp-wi@gwaar.org.

View the Spring edition of The Scoop:

<https://www.smpwi.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Scoop-Spring-2025-Issue.pdf>

The SMP SCOOP
PROTECT DETECT REPORT
SPRING 2025

A New Resource From Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol

By Ingrid Kunderger, Wisconsin SMP Program Director

Wisconsin SMP SCAM SPOTLIGHT

One of the pillars of the Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) mission is education. Our goal is to educate Wisconsin Medicare beneficiaries, their family members, and caregivers about Medicare fraud, and we do this in various ways.

- Presentations
- One-on-one discussions at senior expos and resource fairs
- Telephone conversations with people who call our toll-free helpline with concerns
- Our team of volunteers sharing SMP information with their friends and communities
- Articles and advertisements in many Aging and Disability Resource Center and Senior Center newsletters across the state as well as other publications

Social media posts
This newsletter
Our website

Speaking of our website, did you know we have one? If you have access to a computer, have you ever visited our site? If not, we encourage you to check it out. There's a new focus that we hope will help us share information... the Scam Spotlight!

The Scam Spotlight is a monthly focus on something we think is important for you to know and share with others. Often it will be related to Medicare related fraud and scams, but will also cover other types of scams impacting older people.

Visit our website, www.smpwi.org, and you'll notice a banner on the home page that will take you to the Scam Spotlight information.

GWAAR
Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources, Inc.

SMP
Senior Medicare Patrol
Preventing Medicare Fraud

The Wisconsin SMP program is supported, in part, by grant number 81VPP03026, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201. Wisconsin's funding priority center grants are awarded to various providers for training and consultation. None of our opinions or risk analysis, necessarily represent official recommendations for Community Living only.