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Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

Need to Know

2025 ACL National Survey of Older Americans Act Participants (NSOAAP)

This message is to let our aging network partners know that GWAAR has been selected to participate in the Administration for Community Living's (ACL) *National Survey of Older Americans Act Participants* (NSOAAP). This nationwide survey, in which GWAAR has participated for several years, is conducted by the research firm *Westat*. The NSOAAP survey involves staff from Westat contacting Title III program participants regarding their level of satisfaction with county aging programs accessed over the past 12 months.

Our agency's role involves uploading to Westat's server randomly selected data on a number of OAA program participants who received a Title III service sometime over the past 12 months. Of that set, approximately 120 individuals will be selected and contacted about participating in the survey. Individuals may 'opt out' should they not be interested in participating. Caregivers who are contacted are provided the option of completing an online survey or setting up a time to complete a phone interview. At all points anyone contacted may choose to not complete the survey.

We are honored to again be working on this survey project. Involvement of program clients in completing the survey, "... is vital to providing ACL with representative estimates each year to meet Congressional requirements and support ACL budget requests, which are critical to improving long-term services and supports for all consumers." (ACL notification letter). While the NSOAAP relates specifically to program users of county-based aging programs ACL does collect similar data on nutrition, caregiver, and supportive services provided to Native Americans under Title VI of the Older Americans Act (see: <https://agid.acl.gov/release.html>).

Former GWAAR staff member, Jayne Mullins, who handled this activity in the past has recently retired. If you have questions, please contact Carrie Kroetz at carrie.kroetz@gwaar.org.

Nice to Know

Now hiring: Elder Abuse Program Specialist

The Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging, Resources, Inc. (GWAAR) is seeking a 30 hour per week Elder Abuse Program Specialist.

Are you passionate about protecting older adults and strengthening elder abuse prevention services? Do you have expertise in Adult Protective Services (APS) or programs serving older adults? If so, we invite you to apply for the Elder Abuse Program Specialist position.

As the Elder Abuse Program Specialist, you will serve as a subject matter expert, providing technical assistance and strategic support to various agencies in Wisconsin. You will work closely with bureau staff, counties, tribes, and various agencies to enhance elder abuse prevention efforts.



-continued-

This 30-hour per week, remote position operates during standard business hours and requires some travel within Wisconsin, including occasional overnight stays.

Send cover letter and resume to Jean Lynch, Program Specialist Manager, Jean.lynch@gwaar.org

View the full job description: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008472>

View the posting on gwaar.org: <https://gwaar.org/jobs>

Reframing Aging and Disability in Wisconsin

Don't leave change to chance – create it! Join the movement! You are invited to join Wisconsin's network of passionate leaders who seek to change the way our society thinks and talks about aging and disability. With the advent of evidence-based framing strategies through the National Center to Reframe Aging (NCRA) and their research partner, the Frameworks Institute, industry leaders and advocates see an opportunity to make a meaningful impact that advances age-inclusive policies. While this initial work is focused on aging, there is relevance for the disability community, and advocates continue to seek out equally impactful resources that speak more directly to ableism. We are committed to addressing both ageism and ableism, as they are closely linked and can have a significant impact on quality of life.

Click on the link for more information and/or to join our Reframing Aging and Disability Wisconsin Champions List: <https://wiha.wufoo.com/forms/w152jg3f0s6pwd6/>



In the news: ELAC and Medicare plans

GWAAR Elder Law & Advocacy Center attorney Amanda Grady was recently quoted in U.S. News & World Report's article "When and How to Change Your Medicare Plan."



Read the article:

<https://health.usnews.com/medicare/articles/when-and-how-to-change-your-medicare-plan>

In the news: Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol

Wisconsin SMP is always pleased for the opportunity to contribute to local Medicare fraud stories. If someone you know may have been the victim of fraud, please do not hesitate to reach out to Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol at 888-818-2611 for free, confidential assistance.

View this story on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1AbmzehHtx/>

Watch the WBAY segment: <https://bit.ly/4c4Uztv>

Additional resources are available on the SMP website:

<https://www.smpwi.org/>

Elaborate Medicare phone scam targets seniors

A Suamico woman was told her Medicare benefits were terminated



Reminder: 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>



Reminder: DHS 2025-2027 Biennial Budget Briefings

The Department of Health Services (DHS) is hosting a series of focused budget briefings for partners highlighting critical portions of Governor Evers' 2025-2027 DHS budget.



**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
of HEALTH SERVICES**

Improving Mental Health and Crisis Services

Thursday, April 3 | 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Mental health and crisis services remain critical as Wisconsin's kids, families, and workforce continue to struggle to find the help they need. Recognizing that behavioral health is essential to overall wellness, Gov. Evers' budget builds on past efforts to support Wisconsin's mental and behavioral health infrastructure, especially as levels of anxiety, depression, self-harm, and suicidal thoughts among youth across the state continue to rise at concerning rates. This budget makes significant investments in expanding the availability of behavioral health services so Wisconsinites in all stages of life can receive care closer to home.

This DHS budget briefing will focus on key behavioral health initiatives included in Governor Evers' 2025-2027 biennial budget. **Improving Mental Health and Crisis Services Registration:** <https://bit.ly/3FDmmVx>

Access to Care

Tuesday, April 8 | 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

For too many people, accessing quality health care is out of reach. To build a healthier Wisconsin, we need to shrink barriers to care by improving our public health coverage programs and private health insurance market. The governor's budget takes advantage of common-sense solutions to these problems, many of which have already been adopted in nearly every other state in the country.

This DHS budget briefing will focus on investments included in the budget that aim to make health care more accessible and affordable. **Access to Care Registration:** <https://bit.ly/4kDKQhE>

Investing in Long-Term Care

Wednesday, April 23 | 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Whether it's a family member, friend, or neighbor, we all know an older adult who has made a difference in our lives and our communities. After giving so much to Wisconsin, they deserve Wisconsin to respect, support, and protect them as they age.

Gov. Evers' budget advances the safety and dignity of older adults and people with disabilities and makes significant investments to bolster, stabilize, and support long-term care providers across the state.

This DHS budget briefing will focus on investments that will provide meaningful supports throughout all stages of life. **Investing in Long-Term Care Registration:** <https://bit.ly/3ReLuV0>

Abuse in Later Life Grant

Need to Know

Reminder: Direct Services Elder Abuse Training – May 15

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

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.

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

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.

Registration:

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

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



Advocacy

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

Need to Know

ACTION ALERT: Ask Your State Legislators to Protect Wisconsin's Caregiver Support Programs

Senate Bill 152 removes income requirements for the Alzheimer's Family and Caregiver Support Program (AFCSP) to align with the federal National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP). Removing income-based eligibility requirements from AFCSP will protect \$3.5 million in annual federal NFCSP funding and ensure support remains accessible to all families.

This legislation (SB 152):

- **Protects Federal Funding:** Secures federal NFCSP dollars vital for caregivers.
- **Supports Care at Home:** Makes resources like adult day care and home modifications available.
- **Reduces Healthcare Costs:** Allows individuals to remain at home longer.
- **Strengthens Family Support:** Ensures no family is left behind.

Take Action: Go to SB 152 to see if your state Senator and Assembly Representative are signed on as sponsors/ cosponsors on the bill. If yes, please send them a message thanking them for their support of family caregivers. If no, contact them and ask them to protect family caregiver programs by signing on in support of SB 152. Let them know how critical family caregiver supports are to you, your family, and/or those you serve. For more information regarding this request see WAAN's AFCSP Issue Brief:

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008453>

View SB 152: <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/raw/proposal/2025/-1910>

Read the full Action Alert: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008503>

Reminder: State Budget Hearings Announced

The state's Joint Finance Committee's State Budget Hearings have been announced - <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/raw/cid/1909520>.

- April 2 – Kaukauna High School, Kaukauna
- April 4 – Wisconsin State Fair Park, West Allis
- April 28 – Hayward High School, Hayward
- April 29 – Northcentral Technical College, Wausau

The above budget hearings will take place between 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Plan to attend and make your voice heard!

If you are unable to attend one of the above budget hearings, written comments can be sent to the Committee via an online portal at <https://legis.wisconsin.gov/topics/budgetcomment> by email at budget.comments@legis.wisconsin.gov or sent via U.S. mail to: Joe Malkasian, Room 305 East, State Capitol, Madison, WI 53702. Individuals needing assistance, pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, should contact Becky Hannah, Legislative Fiscal Bureau, One East Main Street, Suite 301, Madison, WI 53703 (608) 266-3847 • Fax (608) 267- 6873 • Email: Fiscal.Bureau@legis.wisconsin.gov.

For details and talking points on WAAN's budget priorities see: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008488>.

For tips on testifying before the Joint Finance Committee see: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2006628>

Reminder: Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Day 2025 – Registration is open!

*Tuesday, May 13, 2025,
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 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 for training, to meet with other constituents from your Senate and Assembly district, and for office visits with your legislators.

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



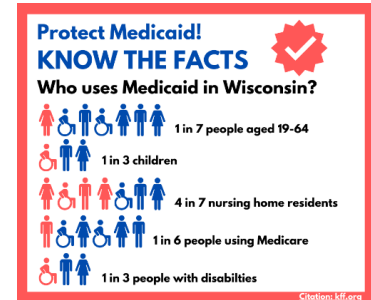
Nice to Know

Update: Protect Medicaid social media toolkit available

The Wisconsin Survival Coalition of Disability Organizations updated their social media calendar of Protect Medicaid posts through April 2. The calendar/toolkit includes daily graphics, text for your social media posts, and alt. text for the graphics (for accessibility purposes). Feel free to choose and use any of the graphics and texts on any given day, not just the day they are listed in the calendar. You can access the full social media calendar using the link below:

View the resources:

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



Data Management

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

Need to Know

Upcoming Training

In-person training dates and locations have been scheduled (no virtual option). Registration links will be posted on the GWAAR SharePoint site under the Aging Programs – Data Management – Library.

Location	Address	Mtg Date
Iowa County Health and Human Services	303 W. Chapel St., Dodgeville, WI 53533	4/25/2025
Holiday Inn Express & Suites Hayward	15586 Co Rd B, Hayward, WI 54843	5/5/2025
Holiday Inn Eau Claire South I-94	4751 Owen Ayres Ct, Eau Claire, WI 54701	5/8/2025
Walworth County Health and Human Services	1910 County Rd NN, Elkhorn, WI 53121	5/16/2025
TBD	Antigo	TBD - May/June
TBD	Appleton	TBD - May/June

Each location is limited to 50 attendees (Iowa location is limited to 35). Lunch and training materials will be provided. Internet access will be available – please feel free to bring a laptop. Non-refundable registration fee is \$25 per person. Any cancellations for attending must be made 10 days prior to date of session.

We will be working with GLITC to schedule a Tribal focused training. We hope to have all tentative dates schedule within two weeks.

Error Reporting Notice

Find the most recent Error Reporting updates on the GWAAR SharePoint site: (registered users)

<https://gwaar.sharepoint.com/sites/GWAARAgging-External/SitePages/Data%20Management.aspx>

Upcoming GWAAR PeerPlace Training

GWAAR will be hosting weekly webinars on focus program areas and general Q&A sessions.

Thursday, March 27 | 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

This week's webinar training will be a Q&A session and be held on Thursday, March 27th, from 9-10am. Registration for this training, and others, have been emailed and the registration links will be posted on the GWAAR SharePoint site within Data Management | Library | Registrations. A reminder notice will be sent out the day of. **All webinars will be recorded if you are unable to attend.**

Family Caregiver Support

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

Need to Know

Replay for Caregiver Coordinator Statewide call available

The recording, notes, and other meeting materials for the March 18 statewide call are now posted and can be found at <https://gwaar.org/wisconsin-caregiver-support-community-monthly-calls>.

Watch the replay: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-gtSBNbs0rw>

Nice to Know


WDRN Webinar: Dementia and Pre-Crisis Planning

Thursday, April 3 | 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

The 90-minute webinar will feature a panel of experts on pre-crisis planning for those living with dementia and their families. Panelists will share pre-crisis best practices for planning, education, and prevention. Attendees will learn how they and their communities can support families in becoming better equipped to navigate the challenging journey of caring for someone with cognitive changes. The session will provide concrete examples and programs that can be customized and replicated by communities and professionals in various settings.

Click here to register: <https://bit.ly/4imHPAf>


Learn more: <https://wai.wisc.edu/event/wdrn-webinar-dementia-and-pre-crisis-planning/>





Wisconsin Dementia Resource Network

Webinar: **Dementia and Pre-Crisis Planning**
Thursday, April 3, 2025 • 11:30am - 1:00pm

The 90-minute webinar will feature a panel of experts on pre-crisis planning for those living with dementia and their families. Panelists will share pre-crisis best practices for planning, education, and prevention. Attendees will learn how they and their communities can support families in becoming better equipped to navigate the challenging journey of caring for someone with cognitive changes. The session will provide concrete examples and programs that can be customized and replicated by communities and professionals in a variety of settings.

 **Carrie Peters**
Senior Sergeant
Appleton Police Department
Topics: collaborative programs for families, first responders, and other local organizations

 **Polly Shoemaker**
WI Guardianship Support Center Attorney
Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging, Inc.
Topics: legal documents/advance directives, guardianship, protective placement

 **Karen Tennyson, MSW, LCSW, CDP**
Dementia Care Specialist
Aging and Disability Resource Center of Rock County
Topics: why do a plan, preparing family and conducting a family meeting, the Purple Tube Program

The Zoom webinar is free, but registration is required: **Pre-Crisis Planning**
Please contact Jody Krainer at jkrainer@wisc.edu with questions.

Advancing Education, Research, Clinical Care, and Community

Fiscal

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

Need to Know

Upcoming Training

In-person training dates and locations have been scheduled (no virtual option). Registration links will be posted on the GWAAR SharePoint site under the Fiscal Resources – Library.

Location	Address	Mtg Date
Walworth County Health and Human Services	1910 County Rd NN, Elkhorn, WI 53121	4/23/2025
Iowa County Health and Human Services	303 W. Chapel St., Dodgeville, WI 53533	4/24/2025
Holiday Inn Express & Suites Hayward	15586 Co Rd B, Hayward, WI 54843	5/6/2025
Holiday Inn Eau Claire South I-94	4751 Owen Ayres Ct, Eau Claire, WI 54701	5/7/2025
Antigo NorthStar Lanes Banquet Center	400 Prosser Pl, Antigo, WI 54409	5/20/2025
Fox Valley Tech	1825 N Bluemound Drive Appleton WI 54914	5/21/2025

Each location is limited to 50 attendees (Iowa location is limited to 35). Lunch and training materials will be provided. Internet access will be available – please feel free to bring a laptop. Non-refundable registration fee is \$25 per person. Any cancellations for attending must be made 10 days prior to date of session.

GLITC to schedule a Tribal focused training – current tentative date is July 23rd, Red Cliff Tribe will be hosting.

Claim Form Information (Fiscal)

Find the most recent claim form updates on the GWAAR SharePoint site:
<https://gwaar.sharepoint.com/sites/Fiscal-External> (registered users)

Health Promotion

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

Nice to Know

Reminder: Statewide Virtual Planning AHEAD Series

April 10 - May 22 | 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Registration Fee: \$25 (Includes hard copy or digital materials)

Space is limited. Register here: <https://go.wisc.edu/20plp0>

National Healthcare Decisions Day is observed annually on April 16th and serves as a reminder to think about, plan and document your healthcare wishes, encouraging everyone to ensure their preferences are known and respected.

Celebrate by participating in the statewide virtual Planning AHEAD series. Planning AHEAD is an end-of-life planning curriculum for all ages developed by UW-Madison Division of Extension faculty and staff. This 7-session program will help participants understand how to prepare for the end of life for themselves or a loved one, and why it's important to have a plan in place.

This program and workbook were designed for residents in Wisconsin and is specific to Wisconsin law. For more information go to: <https://aging.extension.wisc.edu/programs/planning-ahead/>

For more information on Planning AHEAD, contact Life Span Program Manager, Sara Richie by email at sara.richie@wisc.edu



Reminder: 2025 Healthy Aging Summit - Aging is Living

Thursday, May 15, 2025

Sentry World, Stevens Point

Conference Fee: \$165.00 Registration closes May 1st, 2025

Registration:

<https://wihealthyaging.org/healthy-aging-summit/>

The Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging (WIHA) is excited to present the 2025 Healthy Aging Summit, a dynamic event dedicated to exploring research, programs, and strategies that support healthy aging. This year's theme, "Aging is Living", celebrates the opportunities, vitality, and resilience that come with aging. From engaging sessions to networking opportunities, this is an event you won't want to miss!



Nutrition

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

Nice to Know

Nutrition Ed Bingo!

You may have seen *The March Next Bite - News* from the [Nutrition and Aging Resource Center](#) this month. GWAAR was honored to have one of our Nutrition Ed initiatives featured that an Intern created a few years ago. I have created a document that goes along with the Bingo Cards to help you use them for Nutrition Education.

View the Nutrition Ed Bingo Notes Page: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008489>

You can download the Bingo Cards, and Nutrition Ed Nutrition Tips & Talking Points for each Call item on our [Nutrition Program](#) SharePoint site in the Nutrition Education Folder and then in the Nutr Ed Bingo Sub-folder. Please reach out with any questions.

Pam.vankampen@gwaar.org

Nutrition and Aging Resource Center: <https://acl.gov/senior-nutrition>

Nutrition Program SharePoint Site (for registered users):

<https://gwaar.sharepoint.com/sites/GWAARaging-External/SitePages/Nutrition.aspx>



Reminder: 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!

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

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

Age Well

Unlock the Power of Nutrition for Healthy Aging

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)
GWAAR

March 26
11-12pm
Free Webinar

Scan the QR Code to Register:

WIHA
Wisconsin Institute for Health Aging
March 26, 2024

Senior Centers

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

Nice to Know

Reminder: 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.



Connect

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.

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

Volunteerism

[Nick Musson](#), *Older Americans Act Consultant – Transportation*

Nice to Know

Wisconsin Volunteer Coordinator Association Annual Conference May 7-9

Doubletree by Hilton in Pleasant Prairie, WI

Registration deadline: April 4

Wisconsin Volunteer Coordinator Association's (WVCA) goal is to offer all attendees' access to quality educational opportunities, a chance to interact with peers, and make new connections through speakers, individual session and activities. This year's 54th annual conference is titled "Find Your Spark" and brings an incredible schedule full of educational presentations, networking opportunities and more. The Keynote session is titled "A Chance for Awesome: How Changing the Way You See Changes Everything" by Jason Kotecki who will teach the attendees how to recognize opportunities in roadblocks and how to see dead ends as new beginnings. There is so much going on with this conference, it's important to check it out yourself. To learn more about the conference offerings and or to register, please visit: <https://wvca35.wildapricot.org/2025-Conference>.



Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol

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

Nice to Know

Check out "SMP in the news" on page 2 of this newsletter!

Or, watch the WBAY news segment here: <https://bit.ly/4c4Uztv>

Elaborate Medicare phone scam targets seniors

