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Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

Need to Know

Second quarter ACE Meeting next week

Wednesday, April 9 | 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

Watch for updates on the GWAAR SharePoint site and in next week's newsletter.

Third quarter: Wednesday, July 9 - In-person Stevens Point

Fourth quarter: Wednesday, October 8 - virtual



Reminder: 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.

Read more in the March 25 Weekly Digest: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008505>

Read more on the GWAAR SharePoint site (registered users): <https://bit.ly/3RB9vFX>

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

Reminder: 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.

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

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



Reminder: Reframing Aging and Disability in Wisconsin

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.

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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.

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/>

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.



Improving Mental Health and Crisis Services

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

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

Access to Care

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

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

Investing in Long-Term Care

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

This DHS budget briefing will focus on investments that will provide meaningful supports throughout all stages of life. **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. | Menomonie

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/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

WI Aging & Disability Groups Respond to HHS Restructuring

[This release](#) was issued by Wisconsin aging & disability groups (including GWAAR last Friday (3/28/25) morning, in response to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) [announcement](#) last Thursday (3/27) regarding the downsizing and restructuring of the department, including eliminating the Administration for Community Living (ACL) which oversees many programs and services for older adults and people living with disabilities.

Read the release: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewfile/id/2008511>

View the announcement:

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/hhs-restructuring-doge-fact-sheet.html>

HHS will reduce its workforce by an additional 10,000 full-time employees (10,000 HHS employees have already accepted buyouts and early retirement offers), consolidate the Department's divisions from 28 to 15, and close five regional offices. HHS's plan includes terminating 300 employees with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), primarily within the Office of Program Operations and Local Engagement, responsible for overseeing the coverage of 60 million Medicare Advantage and marketplace enrollees. The Office of Minority Health, which addresses health disparities in Medicare and Medicaid, will also face downsizing.

The restructuring dissolves the Administration for Community Living (ACL), which supports older adults and people with disabilities, and splits the programs it oversees, **including the Older Americans Act Programs**, across the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

Local, state, and national partners are doing everything we can to safeguard Older Americans Act program and funding and other critical services for older adults and people living with disabilities. Additional information will be shared as it becomes available, as well as specific advocacy actions.

Reminder: State Budget Hearings Announced

Plan to attend and make your voice heard! <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.

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>

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.

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



Nice to Know

April 16 is National Healthcare Decisions Day

National Healthcare Decisions Day is celebrated annually on April 16th, the day after the date traditionally known as Tax Day. The date was chosen based on this quote from Benjamin Franklin, "...in this world, nothing is certain except death and taxes." So, by April 15th of each year make sure your taxes are completed and on April 16th review your health care wishes.

NHDD is a way to encourage people to have conversations about their wishes for care through the end of life. This day, as well as events held throughout the year, are intended to empower people to complete advance directives by providing education on the importance of advance care planning and sharing the tools (forms, resources, guides, training) to help them express their wishes regarding healthcare.

Below are a few of the NHDD resources available:

Wisconsin Advance Care Planning and Advance Directive Information:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hQRKHcXCEZQ21pdEYITo5ExaOuQbr6-L/view>

What is Advance Care Planning (ACP) and Advance Directive (AD)?:

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008509>

Your Path to Get What You Want: Advance Care Planning For Health Care & Financial Choices:

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewfile/id/2008510>

The Conversation Project: <https://theconversationproject.org/nhdd/>



Share local events

Numerous events are held each year in April, as well as throughout the year. If you are holding an advance directives workshop or training in your area, **please send us your event information** to share.

Dr. George Lange, representing [Wisconsin Medical Society](#) has indicated a willingness to help others with Advance Care Planning (CP) and Advance Directive (AD) presentations. He can be reached at glange1@hotmail.com.

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). Additional information was posted in the March 18 & 25 Weekly Digests. **Space is limited. Register here:** <https://go.wisc.edu/20plp0>

Additional NHDD information, resources and events:

<https://gwaar.org/national-healthcare-decisions-day-nhdd-april-16-2025>

Data Management

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

Need to Know

Update: 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.

PeerPlace Training		
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
Comfort Suites Appleton Airport **NEW**	3809 W Wisconsin Ave, Appleton, WI 54914	5/22/2025
Antigo NorthStar Lanes Banquet Center (TRIBAL ONLY) **NEW**	400 Prosser Pl, Antigo, WI 54409	5/28/2025
Antigo NorthStar Lanes Banquet Center **NEW**	400 Prosser Pl, Antigo, WI 54409	5/29/2025

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. Each participant must register separately. Registrations are due 14 days prior to the session. *Virtual attendance and recording will not be available.* (This training will not cover EBS data entry.) **A confirmation email will be sent to you within 5 business days, along with an invoice for payment.** Payment will be required for no-shows or cancellations.

Error Reporting Notice

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

<https://gwaar.sharepoint.com/sites/GWAARAgng-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, April 3 | 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

This week's webinar training will focus on Supportive Services (to include Case Management, Adult Day Care, Personal Care, Homemaker, Chore and I&A). 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

Reminder: 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=-gtSBNbsOrw>

Nice to Know

Reminder: 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.

Fiscal Training		
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. Each participant must register separately. Registrations are due 14 days prior to the session. *Virtual attendance and recording will not be available.* (Elder Abuse and Domestic Violence contract holders need not attend.) **A confirmation email will be sent to you within 5 business days, along with an invoice for payment.** Payment will be required for no-shows or cancellations.

GLITC to schedule a Tribal focused training.

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

Need to Know

Stepping On 2025 Facilitator Trainings

Due to high demand, the June Stepping On facilitator training will now be held virtually! Now is the time to implement or spread the reach of the Stepping On in your community. Stepping On is researched and proven to reduce falls by 31%. This evidence-based falls prevention program helps older adults reduce their risk of falls, improve their ability to safely navigate their environment, and ultimately, increase their quality of life.



The Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging (WIHA) has two (2) more virtual Stepping On facilitator trainings this year:

*June 24-26

*September 16-18

Trainings will be held from 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. CST. You can count on WIHA to provide technical support before, during and after the training.

*Note: Applications close 5 weeks before training. Cost = \$525.00

Become a Facilitator link: <https://wihealthyaging.org/for-professionals/become-a-facilitator/>

Training Application: <https://wiha.wufoo.com/forms/s8d8tpv0cls7ng/>

If you have questions about the Stepping On Program, please contact Suzanne Morley at suzanne.morley@wihealthyaging.org

Nice to Know

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!



Volunteerism

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

Nice to Know

Reminder: 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>.

