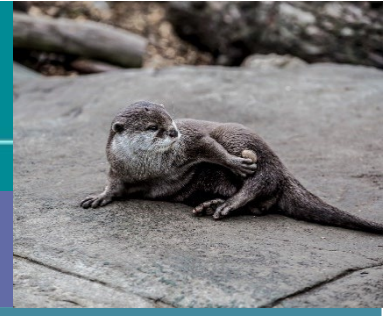




Volume 7, No. 14 April 8, 2025
Office: 608-243-5670 Fax: 866-813-0974
info@gwaar.org www.gwaar.org



Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

Need to Know

Second quarter ACE Meeting tomorrow

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

We hope you can join us for the ACE meeting. Our main presenter will be Janet Zander who will provide information and lead a discussion on all the latest advocacy issues at the state and federal levels. In addition, we will have important updates from GWAAR, BADR and WIHA.

Read the agenda: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008517>



Save the dates for the next meetings:

Third quarter: Wed., July 9 – In-person Stevens Point | **Fourth quarter:** Wed., 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

Now hiring: Veteran Self-Directed Program (VSDP) Care Consultant

The Veteran Self-Directed Program (VSDP) helps Veterans needing assistance choose their own caregivers, services, and supports to be able to safely and successfully remain living in their home. In conjunction with the Veteran and their family, the VSDP Care Consultant is responsible for assessing the Veteran's abilities and level of functioning, identifying areas of need and preferences for meeting those needs, developing a care plan to meet the needs; assisting the Veteran and family caregiver with setting up and purchasing goods and services within their individual budget allocation; and assisting the Veteran with monitoring service provision.

-continued-

This position requires a significant amount of travel within the North Chicago, Tomah, Madison, Milwaukee, and Minneapolis VAMC catchment areas. Ideal candidate will be located in Dane, Green, or Rock County areas (Central/Southern WI).

View the full job description: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewfile/id/2008516>

To apply, send cover letter and resume to the following:

Lisa Drouin, VA Programs Manager

Lisa.Drouin@GWAAR.org

Reminder: DHS 2025-2027 Biennial Budget Briefings

The final session in the series of focused budget briefing hosted by the Department of Health Services (DHS) will be held on April 23. These briefings for partners highlight critical portions of Governor Evers' 2025-2027 DHS budget.



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>

Join the GWAAR Board of Directors

If you'd like to play a role in shaping the direction of programs and services for older people in the state, we invite you to volunteer for our Board of Directors. Our mission is to provide aging offices with training, technical assistance, and support to improve the well-being of older people in Wisconsin. To apply, please fill out our **online application:** <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2005629>

Learn more at: <https://gwaar.org/leadership-opportunities>

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.

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.

Registration:

<https://gwaar.org/menomonie-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

Register here:
<https://wisej.eventsair.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
- Existing services for older victims

Any questions on this training, please contact Erika Deal 608-684-2578 or by email at Erika.Deal@gwaar.org

Advocacy

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

Need to Know

Aging Advocacy Day 2025 – Registration and Volunteer Sign Up

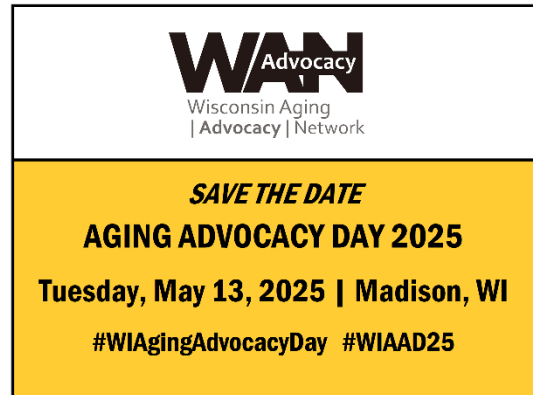
Registration is open - <https://gwaar.org/aging-advocacy-day-2025!>

Advocacy priorities include:

- Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Investment,
- Direct Care Workforce Supports,
- Meals on Wheels Funding, and
- Healthy Aging – Falls Prevention Grants

Find Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) issue briefs here <https://gwaar.org/waan-issues-and-initiatives>.

Anyone interested in volunteering to help with the event can sign up here: <https://signup.com/go/FelYbrY> or by using the link on the Aging Advocacy Day webpage - <https://gwaar.org/aging-advocacy-day-2025!>



Wisconsin's Joint Finance Committee (JFC) State Budget Hearings

The state's Joint Finance Committee (JFC) has two remaining State Budget Hearings scheduled - <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/raw/cid/1909520>. If you did not attend either of the first two budget hearings, consider testifying at the budget hearing in Hayward (4/28) or in Wausau (4/29).

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

- April 28 - Hayward High School, Hayward, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- April 29 – Northcentral Technical College, Wausau, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

If you would like to submit written testimony to JFC regarding your priorities for the State Budget, comments can be sent 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.

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

Read the April 7 Action Alert: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008518>

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Downsizing & Reorganization

On March 27, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced a reorganization: (see <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/hhs-restructuring-doge-fact-sheet.html>).

The downsizing and restructuring of the department, includes eliminating the Administration for Community Living (ACL) which oversees many programs and services for older adults and people living with disabilities. 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.

-continued-

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 (OAA) programs, across the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

On Tues., April 1 (no fooling), many federal workers in HHS learned they had been let go. One-half of ACL's staff were laid off; raising urgent questions about how the OAA and other ACL programs that support older adults, people with disabilities and caregivers will be administered. The staff reductions included letting go of all 10 regional ACL administrators who provide states and Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) around the country with technical assistance and guidance related to OAA programs, the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP), and Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP).

On April 2, the Secretary of the Department of HHS announced plans to reinstate some programs and personnel that had been cut as part of the recent restructuring and workforce reduction at HHS (about 20% of the layoffs could be reversed). It is unclear how this might impact ACL or the OAA and other aging service programs.

Take Action: USAging is encouraging anyone concerned about how these changes will affect older adults and family caregivers served by these programs, to **please let Senators Ron Johnson and Tammy Baldwin and your Representative know about your questions and concerns** as soon as possible.

See the [USAgging Advocacy Alert 4-02-25](#) for talking points and a template email.

<https://www.usaging.org/content.asp?admin=Y&contentid=1711>

Contact info for Wisconsin's Members of Congress: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008426>.

2025 USAging Policy Briefing

Staff, board members, and an advisory council member from GWAAR and the Milwaukee County Aging were in Washington, D.C. last week to receive a briefing on the latest aging policy changes and meet with their federal legislators on Capitol Hill. Members of the group met with the offices of Sen. Tammy Baldwin, Sen. Ron Johnson, and U.S. Representatives Bryan Steil (WI-01), Derrick Van Orden (WI-03), Gwen Moore (WI-04), Scott Fitzgerald (WI-05), Tom Tiffany (WI-07), and Tony Wied (WI-08) to discuss aging policy priorities, including:

- Reauthorization and funding of the Older Americans Act,
- Protecting Medicaid funding in the budget, and
- Advocating for Aging and Disability programs, services, and staff in the HHS restructuring

USAging Policy Priorities document was also dropped off at the offices of Rep. Mark Pocan (WI-01) and Rep. Glenn Grothman (WI-06).

View USAging's Policy Priorities 2025 -

[https://www.usaging.org//Files/USAgging_2025PolicyPriorities_final_WEB%20\(1\).pdf](https://www.usaging.org//Files/USAgging_2025PolicyPriorities_final_WEB%20(1).pdf)



Left to right are Brian Peters, Milwaukee Co. Commission on Aging; John Schnabl, GWAAR Exec. Dir.; Emily Peterson, Advocacy and Policy Manager- Aging; Janet Zander, GWAAR Advocacy & Public Policy Coordinator; Cookie Lough, GWAAR Board Member, and David Denomie, GWAAR Advisory Council Member.

-continued-

Please continue the conversation, by sharing how these policy priorities impact the work you do and the people you serve.

For contact information for Wisconsin's two U.S. Senators and eight U.S. Representatives, see Wisconsin Members of the 119th Congress - <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008426>.

Nice to Know

Reminder: 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.

Wednesday, April 9, 2025 - Brown County: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008514>

Tuesday, April 15, 2025 - Kenosha County: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008513>

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 In-Person 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.

Upcoming registration deadlines:

04/25/25 - Iowa County Health and Human Services - Dodgeville (**registration deadline 04/11/25**)

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.

Upcoming GWAAR PeerPlace Training

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

Thursday, April 10 | 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

This week's webinar training will be a general Q&A session held on Thursday, April 10, from 9-10 a.m. 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.**

Fiscal

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

Need to Know

Upcoming In-Person 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.

Upcoming registration deadlines:

April 23rd - Walworth County Health and Human Services - Elkhorn (**registration deadline 04/09/25**)

April 24th - Iowa County Health and Human Services - Dodgeville (**registration deadline 04/10/25**)

-continued-

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.

Health Promotion

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

Need to Know

Reminder: 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

Healthy Living with Diabetes 2025 Facilitator Training

In response to an increased demand, a virtual Healthy Living with Diabetes facilitator training has been scheduled. Additionally, the in-person facilitator training in Milwaukee is still available. Now is the perfect opportunity to spend down your ARPA D and OAA Title III-D to expand the reach or initiate a Healthy Living with Diabetes program in your community.

Healthy Living with Diabetes Trainings:

- Virtually - June 25-August 6, 2025 from 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. (Monday and Wednesday)
- In-Person - October 8,9,15 and 16 from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Facilitator Requirements:

- Experience with diabetes - personally or professionally
- Be employed by or volunteer for a registered program provider
- Must hold at least one community workshop every 12 months
- Must identify an eligible co-facilitator

Applications will close 4 weeks prior to the training. Trainees are required to attend all sessions. The training fee is \$950.00

You can rely on WIHA for technical assistance and support throughout the entire training process.

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

Training Application - <https://wiha.wufoo.com/forms/w1iseaoc0k9exur/>

Questions? Contact Amie Rein: amie.rein@wihealthyaging.org, Health Promotion Program Provider

Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol

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

Nice to Know

April Scam Spotlight: Imposter Scams

If you have a phone, are on social media, or receive mail, you have probably experienced an imposter scam.

Learn more about imposter scams related to Medicare, government agencies, and grandparents in this scam spotlight.

View the April Scam Spotlight: <https://www.smpwi.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/04-April-2025-Imposter-Scams.pdf>

Wisconsin SMP
April 2025 **SCAM SPOTLIGHT**

IMPOSTER SCAMS

Do you have a cell phone? What about a landline? Are you on social media? Do you receive mail? If so, you've probably experienced a scam. Imposter scams are when a scammer pretends to be someone of authority or from a legitimate organization. They sometimes even spoof the call, which means they can have the caller ID show up as "Medicare" or "IRS" to look legitimate. If you receive a call from a number not in your contact list, do not answer. It could be a scammer impersonating any number of organizations.

What you need to know about imposter scams!

Medicare	Government	Grandparent
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Medicare will not call you to verify your information, or to ask if you received your new Medicare card.• DO NOT share your Medicare Number.• DO NOT share personal medical information.• DO NOT share your personal doctors name or their contact information.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Government agencies will not call you out of the blue, including the IRS and the Social Security Administration.• DO NOT share any of your personal information.• DO NOT share your Social Security Number.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Never send money to people you do not know.• Never send gift cards or another odd payment method.• Immediately check with loved ones even if they tell you not to contact anyone.• Artificial Intelligence (AI) can clone voices, know who you are talking to.

If you are contacted by a Medicare imposter, report it!
Contact the Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol at 888-818-2611

Report other imposter fraud to the Federal Trade Commission at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov)
This project is supported, in part, by grant number 56277FGJ 02, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201