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Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

Need to Know

Join us July 9 for the next ACE Meeting

Wednesday, July 9 | 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Lee Sherman Dreyfus University Center
1015 Reserve Street, 3rd Floor, Alumni Room
Stevens Point, WI 54481

Join us for the third quarter ACE meeting in Stevens Point on July 9. Lunch will be included. **Registration by or before Friday, June 13 is required.**

Registration: <https://gwaar.wufoo.com/forms/z3nf0qy0movilk/>

View the draft agenda: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewfile/id/2008572>

Meeting highlights include: 1. Equability accessible clothing 2. AFCSP reporting 3. GWAAR and BADR Updates 4. Breakout sessions around specific topics.

Please note: Participants are responsible for securing hotel accommodations if needed.



Nice to Know

Reminder: Governor's Interagency Council on Mental Health seeks public input

The [Governor's Interagency Council on Mental Health](#) is asking Wisconsinites to provide input on how the State of Wisconsin can continue working to improve the mental health of our residents. You can make recommendations using [the survey](#) which is open until June 30. The council connects the dots across 10 state agencies to create a statewide action plan to address Wisconsin's mental health crisis. The plan will include recommendations to expand prevention efforts and increase access to mental health services.

Take/share the survey: <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7829863/Mental-Health-Public-Input-Survey>

Learn more about the council: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/icmh/index.htm>

View the May 13 news release: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/news/releases/051325.htm>

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>



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

To apply, send cover letter and resume to Lisa Drouin, VA Programs Manager, Lisa.Drouin@GWAAR.org

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

Advocacy

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

Nice to Know

Great News for the Older Americans Act

Two days before Older Americans Month came to end (and after several months of less than cheery news), some **good news** was shared by Sandy Markwood, CEO of USAging (the national association of Area Agencies on Aging).

In her message she said, **"Due to the tremendous advocacy efforts of USAging and our members—the nation's Area Agencies on Aging and tribal aging programs—as well as other aging advocates over the past six weeks, the Trump Administration has wisely changed course on how the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) reorganization proposal would administer the Older Americans Act (OAA) programs moving forward."**

A leaked draft document in April from the President's FY 2026 revealed proposals to split up the Older Americans Act (OAA) programs across two agencies, sending all but the OAA nutrition programs to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), and zeroing out OAA's Title III D and the Title VII Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs. However, **new formal documents shared on May 30th by the Trump Administration indicate a change of plan.**

According to [supplemental budget materials](#) officially released by HHS, **all of its OAA programs and many other aging and disability programs previously administered by the Administration for Community Living (ACL) will move to a newly renamed Administration for Children, Families and Communities.**

None of our programs will move to CMS, and **the programs that made up ACL will continue to be housed in one HHS agency**, which will allow for continued collaboration between the aging and disability networks and, most importantly, coordination in the delivery of critical services to millions of older adults and caregivers.

HHS supplemental budget materials: <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/fy-2026-budget-in-brief.pdf>

Additionally, the final President's budget does not include ANY funding cuts to OAA programs, the State Health Insurance Assistance Programs (SHIPs), Aging and Disability Resource Centers, Adult Protective Services, Long Term Care Ombudsman Program, Protection and Advocacy systems, and Lifespan Respite, among others.

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This news late last Friday, “is a testament to YOUR advocacy,” said Sandy. “You responded to our [Advocacy Alert](#) and took swift action, championed our [press releases](#) and [concerned letters to Congress](#) and reached out to your Members of Congress who sit on key committees about our [calls for Secretary Kennedy to change course.](#)”

USAgging Advocacy alert: <https://www.usaging.org/content.asp?admin=Y&contentid=1715>

USAgging Press releases: <https://www.usaging.org/content.asp?admin=Y&contentid=1716>

USAgging letters: <https://www.usaging.org/content.asp?admin=Y&contentid=1726>

USAgging statement on May 14 hearing:

<https://www.usaging.org/Files/Statement%20on%20the%20HELP%20May14%20Hearing.pdf>

Unfortunately, the budget does propose to eliminate some programs, including the Chronic Disease Self-Management Education program, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, Community Services Block Grant programs, Voting Access for People with Disabilities program, the White House Conference on Aging, and others. It will be critical to continue advocacy to protect these programs.

Thank you to everyone who reached out to their members of Congress to share how breaking apart the OAA programs and eliminating critical OAA funding would impact services in your communities. **Our budget advocacy is not done yet.** We must continue to protect OAA and other key funding sources in Congress’s FY 2026 spending bills and push back against deep cuts to Medicaid and SNAP (FoodShare in Wisconsin) in the reconciliation bill.

Additional budget detail is available at: <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/fy-2026-budget-in-brief.pdf> (OAA funding information starts on pg. 28).

Take a moment to celebrate this win and to remember sharing your stories matters...**advocacy works!!**

Keep the momentum going!

Thank you again to the many individuals who shared their support and personal stories to help legislators understand how specific policy issues and proposals impact individuals, families, and older constituents. Your advocacy efforts matter!

Check out the Aging Advocacy Day page for a photo gallery, and keep watching for updates on local events, and additional advocacy resources and opportunities.

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

#WIAgingAdvocacyDay #WIAAD25



Webinar update: Federal Funding Fallout2025: Info and Action Steps

Friday, June 6 | 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

English Registration: <https://bit.ly/FederalFunds66>

Spanish Registration: <https://bit.ly/FedFendsSpan66>

Cuts to federal Medicaid spending continue to be a top concern, however other programs important to people with disabilities may cut through the reconciliation bill process, and the administration is making changes at several federal agencies including the Dept. of Health and Human Services, Social Security, and Education that directly impact people with disabilities.



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 – Access Data Management Files.

Upcoming registration deadlines:

06/13/25 – Walworth County Health and Human Services - **RESCHEDULED** from 05/16/25

PeerPlace Training		
Location	Address	Mtg Date
Iowa County Health and Human Services (registration closed)	303 W. Chapel St., Dodgeville, WI 53533	4/25/2025
Holiday Inn Express & Suites Hayward (registration closed)	15586 Co Rd B, Hayward, WI 54843	5/5/2025
Holiday Inn Eau Claire South I-94 (registration closed)	4751 Owen Ayres Ct, Eau Claire, WI 54701	5/8/2025
Antigo NorthStar Lanes Banquet Center (TRIBAL ONLY) **NEW** (registration closed)	400 Prosser Pl, Antigo, WI 54409	5/28/2025
Antigo NorthStar Lanes Banquet Center **NEW** (registration closed)	400 Prosser Pl, Antigo, WI 54409	5/29/2025
Comfort Suites Appleton Airport - RESCHEDULED!!!!	3809 W Wisconsin Ave, Appleton, WI 54914	5/30/2025
Walworth County Health and Human Services - RESCHEDULED!!!	1910 County Rd NN, Elkhorn, WI 53121	6/13/2025

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.

Emergency Preparedness

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

Nice to Know

Monthly resources for Emergency Preparedness at ready.gov

The Ready Preparedness Calendar is a planning tool that marks preparedness activities and provides customizable resources to help promote preparedness throughout the year.

View the calendar: <https://www.ready.gov/calendar>

Social media toolkits are available for many weather and climate events such as extreme heat, floods, hurricanes, wildfires and much more.

Check out the toolkits: www.ready.gov/toolkits



Family Caregiver Support

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

Need to Know

Wisconsin Caregiver Support Community Statewide Webinar replay available

In case you missed it! The May 27 call included updates on caregiver training in Advocacy, the 2024 Caregiver Needs Assessment, Evaluation, survey results, and new Trualta features.

Watch the replay: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CB9jwr2cYtY>

View the meeting materials: <https://gwaar.org/wisconsin-caregiver-support-community-monthly-calls>

Wisconsin's
FamilyCaregiver
Support Programs

Fiscal

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

Need to Know

Upcoming In-Person Training

GLITC – Tribal Fiscal Training

June 17-18 | Wausau

The upcoming Tribal Fiscal Training will be held June 17-18 in Wausau. This training is tribal-specific, meaning it will cover Titles III & VI. GLITC would also like to highlight the opportunity to schedule a one-on-one training with a member of the GWAAR Fiscal Staff. Please check that out and schedule your appointment if you're interested. If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to Ryan Bunker. Thanks, and we hope to see you there!

Please fill out the Registration Form: <https://bit.ly/3GSI75u>

Hotel Information:

Jefferson Street Inn, 201 Jefferson Street, Wausau, WI 54403

Health Promotion

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

Nice to Know

May 6 Quarterly Health Promotion webinar replay available

In case you missed it. The May 6 Quarterly Health Promotion Webinar replay is available, featuring Compassion Resilience presented by Heather Quackenboss from the UW Madison Division of Extension in LaCrosse, WI.

View the replay: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-TzLLwM9SgE>



Medicare Outreach and Assistance

[Stephanie Haas](#), Medicare Outreach Coordinator

Nice to Know

June Idea of the Month

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008570>

View past ideas: <https://gwaar.org/idea-of-the-month>

Join Medicare Mingle: A Casual Meeting for Wisconsin SHIP Counselors

Are you a SHIP counselor in search of support, advice, or a chance to connect with other counselors? Discover Medicare Mingle, a gathering designed to encourage collaboration, share experiences, and boost your Medicare outreach initiatives. Medicare Mingle is set in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere and offers the ideal opportunity to learn and share your knowledge.



SHIP

State Health Insurance
Assistance Program

Medicare Mingle is a casual and informative meeting aimed at supporting Wisconsin SHIP counselors in their role of guiding individuals through the Medicare process. Medicare Mingle provides a chance for SHIP Counselors to:

- Discuss different topics
- Offer support to other counselors
- Ask advice on challenging cases
- Explore outreach strategies

Join us at the next Medicare Mingle! Stephanie Haas, Medicare Outreach Coordinator will be the host of these meetings and there to support SHIP counselors with Medicare outreach efforts.

2025 Medicare Mingle Dates:

- Wednesday, June 25 | 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, July 30 | 1:00 -2:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, August 27 | 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, September 17 | 1:00 -2:00 p.m.

Upcoming Optional Wisconsin SHIP Trainings

Wisconsin SHIP is offering a series of free, live virtual trainings on Medicare topics for basic-level SHIP Counselors.

Intended Audience: SHIP counselors who are newer or would like a refresher are welcome to join all or some of the trainings. These optional trainings are geared towards “basic-level” SHIP counselors, such as volunteers and case managers. However, benefit specialists and other advanced-level SHIP counselors are also welcome.

Training Schedule and Registration

The training schedule is below. A list of online learning prerequisites for new counselors will be sent to attendees. The trainings will be recorded. Registration is required.

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Attendees should use the links found in the [posted document](#) to register for each training they wish to attend. Continuing Education Hours/Units (CEHs/CEUs) are available for live training attendance only.

More information and registration links: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008570>

- Tuesday, July 22
 - 9:00-10:00 a.m.: Orientation
 - 10:00 a.m.–12 p.m.: Medicare Basics
- Wednesday, July 23, 11 a.m.–12 p.m.: Medigap
- Tuesday, July 29, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.: Part D
- Wednesday, July 30, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.: Medicare Advantage
- Thursday, July 31, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.: Plan Finder

Questions? Please email Pam Watson, MIPPA Grant Coordinator, at pamela.watson@dhs.wisconsin.gov

Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol

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

Nice to Know

Medicare Fraud Prevention Week is this week, June 2-8

Follow along on the Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol Facebook page for daily information about how we can all work together to fight Medicare fraud!

Follow the SMP Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/WisconsinSeniorMedicarePatrol/>

The Summer edition of “The Scoop” newsletter is now available! This issue includes information about Medicare Fraud Prevention Week, exercising outdoors safely, snowballing scams (even in the summertime), justice served, and so much more!

Read the Summer edition of “The Scoop” Newsletter:

<https://bit.ly/43GIAyl>

June Scam Spotlight highlights Medicare Fraud Prevention Week as well!

Read the June Scam Spotlight: <https://bit.ly/454KhrK>

Governor Evers signed a proclamation declaring the week of June 2-8, 2025 as Medicare Fraud Prevention Week in Wisconsin. Thank you, Governor Evers, for your support of our efforts to educate Wisconsin Medicare beneficiaries about how to protect, detect, and report suspected Medicare fraud!

View the Governor’s proclamation: <https://bit.ly/4kK89W1>

View the press release: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008571>

