Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources, Inc. 1414 MacArthur Road, Suite A; Madison, WI 53714

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Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

Need to Know

Naar

Third quarter ACE meeting next week

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

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

View the updated agenda: https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewfile/id/2008572

Meeting highlights include: 1. Equability accessible clothing 2. AFCSP reporting 3. GWAAR, BADR, and WIHA updates 4. Breakout sessions around specific topics. Lunch included.

Contact Rosanna Mazzara for event details: <u>Rosanna.Mazzara@gwaar.org</u>

Please note: Registration has closed. Parking passes will be sent to event registrants the first week of July. Participants are responsible for securing hotel accommodations, if needed.

GWAAR closed July 4

We'll be closed on Friday, July 4 for the Independence Day holiday. We'll be back on Monday, July 7. Have a safe and enjoyable Fourth of July!

Nice to Know

Guardianship Support Center grant awarded for 2025-2026

We are pleased to share that GWAAR has been awarded the Guardianship Support Center (GSC) grant from the state of Wisconsin. Congratulations to Attorney Polly Shoemaker for her successful application and for continuing to provide such important support.

https://gwaar.org/guardianship-resources

GWAAR Job Opportunities

We're hiring! Check out the open positions below or on our website: https://gwaar.org/jobs

Benefit Specialist Supervising Attorney/Public Interest Elder Law Attorney

https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008588

Veteran Self-Directed Program (VSDP) Care Consultant

https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008591







Benefit Specialist Supervising Attorney/Public Interest Elder Law Attorney

The Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources Inc. (GWAAR) <u>is hiring a full-time attorney in its Elder</u> <u>Law & Advocacy Center</u>. The attorney will assist in the supervision and training of elder benefit specialists working in Aging & Disability Resource Centers across a 15-county region within the state. The attorney will also provide daily legal and technical assistance regarding state and federal public benefit programs and provide direct legal representation to older adults.

This position requires a *Juris Doctor* degree from an ABA-accredited law school and admission to the State Bar of Wisconsin. We are seeking candidates who have a demonstrated commitment to working with clients aged 60 and older, people with disabilities, and/or individuals with low income. Knowledge of state and federal benefit programs and/or health care programs is strongly preferred. The ideal candidate will have direct client experience in estate planning, Medicaid law, housing law, consumer law, administrative hearings, and/or general civil matters. Occasional overnight statewide travel is required.

View the full job description: https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008588

Resumes sent without a cover letter will not be considered. The position will remain open until filled. Send cover letter and resume via email to the address below. Application materials received by July 20 will be included in the first round of review. To apply, send cover letter and resume to:

Attorney Amanda Grady, EBS Support Attorney Program Manager, Amanda.Grady@gwaar.org

Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources 1414 MacArthur Road, Suite A Madison, WI 53714

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.

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 Central, South-Central, or West-Central WI

View the full job description: https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008591

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

Use Your Leadership Skills to Support Older People in Wisconsin

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 leadership team of the Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR), Inc. Our mission is to provide aging offices with training, technical assistance, and support to improve the well-being of 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.

Candidates for these roles must live outside Dane and Milwaukee Counties and be able to devote time and energy to the GWAAR's governance, including:

- Serve at least one 3-year term on the board.
- Attend multiple meetings per year, often centrally located in the state. (Necessary expenses covered by GWAAR.)

Learn more about the roles and responsibilities of each group.

<u>GWAAR Board of Directors Application</u>: https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2005629 <u>GWAAR Advisory Council Application</u>: https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2005628 To learn more contact <u>GWAAR Executive Director John Schnabl</u>: john.schanbl@gwaar.org

National Center to Reframe Aging Fundamentals Training (In Person)

Tuesday, July 29 | 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

ADRC of Portage County, Lincoln Senior Center, 1519 Water Street, Stevens Point, WI 54481

This 4-hour interactive workshop led by the Hannah Albers from the National Center team and trained facilitator, Rajean Moone is designed to help participants garner an understanding for the need to change the way our society communicates about aging and begin to practice effective framing.

Reframe Aging

LED BY THE GERONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA ReframingAging.org

Space is limited to the first 100 registrants! Please register only if you are able to attend.

Registration: http://bit.ly/3TlcvHI

Abuse in Later Life Grant

Need to Know

Direct Services Elder Abuse Training

This training is open to state-based organizations and agencies that work with adult protective services, victim services, systembased advocates, and aging network professionals.

Wednesday, July 23 | 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. | Green Bay

Registration: https://bit.ly/4j1uX35 View the flyer: https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008524

New date! Thursday, August 14 | 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. | Polk County

Registration: https://bit.ly/31981L4 View the flyer: https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewfile/id/2008596



Advocacy

Janet Zander, Advocacy and Public Policy Coordinator

Nice to Know

State Legislation

Alzheimer's Family and Caregiver Support Program (AFCSP) Update

Senate Bill 152 Heads to the Governor's Desk

Last week, the full Assembly tabled Assembly Bill 176 (AB 176) and passed Senate Bill 152 (SB 152) on a voice vote. SB 152/AB 176 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 low- and middle-income families. The full Senate previously passed this legislation, so the next step is the Governor's desk!

As of June 24, **13 state Senators and 31 state Representatives signed onto this legislation** as a sponsor/cosponsor; **that is 44 bipartisan legislators (1/3 of the state legislature)!**

If you haven't already done so, please use our <u>WAAN AFCSP (SB 152) Action Alert</u> to ask Governor Evers to sign this legislation into law. Please share the action alert link with others and encourage them to contact the Governor too! <u>WAAN AFCSP (SB 152) Action Alert</u>: <u>https://bit.ly/3GhpEi2</u>

State Budget 2025-2027 Update

The Joint Finance Committee (JFC) is meeting at 9 a.m. on July 1 to take up the Health Services and Transportation budgets, among other sections of the budget.

Both the Senate and the Assembly Organization Committees have a paper ballot creating an Extraordinary Session for 9 a.m. Wednesday, July 2 to act on the budget.

After more than a week without meeting, the state legislature's Joint Finance Committee (JFC) resumed meeting on the state's 2025-2027 biennial budget late at night on Fri., June 27, more than 12 hours after their scheduled start time. On the JFC agenda were all the remaining portions of the state budget. Budgets for the Departments of Justice, Health Services, and Transportation were on the long list of budget items to address. These are the sections of the budget where the remaining Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) budget priorities are included or would have been added. As you may recall, some of WAAN's budget priorities were not included in the Governor's budget (ADRC funding above the cost-to-continue amounts, Elder Benefit Specialist funding and Protection of Elders Grants) and others were removed by the JFC on May 8th (Board on Aging and Long Term Care positions and funding, Guardianship Support Center funding, Healthy Aging Grant funding, and Meals on Wheels funding).

The committee met for less than two hours and took up the following budgets: Elections Commission, Administration, Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, **Justice**, Tourism, Higher Educational Aids Board, Corrections, and Natural Resources. The funding requested by WAAN for Elder Protection Grants was not added to the Justice Department's budget. JFC did NOT take up the following items: Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board; Children and Families; UW System; Building Commission; Compensation Reserves; **Health Services**; and **Transportation**.

WAAN has budget priorities we need to see funded in the Health Services and Transportation budgets. Please continue to take action using WAAN's <u>2025-2027 State Budget Action Alert</u> and share the alert with others and encourage them to take action too!

The state fiscal year ends on June 30, 2025. If the 2025-2027 budget is not passed by the end of June, state operations and funded programs will continue at prior year funding levels.

Federal

Senate Budget Reconciliation Bill & Medicaid and SNAP Cuts

Voting on the Senate's budget reconciliation bill, which includes \$1 Trillion in cuts to Medicaid and the ACA Marketplace and \$300 Billion cuts to food assistance, is expected to wrap up on July 1, 2025.

Congress' goal is to complete work on the reconciliation bill, including getting the House to vote on the Senate version of the bill, in time for the President to sign it by July 4th. The Senate Parliamentarian ruled that several of the bill's health care provisions as currently drafted cannot proceed under the special reconciliation rules that permit passage of the bill with only 51 votes. As a result of the rulings, the Senate must continue Negotiations and writing/re-writing of bill to comply with the special reconciliation rules and to achieve the costs-savings they desire. Though the Parliamentarian has already approved revised bill language making massive cuts to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, disagreements over Medicaid provider taxes, a proposed stabilization fund for rural hospitals, SALT (state and local income taxes), and other issues could delay the Senate vote.

Advocates expect the text of the full bill will not be available until shortly before the vote is scheduled to occur meaning; like the House vote, Senators will not have read the entire bill before they vote on it.

Even if the U.S. Senate passes a bill that has cuts you do not like, it can't become law unless the U.S. House agrees to the cuts. A strong response from advocates sends a powerful message to Senate and House members about what proposals people do not think will be good for them or their families. It is not too late to remind your federal elected officials about your Medicaid and SNAP (or FoodShare in Wisconsin) concerns. Ask them to remove Medicaid and SNAP cuts and ACA Marketplace changes that will cost 13 million people their health care coverage and leave struggling families hungry.

Take Action: Contact Wisconsin's U.S. Senators Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson and your U.S. Representative to ensure they understand the harmful cuts in the reconciliation bill and how they will impact you, your family, and/or the communities you serve.

Senator Baldwin

Washington, D.C.: 202-224-5653 | Milwaukee: 414-297-4451 Email: click here | https://www.baldwin.senate.gov/contact/contact-tammy

Senator Johnson

Washington, D.C.: 202-224-5323 | Milwaukee: 414-276-7282 Email: click here | https://www.ronjohnson.senate.gov/email-the-senator

Webinar update: Federal Funding Fallout2025: Info and Action Steps

Friday, July 11 | 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. English registration: <u>https://bit.ly/FedFunds711</u> Spanish registration: <u>https://bit.ly/FedFundsSpan711</u>

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.

Webinar topics:

- Get the latest on what Congress is doing on the budget reconciliation bill, a way Congress can make cuts to Medicaid and other programs important to people with disabilities.
- Actions the Executive Branch is taking at federal agencies that impact programs and services important to people with disabilities.
- What other disability advocates have been doing this week that you could do too. Media content to share with your networks.
- New talking points and resources to share that will help keep the conversation going with lawmakers.

Data Management

Carrie Kroetz, Data Management and Technology Coordinator

Need to Know

Reminder: Upcoming webinars

GWAAR PeerPlace Follow-up Webinar Post In-Person Training

Thursday, July 3 | 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

GWAAR staff will be hosting a webinar on July 3, from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. The registration link to sign up is below. A reminder notice will be sent out the day prior. If you are unable to attend the webinar will be recorded and posted in the GWAAR Data Management library.

Registration: GWAAR PeerPlace Follow-up Webinar Post In-Person Training: https://bit.ly/4eaXrpg

Elder Abuse Programs

Donna Rosner, Elder Abuse Program Specialist

Nice to Know

Ethics in Elder Mistreatment Podcast Series

This podcast series explores elder mistreatment through an ethical lens. Podcast hosts examine ethical dilemmas in elder abuse prevention and intervention while considering principles of autonomy, consent, and justice for older adults. There are currently three episodes, including the most recent:

Is it Self-Neglect or Societal Neglect?

Elder self-neglect is a very complex phenomenon that is difficult for older adults to experience and challenging for professionals to address. Intervening in cases of self-neglect presents a significant dilemma:



balancing an individual's autonomy and right to make decisions (however risky they may appear) with the professional responsibility to prevent harm. Kathy Greenlee and Jennifer Spoeri discuss the challenges of determining when and how to intervene in cases of self-neglect while honoring an individual's rights and dignity.

View the series: Podcasts | USC Center for Elder Justice https://elderjustice.usc.edu/podcasts/

Podcast Episodes Accessible via Soundcloud, Spotify or Apple Podcast Include:

- The Heroes of APS A conversation with Joe Applebaum and Stu Maddux, co-founders of the Clowder Group. They discuss their upcoming docuseries, "The Heroes of Adult Protection," which aims to highlight the vital work of Adult Protective Services professionals and bring greater visibility to their efforts in safeguarding vulnerable adults.
- Lifespan's E-MDT Technical Assistance Resource Center A conversation with Lindsay Calamia, EMDT Program Manager, and Allison Granata, Director for EMDT Initiatives at Lifespan of Greater Rochester. They discuss the role of the Enhanced Multidisciplinary Team (E-MDT) Technical Assistance Resource Center in supporting APS programs through coordinated responses to elder abuse, and how it aligns with ACL's Final Rule on addressing adult maltreatment and self-neglect.

Resources for Building and Sustaining Elder Justice Coalitions webinar

Thursday, July 17 | 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

The National Center for State and Tribal Elder Justice Coalitions is inviting you to an engaging and practical webinar focused on building and sustaining Elder



Justice Coalitions—where collaboration meets impact. Join Katie Block, MSW, MPH, author of Elder Justice Coalitions: A Resource Guide for Building and Sustaining Effective State and Tribal Elder Justice Coalitions, to learn about strategies, resources, and tools available for building, maintaining, and sustaining State and Tribal Elder Justice Coalitions.

This webinar is open to anyone interested in engaging in collaborative elder justice work—whether you're a seasoned professional, part of a coalition, exploring how to start one, or just entering the field. Join the conversation and discover tools for making a greater impact together.

More information and registration: https://mailchi.mp/lifespan-roch/ski2nqhiec-2343102

Emergency Preparedness

Angie Sullivan, Older Americans Act Consultant - Health Promotions, Emergency Preparedness Specialist

Nice to Know

ReadyWisconsin: Keep safety in mind this Independence Day

"Firework safety is just one piece of the puzzle for a safe holiday celebration. Barbecues, road trips, and pool parties are also popular activities. Keep yourself and your family safe with additional tips."

Read the full release:

https://wem.wi.gov/keep-safety-in-mind-this-independence-day/

View Ready Wisconsin resources: https://readywisconsin.wi.gov/



Family Caregiver Support

<u>Bryn Ceman</u>, Older Americans Act Consultant - Family Caregiver Support Specialist

Nice to Know

🎬 New Documentary Premiere: CAREGIVING 💙

Narrated by Uzo Aduba and executive produced by Bradley Cooper, Caregiving explores the real stories, struggles, and strength of America's caregivers. With over 53 million Americans providing unpaid care, this powerful film sheds light on a growing crisis and the need for change.

💷 Premiered Tuesday, June 24

Watch on PBS, the PBS App, YouTube & online: https://wellbeings.org/series/caregiving/

Registration is now open: 2nd Annual Southeastern Wisconsin Caregiving Symposium

Monday, October 13 | 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

UW-Milwaukee Student Union, Milwaukee, WI

\$25 registration (includes breakfast, lunch & materials)

Join us for the 2nd Annual Southeastern Wisconsin Caregiving Symposium — a powerful gathering of local and national leaders dedicated to strengthening caregiving programs across all ages and backgrounds.

This symposium brings together experts to share insights and innovative practices for supporting caregivers, with a special focus on the diverse needs of children, youth, and young adult caregivers across age, military connection, race, health condition, and geographic location.



caregiving

NOW STREAMING ON PBS 💮 PBS

Expect keynote speakers, breakout sessions, resource sharing, and inspiring conversations that put caregivers front and center.

Proudly sponsored by: Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin, The Elizabeth Dole Foundation, Global Neuro YCare, UW-Milwaukee, and the Helen Bader School of Social Welfare

Reminder: Memory Camp 2025: Experience the Joy of Connection 🐥 🍐

🋅 August 18–21, 2025

📍 Moon Beach | St. Germain, WI

Registration: https://ucci.org/

Memory Camp is a stigma-free, joy-filled retreat designed for individuals with mild to moderate dementia, their family caregivers, and extended loved ones.

Held at the beautiful Moon Beach Camp, Memory Camp offers:



Carrie Kroetz, Data Management and Technology Coordinator

Need to Know

GWAAR Fiscal Follow-up Webinar Post In-Person Training replay available soon

The July 1 webinar replay will be available in the GWAAR Fiscal library soon.

Health Promotion

Angie Sullivan, Older Americans Act Consultant - Health Promotions Specialist

Nice to Know

Reminder: Spread the Reach - Submit Your Falls Prevention Events

Last September, the Falls Free[®] Wisconsin Coalition launched its Falls Prevention Awareness Month (FPAM) events calendar - and it was a hit! It gave <u>FallsFreeWI.org</u> visitors an easy way to find and participate in local falls prevention events happening all month long. But here's the thing: falls don't only happen in September. That's why the Falls Free[®] Wisconsin Coalition now has a year-round Falls Prevent Events Calendar live on their website!



Accessible 24/7/365, this calendar is your go-to hub for promoting and discovering falls prevention activities, programs, and events happening across Wisconsin. Let's fill it up! Whether you're hosting a workshop, exercise class, screening or educational session, add your events so older adults and caregivers in every corner of the state can find tools and support to stay steady and safe.

See calendar: https://fallsfreewi.org/events/

Submit your events: https://wiha.wufoo.com/forms/w1nmsmt80eji96y/

Reminder: Falls Free® Wisconsin (FFWI) Magnet/Sticker Contest

Submit Your Design Today!

The Falls Free Wisconsin Coalition's Awareness Workgroup is excited to announce another design contest for Falls Prevention Awareness Month (FPAM) this September!

We're looking for bold, eye-catching, and informative magnet or sticker designs that our statewide partners can proudly distribute to consumers during FPAM. The top designs will be selected by Coalition members, and cash prizes will be awarded to the organizations that take 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place!

Ready to jump in? Click the link for submission guidelines, an example magnet, and everything you need to inspire your winning design. <u>https://bit.ly/43WDjUH</u>

We're excited to see your ideas to come to life and invite you to be an active part of making this contest a success. Feel free to spread the word within your networks and encourage other organizations to join in. The more voices and creativity, the stronger our message for Falls Prevention Awareness Month! **Submit your design by Friday, July 25th.**

