



Volume 7, No. 27 July 8, 2025  
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## Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

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### ***Need to Know***

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#### **Third quarter ACE meeting tomorrow in Stevens Point**

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 agenda:** <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewfile/id/2008572>

**Contact Rosanna Mazzara for event details:** [Rosanna.Mazzara@gwaar.org](mailto:Rosanna.Mazzara@gwaar.org)

Please note: Parking passes were emailed to registrants on July 2. Parking is free with this permit placed in your windshield. Participants are responsible for securing hotel accommodations, if needed.



### ***Nice to Know***

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#### **Reminder: 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>

#### **Reminder: 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. Learn more about the roles and responsibilities of each group.

***GWAAR Board of Directors Application:*** <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2005629>

***GWAAR Advisory Council Application:*** <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2005628>

## Reminder: 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.

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

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### Need to Know

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#### Direct Services Elder Abuse Training

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

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

**Registration:** <https://bit.ly/4j1uX35>

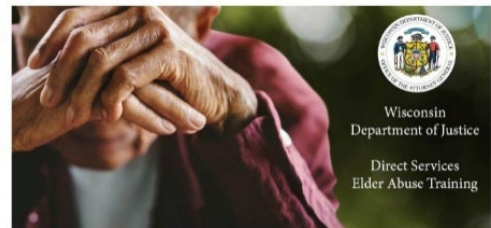
**View the flyer:**

<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/3I98IL4>

**View the flyer:** <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewfile/id/2008596>



## Advocacy

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

### Nice to Know

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#### State Legislation

#### **Alzheimer's Family and Caregiver Support Program (AFCSP) Legislation Could Become Law by Mid-August!**

In late June, the full Assembly and Senate passed Senate Bill 152 (SB 152). 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. One-third of the state legislators signed on in support of this bipartisan legislation.

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SB 152 was enrolled on June 25, 2025. The enrolled bill represents the final legislative product that's ready to potentially become law in Wisconsin. In preparation to send the enrolled bill to the Governor, the enrolled bill is formatted as an act (law). **The next deadline for the legislature to send enrolled bills (in act format) to the Governor is Aug. 7;** this means on or before Aug. 7, SB 152 will be sent to the Governor's desk. Once a bill has been presented, the Governor has six days, excluding Sundays, to sign it into law or veto the bill. If the Governor neither signs nor vetoes a bill, it automatically becomes law without their signature. If the legislation is signed into law by the Governor or allowed to become law (after six days), it will take effect the day after publication. **Stay tuned for updates, this important legislation is expected to become law by mid-August!** For more information see the legislation text for SB 152

<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2025/related/proposals/sb152> and the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network's (WAAN's) AFCSP issue brief – <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008453>.

### **State Budget 2025-2027 Wrap Up**

The Wisconsin State Legislature's Joint Finance Committee (JFC) held their last meeting on the 2025-2027 state budget on Tues. July 1, 2025. The agenda for the meeting included all remaining sections of the biennial budget that had not already been acted on; including the state Department of Health Services (DHS) and the state Department of Transportation (DOT) budgets in which the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) had funding requests.

In the DHS budget, the JFC approved:

- **Increases to the base allocations for county and tribal Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) of \$3.7 million** (all funds- state and federal, state GPR increase = \$2 million) **over the biennium**, with no increase provided for the tribal aging and disability resource specialists,
- Increase funding for Independent Living Center Grants by \$203,600 annually,
- **Funding** (\$2 million all funds in fiscal year 2025-26) **for the WisCaregiver Career program** to help address the state's shortage of certified nursing assistants and direct care professionals,
- A new appropriation of \$7 million over the biennium for 988 suicide and crisis lifeline grants,
- A supplemental appropriation of \$10 million for crisis urgent care and observation facility grants,
- **Cost-to-continue money** needed to keep Wisconsin's **Medicaid programs** running as they do now,
- Funding for a **Family Care minimum fee schedule**. This ensures residential providers will be paid at least a base rate no matter where they are in the state or what Family Care managed care organization (MCO) they contract with and will allow these providers serving older adults and people with disabilities to **raise the wages for their direct care workers**, and
- Increases to the **Medicaid rates for Personal Care, Home Health Care, and Private Duty Nursing**, to help address the critical shortage of direct care workers.

See the Comparative Summary of Budget Recommendations – from the Governor and JFC for the Department of Health Services - <https://bit.ly/4ktwYVE>

In the DOT budget, the JFC approved:

- **A 10% increase in Paratransit Aids**, and
- Increases in transportation grants to counties (\$75,000 SEG annually) for transportation provided to veterans.

See the Comparative Summary of Budget Recommendations – from the Governor and JFC for the Department of Transportation – <https://bit.ly/3lc2LgF>

The state Senate and the Assembly passed the 2025-2027 State Budget on Wed., July 2. On Thurs., July 3, Governor Evers signed SB 45 (now 2025 Act 15) – <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2025/related/acts/15>

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into law. The 2025-2027 budget is the result of bipartisan budget compromise between the Governor and the majority leaders in the state legislature. The Governor used his partial veto authority to remove what he called, non-negotiated sections in the budget. The Governor's partial veto message can be read here - <https://bit.ly/460D904>

An updated summary of the final status of WAAN's budget priorities will be available in the coming week.

## Federal

### Budget Reconciliation Bill Signed Into Law

Last week, the U.S. Senate and House passed the final version of H.R. 1 - <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/1>, known as the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA). The President signed the legislation into law on the Fourth of July.

The OBBBA marks the biggest change to health care policy since the passage of the Affordable Care Act in 2011 and will drive the largest cuts ever made since the creation of Medicaid nearly 60 years ago. According to an initial estimate from the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), which does not yet reflect the final language of the bill, this legislation will cut Federal spending on Medicaid, Medicare, and the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Marketplace by more than \$1.1 Trillion. More than **\$1 Trillion of those cuts come from Medicaid alone**. At least 11.8 million people are expected to lose their health care. These numbers are likely to increase when more detailed analysis of the final bill is done. The bill **also cuts \$300 Billion in food assistance** and is expected to take food away from an estimated 5 million people. As many as two-thirds of the people in Wisconsin who use SNAP (or FoodShare in Wis.) also participate in the Medicaid program; these individuals are likely to experience compounding damages from cuts to these programs.

The OBBBA results in states receiving less Federal Medicaid money to help run their current Medicaid programs (like Family Care, IRIS, CLTS, and ForwardHealth Card, in Wisconsin), shifts new costs onto states that they don't have now, and creates big state budget holes. It also places more requirements on program participants. The additional paperwork, some Medicaid participants will face to "prove they are working/exempt" are expected to increase the risk of mistakes. These mistakes can be hard to correct, will cause some people to lose their Medicaid coverage or experience delays in coverage, and could result in a loss of providers/workers when payments are made promptly. The ripple effects of this new law will impact all of us. Older adults, people living with disabilities, family caregivers, and the programs that support them, all face the consequences of these cuts, as do all those who lose health and long term care jobs, experience higher private health insurance premiums (resulting from increase uncompensated care), deal with clinic and facility closures, and/or are unpaid caregivers forced to leave the workforce to fill in the growing gaps in care as best they can.

With H.R. 1 now signed into law, the focus in Congress is expected to shift to the upcoming fiscal year (FY) 2026 appropriations process. Stay tuned for more opportunities to push for increased funding for Older Americans Act and other aging service funding.

## 2025 Civic Health Challenge Sign-Up

The Civic Health Challenge will take place during Civic Health Month -- August 2025. Those who sign up for the challenge will receive weekly challenges to choose from, oriented around four main areas of civic health: Political Participation, Community Connectedness, Social Connectedness, and Media & Information. This year's challenges will include fun and educational opportunities to connect with others through virtual meet-ups, webinars, and other activities.

The goal of the Civic Health challenge is to raise awareness of the Civic Health Initiative and Steering Committee organizations, educate Wisconsinites on how they can contribute to civic health in their communities, and encourage habits and actions that contribute to local civic health. The Civic Health Challenge is great for those who want to explore and expand how they take action to contribute to civic health in Wisconsin.

**Learn more:** <https://commnsknowledge.wisc.edu/civic-health-of-wisconsin/>

**Sign up for the 2025 Civic Health Challenge:** <https://bit.ly/4m30jrt>



## Webinar update: Federal Funding Fallout 2025: Info and Action Steps

Friday, July 11 | 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

English registration: <https://bit.ly/FedFunds711>

Spanish registration: <https://bit.ly/FedFundsSpan711>

**Medicaid. Social Security. Disability Programs. Education. Federal Budget. Join us this Friday** to get the latest on Federal funding cuts and federal agency changes that impact people with disabilities.



## Data Management

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

### Need to Know

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#### Upcoming webinar

#### **GWAAR PeerPlace Webinar - Topic: General Reports and View Builders**

Tuesday, July 15 | 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

GWAAR Data Staff will be hosting a webinar on July 15<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m., with the focus area being Reports and View Builders. This webinar will cover the general main reports and view builders recommended by GWAAR, how to set them up and what to look for. Following is the registration link to sign up – a reminder notice will be sent out prior. If you are unable to attend the webinar will be recorded and posted in the GWAAR Data Management library.

**Registration: GWAAR PeerPlace Webinar - Topic: General Reports and View Builders:**  
<https://bit.ly/4koPMVZ>





## Elder Abuse Programs

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[Donna Rosner](#), Elder Abuse Program Specialist

### **Nice to Know**

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#### **Introducing Donna Sulstrom-Rosner, Certified Social Worker, Elder Abuse Program Specialist**

Donna recently joined GWAAR, filling the role previously held by Jayne Mullins. Prior to joining GWAAR, Donna was the Department of Health Services (DHS) Adult Protective Services (APS) residential care specialist. In her role with DHS, she developed best practice protocol for APS and partners in response to reports of abuse and neglect in residential care facilities. Prior to her time with DHS, she was a County Adult Protective Services Worker for 33 years.

She has a well-established reputation as a leader statewide when it comes to service delivery of Adult Protective Services. Her entire career has been devoted to promoting the lives of adults and elders at risk through advocacy and intervention in the least restrictive manner while addressing maltreatment.

Donna works from her home office in Phelps, only four miles from the UP of Michigan. Outside of work, Donna enjoys traveling, fishing with her husband, spending time with her 15-month-old grandson, and going on walks with her golden doodle Finn. She is also a proud parent of three sons who have all graduated from college and left the nest.

Donna reports the highlight of her day is when she can provide support to counties, tribes and various partners regarding APS related matters. She can be reached at [Donna.Rosner@gwaar.org](mailto:Donna.Rosner@gwaar.org)



#### **Reminder: 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.

## Reminder: 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



## National Center for State and Tribal Elder Justice Coalitions

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/ski2nqhiiec-2343102>

## Elder Benefit Services

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[Amanda Grady](#), EBS Support Attorney Program Manager

### ***Nice to Know***

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#### **New EBS Onboarding/EBS Training**

Please contact Stephanie Haas, Medicare Outreach Coordinator and EBS Training Coordinator, at [Stephanie.Haas@gwaar.org](mailto:Stephanie.Haas@gwaar.org) if your agency has hired a new EBS. Stephanie will start the onboarding process and make sure the new EBS is ready for EBS Basic Training. You may also contact Stephanie with any questions about EBS training.

## Family Caregiver Support

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

### ***Nice to Know***

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#### **Caregiver Coordinator Statewide meeting July 15**

Tuesday, July 15 | 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The agenda is now available for the upcoming Caregiver Coordinator Statewide meeting.

**View the agenda:** <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008598>

Wisconsin's  
**Family**Caregiver  
Support Programs

## Nice to Know

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### 🔔 Now Available! Wisconsin Caregiving Infographic!

A powerful new tool for professional Caregiver Coordinators to use in outreach, education, and community engagement efforts.

✚ Highlighting key facts about caregiving across the state, this resource is perfect for presentations, newsletters, lobby displays, and social media posts.

👏 Brought to you by our incredible partners at The UW Extension, helping raise awareness and support for the caregivers who keep Wisconsin strong.

**View the infographic:** <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2007917>

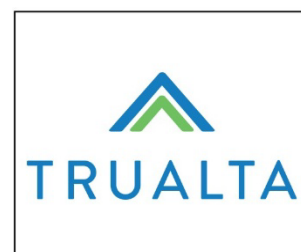


### 🔧 Trualta: A FREE Tool for Wisconsin Caregiver Coordinators! 🔧

Trualta is an evidence-informed, online education platform available at no cost to all Wisconsin caregivers—and it's not just for families!

👥 Caregiver Coordinators can use Trualta to:

- Enhance caregiver support groups with ready-to-use training modules
- Incorporate topics like Caregiver Burnout, Injury Prevention, and Chronic Conditions into workshops
- Offer caregivers a trusted, self-paced learning tool to extend support beyond the office



💡 What caregivers will find on Trualta:

- ✓ Practical strategies to manage burnout and stress
- ✓ Training on injury prevention and mobility
- ✓ Education on chronic health conditions and mental health
- ✓ Access to live expert discussions, support groups, and blogs

🔗 Share this link with families and explore it for your own work:

<https://wisconsincaregiver.trualta.com/>

Let's help caregivers thrive—not just survive. Together, we can lighten their load.

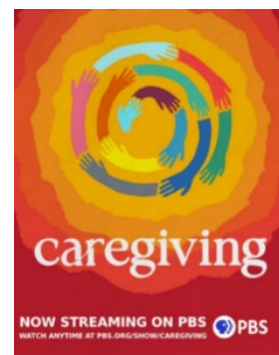
### Reminder: New Documentary Premiere: CAREGIVING ❤️

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/>





## Reminder: 2nd Annual Southeastern Wisconsin Caregiving Symposium registration open

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 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. 🌍💬👤🏆

🎤 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

### **More information and registration:**

<https://mailchi.mp/dds/2nd-annual-southeastern-wisconsin-caregiving-symposium-10345249?e=63fe335af3>



## Fiscal

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

### **Need to Know**

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- Contract amendments will be sent out shortly.
- An updated June claim will be posted, once contract amendments are verified, amounts updated, and additional modifications are completed.
- Final 2025 Budget to be posted, once contract amendments are verified and amounts updated.
- Notices will be sent out once the June claim and the Final Budget have been posted, and webinars will be conducted to review the changes.

## Health Promotion

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

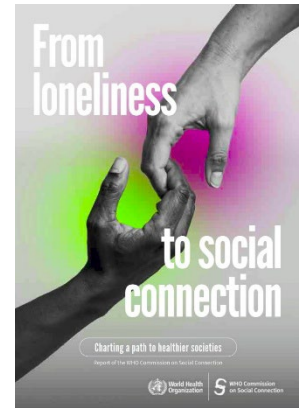
### Nice to Know

#### New Report! WHO Commission on Social Connection

This landmark report - *From Loneliness to Social Connection: Charting a Path to Healthier Societies* - from the World Health Organization (WHO) Commission on Social Connection highlights that social isolation and loneliness are widespread, with serious but under-recognized impacts on health, well-being, and society. Drawing on the latest evidence, the report makes a compelling case for urgent action. It outlines practical, scalable solutions to strengthen social connection - and calls on policy-makers, researchers and all sectors to treat social health with the same urgency as physical and mental health.

The Commissioners envision a future where stronger social bonds improve well-being, reduce preventable deaths, boost education and economic resilience, and ease the social and financial burden of disconnection. This report is a call to act - and an invitation to build a more connected, healthier world.

Learn more: <https://www.who.int/groups/commission-on-social-connection/report>



## Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol

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

### Nice to Know

#### The July Scam Spotlight focuses on Medical Identity Theft

Similar to regular identity theft, medical identity theft is when someone steals personal medical information, such as a Medicare number, and uses it to receive medical treatments or products in that person's name. The consequences of medical identity theft are frightening, both to the person's wallet and health.

#### Read the July Scam Spotlight:

<https://www.smpwi.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/07-July-Medical-Identity-Theft.pdf>

The flyer is titled 'Wisconsin SMP SCAM SPOTLIGHT' with a date of 'July 2025'. The main topic is 'Medical Identity Theft'. It defines the crime as stealing personal medical information like a Medicare number to receive medical services. It lists consequences: 'Personal Financial Loss' (paying for services not covered) and 'Negative Health Impact' (incorrect care due to wrong records). It provides 'SMP TIPS' such as protecting the Medicare number, not sharing personal info, and checking Medicare Summary Notices for double-billing or unrecognized providers. It includes contact information for reporting fraud to the Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol (888-818-2611) and the website www.smpwi.org. A small SMP logo is at the bottom left, and a note mentions funding from the U.S. Administration for Community Living.