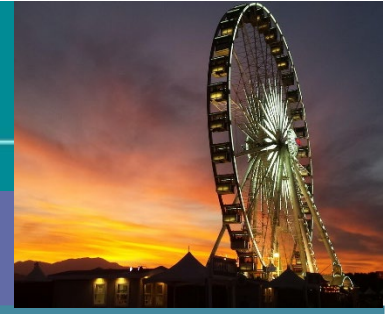




Volume 7, No. 31 August 5, 2025
Office: 608-243-5670 Fax: 866-813-0974
info@gwaar.org www.gwaar.org



Leadership Opportunity

Openings available on our Board of Directors

✓ Applications welcome! **Learn more:** gwaar.org/join-the-gwaar-board



Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

Need to Know

Reminder: Legal Services Contract Request for Proposals

The Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR), is pleased to announce the Older Americans Act (OAA) Title III-B Legal Services Contract - Request for Proposal (RFP).

Proposals are due by September 12, 2025. The contract runs from January 1 - December 31, 2026 with option for four, one-year extensions.

View the RFP and apply: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008635>

For questions regarding the legal services RFP, please contact Angie Sullivan, OAA Specialist Health Promotion & Supportive Services at angela.sullivan@gwaar.org.



Nice to Know

Online learning available when you need it

Back-to-school is just around the corner, but professionals in the aging network can use GWAAR ED almost any time! GWAAR ED is an online platform for training and professional development for the various Older Americans Act programs we support. If you're eligible to enroll and haven't done so, you'll find self-guided content about the different aspects of GWAAR depending on the duties associated with your position.

To enroll: <https://gwaar.wufoo.com/forms/z95v3sv0qqhoha/>

Questions can be directed to Lucia Mennen at gwaar.ed@gwaar.org.



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

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

Abuse in Later Life Grant

Need to Know

Reminder: Direct Services Elder Abuse Training

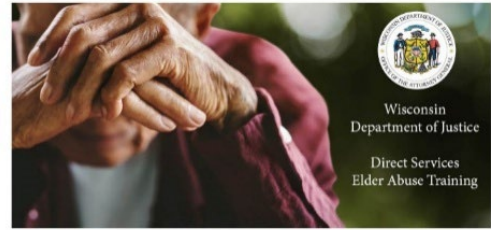
This training is open to state-based organizations and agencies that work with adult protective services, victim services, system-based advocates, and aging network professionals.

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

Janet Zander, Advocacy and Public Policy Coordinator

Nice to Know

Reminder: New Survival Coalition Survey

The Survival Coalition of state disability organizations is conducting a survey of people with disabilities and older adults who use Medicaid, their caregivers, and their providers. The purpose of the survey is to find out how much time and effort currently goes into Medicaid eligibility, how much unpaid care already is provided, and what people are most concerned about with the more than \$900-990 billion in Medicaid cuts that were signed into law July 4, 2025.

Survey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SBLJQYN>

Please share this survey with people with disabilities and older adults who use Medicaid, their caregivers, and their providers.

Webinar update: Federal Funding Fallout2025: Info and Action Steps

Friday, August 8 | 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

English registration: <https://bit.ly/FedFundsQA88>

Spanish registration: <https://bit.ly/FedFunds88Span>

Medicaid. Social Security. Disability Programs. Education. Federal Budget.

Join BPDD this Friday to get the latest on Federal funding cuts and federal agency changes that impact people with disabilities.

This webinar is limited to the first 500 people who log on. BPDD is committed to making its resources as accessible as possible. When you register, you will receive another e-mail with the zoom link.

The format for these webinars in August has changed:

- Tami will hold Federal Funding Updates & Q&A Friday @ 9-10 a.m.
- 15-20 minutes of the latest updates and 45 minutes of discussion where you can ask questions, talk about what you are hearing in your area and from lawmakers, and give us feedback about events, surveys, and other items being planned to keep people engaged on disability issues.
- The presentation will not be recorded. All people who register will get a follow up email after the webinar with a link to the presentation slides.



Data Management

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

Nice to Know

Upcoming webinar

- [GWAAR PeerPlace - Reports: Served Client Summary and Title III All Services](#)
Wednesday, August 6 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.
Webinar Registration: <https://bit.ly/44S11EB>
- A webinar reminder notice will be sent out prior to the meeting – if unable to attend the recording it will be posted to the Data Management library.

Family Caregiver Support

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

Need to Know

Reminder: Caregiving in the U.S. 2025: 63 Million and Counting

The latest Caregiving in the U.S. 2025 report reveals a staggering rise in unpaid caregiving—63 million Americans, or 1 in 4 adults, are now caring for someone with complex medical needs or a disability. That’s a 20 million increase since 2015.



These family caregivers are managing medical tasks, holding full-time jobs, and sacrificing their well-being—often without training, compensation, or support.

■ Explore and share the findings:

- 🔍 Access the full 2025 report: <https://www.caregivingintheus.org/>
- 📁 Download the Partner Toolkit: <https://www.caregiving.org/caregiving-in-the-us-2025-toolkit/>
- 🎥 Watch the Partner Briefing Webinar: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JZ0yI_law14
- 📄 View the Webinar Slides: <https://bit.ly/3HajuRa>

Let’s work together to elevate the visibility of caregivers and advocate for the support they urgently need.

Reminder: Upcoming Caregiver Coordinator Statewide Meeting – Save the Date!

Tuesday, September 23 – IN-PERSON Meeting | 10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Wilson Senior Center (2601 W Howard Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53221)

Lunch provided; bring your own if you have dietary restrictions.

Attendees are responsible for hotel reservations. Nearby options include:

- Holiday Inn & Suites Milwaukee Airport
- Courtyard Milwaukee Airport
- Best Western Plus Milwaukee Airport Hotel

Wisconsin's
FamilyCaregiver
Support Programs

Nice to Know

Webinar Alert: Integrating Family Caregivers as Care Team Partners

Wednesday, August 6 | 1:00 p.m.


Join the Administration for Community Living's (ACL) National Caregiver Support Collaborative (NCSC) for an impactful webinar focused on elevating family caregivers as essential care team partners.

This session will explore real-world strategies to strengthen partnerships between the aging network and health care providers—helping bridge critical gaps in caregiver support.



What You'll Learn:

- ACL updates on efforts to align health care & social support systems
- New resources from UCSF to better identify and support family caregivers
- Local success stories of health care–aging network collaboration
- Interactive discussion guided by the National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers

 Whether you're in aging services, health care, or caregiver advocacy, this is a can't-miss opportunity to learn, share, and connect!

 **Click here to register:**

<https://www.advancingstates.org/webinar-integrating-family-caregivers-care-team-partners>

Reminder: Know an Employer Who Supports Family Caregivers? Nominate them!

The Wisconsin Family and Caregiver Support Alliance (WFACSA) is celebrating employers who go the extra mile to support their team members with family caregiving responsibilities. Whether it's flexible schedules, caregiver resources, or understanding leadership, we want to hear about it! 🙌

-  Help us spotlight businesses that:
 -  Foster a caregiver-friendly workplace culture
 -  Support employee wellbeing & work-life balance
 -  Connect caregivers to community resources
-  Nominate an employer today!
-  It only takes a few minutes:
 -  <https://bit.ly/WFACSAemployernomination>



Let's uplift the employers who are getting it right! 🙌 ❤️

2025 Fond du Lac County Caregiver Conference – Registration Now Open!

Thursday, September 18 | 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Join us for a day of education and support for those who care ❤️

- 📍 Community Church, N6717 Streblov Dr., Fond du Lac, WI
- 💰 \$5 Family Caregivers | \$15 Professional Caregivers
- 🌟 Keynote Presentation:

“Until My Memory Fails Me: Mindfulness Practices for Cultivating Resilience & Self-Compassion in the Face of Cognitive Decline”

🗣️ Presented by Sharon Lukert – Chaplain, Educator, and Advocate living with Mild Cognitive Impairment

🔍 Choose from six interactive workshops, including:

- Estate Planning 101
- Noticing Memory & Thinking Changes
- Lessons Learned in Joy
- Thriving amid Change
- Assistive Technology for Memory Support
- Caring for Someone with Bowel & Bladder Issues

🍴 Lunch is included with registration

✅ Registration deadline: Friday, September 12, 2025

📄 Register now: <https://form.jotform.com/251205117975153>

📞 For questions, contact: 920-929-3419

✉️ Email: alyssa.sommerfeldt@fdlco.wi.gov

📄 View the flyer: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008653>

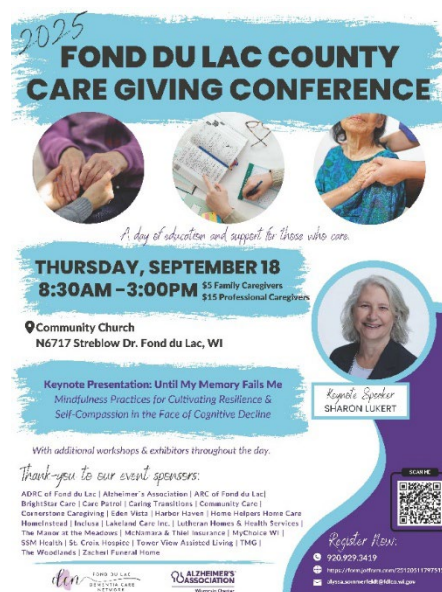
📺 New Caregiving Documentary Featuring Bradley Cooper – Now on PBS!

A new PBS documentary on family caregiving, executive produced by actor and caregiver Bradley Cooper, is now available for streaming.

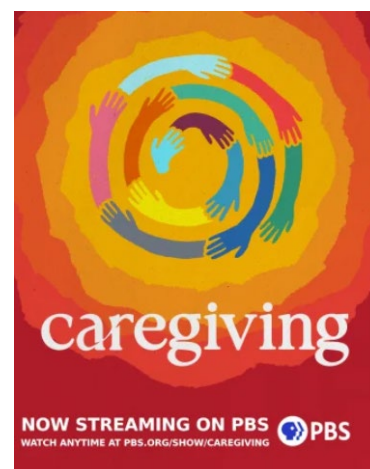
Like the 2017 release of Being Mortal, this film presents a powerful opportunity for community education. When Being Mortal aired, national partners provided toolkits and small grants to help communities host film screenings and discussions.

👉 Consider using this new film in your community outreach to spark conversations about caregiving, aging, and support.

Visit the site: <https://wellbeings.org/collection/caregiving/>



The flyer for the 2025 Fond du Lac County Caregiving Conference features a blue and purple color scheme. At the top, it says "2025 FOND DU LAC COUNTY CARE GIVING CONFERENCE". Below this, there are three circular images: hands clasped, a person reading, and a person being held. A quote reads "A day of education and support for those who care." The event details are: "THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 8:30AM – 3:00PM" with a note for "\$5 Family Caregivers \$15 Professional Caregivers". The location is "Community Church, N6717 Streblov Dr., Fond du Lac, WI". The keynote speaker is Sharon Lukert, with the title "Keynote Speaker: Until My Memory Fails Me: Mindfulness Practices for Cultivating Resilience & Self-Compassion in the Face of Cognitive Decline". A QR code is present for registration. At the bottom, it lists sponsors: ADRC of Fond du Lac, Alzheimer's Association, ARC of Fond du Lac, BrightStar Care, Care Partners, Caring Transitions, Community Care, Connections Caregiving, Eden Vista, Harbor House, Home Instead Home Care, HomeInstead, InCassia, Lakeland Care, Inc., Lutheran Homes & Health Services, The Mission of the Meadows, Memory & Therapeutic | MyChoice WI, SSM Health, St. Croix Hospital, Tower View Assisted Living | TMG, and The Woodlands | Zachel Funeral Home. Contact information includes phone number 920-929-3419 and website https://form.jotform.com/251205117975153.



Caregiver Coordinators — Here's a Fall Prevention Resource You'll Want to Share! 📄 📄

Caregivers often put their own safety last while focusing on others. But a fall can jeopardize their ability to continue providing care. Help them stay strong, steady, and safe by sharing this caregiver-specific fall prevention resource:

👉 <https://fallsfreewi.org/prevent-falls/caregivers/>

This site offers FREE, easy-to-use tools you can incorporate into your caregiver support work:

- 📄 Printable handouts
- 👟 Tips on safe footwear
- 🧑‍🦯 Guides on assistive devices
- 🧠 Info on medications & supplements that increase fall risk
- 🏋️ Balance & strength exercises
- ⬆️ Step-by-step on how to get up from a fall

👉 Use it in caregiver workshops, resource packets, or one-on-one visits.

Let's keep the caregivers we serve strong, safe, and supported. ❤️

Fiscal

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

Need to Know

Upcoming

The Final 2025 Budget to be posted shortly.

- Notice will be sent out once posted.
- Webinar Registration - TBD

Health Promotion

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

Need to Know

Reminder: Legal Services Contract Request for Proposals

As noted earlier in this newsletter, we have posted a Request for Proposal Application – Older Americans Act (OAA) Title III-B Legal Services Contract.

View the RFP and apply: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008635>

For questions regarding the legal services RFP, please contact Angie Sullivan, OAA Specialist Health Promotion & Supportive Services at angela.sullivan@gwaar.org.

Reminder: Falls Free Wisconsin (FFWI) - Mini-Grant Request for Proposals

Localizing Efforts to Address Falls (LEAF) - As part of a statewide strategy to reduce falls among older adults, the Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging (WIHA), convener of the Falls Free Wisconsin Coalition, is excited to announce a new mini-grant funding opportunity to support local falls prevention efforts across Wisconsin!

Through the LEAF initiative, WIHA will provide funding to empower communities in developing or enhancing impactful falls prevention programs or projects.

Whether you're looking to launch a new initiative or strengthen an existing one, this is your chance to make a difference in the lives of older adults in your community.

WIHA will fund a maximum of 6 projects in the amount of up to \$5,000 each.

Key Dates:

- * Q & A Session August 5 @ 2 p.m. (register here)/Session will be recorded
- * Proposals Due: September 23 by 11:59 p.m.
- * Project period: October 1, 2025- April 30, 2026
- * Final Report Due: June 30, 2026

Link to register for the Q & A Session -

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/QXe-iM2NRq2VWek0Kaallg#/registration>

View the Request for Proposal Here: -

<https://files.constantcontact.com/cba79bee701/e2bb314f-1639-43be-8ff6-292bdfcaf59f.pdf?rdr=true>

Reminder: Resources Now Available for Falls Prevention Awareness Month

It's almost here - Falls Prevention Awareness Month (FPAM) is just around the corner! This September let's shine a spotlight on staying safe, strong, and independent as we age. If you haven't started planning, now's the perfect time to dive in and see how you can use these resources in your community.

The FFWI Coalition has been busy behind the scenes creating fresh, ready-to-use materials to support your local efforts.

- * Press Release (English & Spanish)
- * Newsletter article (English & Spanish)
- * Radio Talking Points (English & Spanish) - a great way to reach older adults!
- * Social media graphics & suggested text (General, Tribal & Spanish)
- * Handouts (English & Spanish) - consider posting in transportation vehicles, distributing with Home Delivered Meals, share in newsletters and events

This year, our theme is Falls Prevention is a Team Effort. We ALL have a role to play to prevent falls. Let's make FPAM 2025 the most impactful one yet - together!

View the FPAM Promotional Resources - <https://fallsfreewi.org/for-professionals/promotional-resources/>



Falls Prevention is a Team Effort

September is Falls Prevention Awareness Month!



FallsFreeWI.org Falls Free Wisconsin

Guardianship Support Center

[Polly Shoemaker](#), WI Guardianship Support Center Attorney

Nice to Know

Reminder: July 2025 issue of the The Guardian available

The Guardian is a quarterly newsletter published by the Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources' (GWAAR) Wisconsin Guardianship Support Center (GSC)

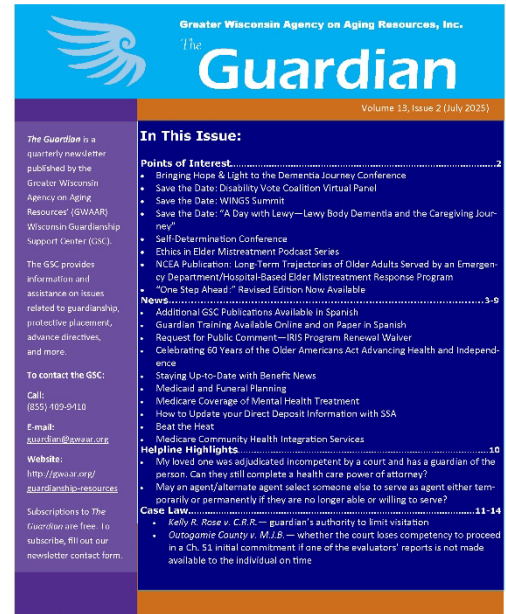
The GSC provides information and assistance on issues related to guardianship, protective placement, advance directives, and more.

Read the July issue of The Guardian:

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008642>

Subscribe or view past issues:

<https://gwaar.org/guardianship-resources>



Reminder: 2025 WINGS Wisconsin Summit: Beyond the Order: Centering Lives, Choices, and Change

Monday, September 29, 2025 | 9:00 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.

University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point

From Legal Authority to Lasting Impact — Advancing Rights, Relationships, and Self-Determination in Guardianship. This statewide summit brings together legal, health, and advocacy professionals to explore guardianship practices in Wisconsin with a focus on advancing self-determination, relationships, and alternatives to court orders. The event includes expert panels, legislative updates, and breakout discussions on guardianship reform, self-advocacy, and complex decision-making for individuals under guardianship.

Registration: <https://bit.ly/4m2DsfG>

View the flyer:

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008643>



Nutrition

[Pam VanKampen](#), Older Americans Act Consultant - Nutrition Specialist/Senior Center Representative

Nice to Know

In the news: NOURISH Step and the Teddy Bear Picnic



Lori Fernandez and Pam VanKampen shared a fun activity on Channel 5 in Green Bay to show how easy it is to take a NOURISH Step.

Watch the segment: <http://bit.ly/4lWj53S>

View the handout: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008541>

Learn more about NOURISH Step: <https://gwaar.org/nourishstep>

Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol

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

Nice to Know

August Scam Spotlight: “New” Medicare cards

The August Scam Spotlight from the Senior Medicare Patrol is now available and highlights a scam trend that is reported to us through the Helpline often: “New” Medicare Cards.

Guess what? There isn’t a new Medicare card! It’s a scam! Check out the Scam Spotlight to learn more about some of the red flags of this scam.

Read the August Scam Spotlight:

<https://www.smpwi.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/08-August.pdf>

Wisconsin SMP
August 2025 **SCAM SPOTLIGHT**

“New” Medicare Card

Do you know what isn’t new? Your Medicare card.
Medicare beneficiaries are not receiving new cards, but scammers may try to convince you otherwise. For example, scammers may falsely tell you that Medicare is issuing new cards—perhaps a card that is plastic, or a card that has a chip in it. The scammers may tell you that for them to send your new card, you need to verify your identity, which could include your Medicare number. This is an attempt to get your personal or financial information.

Here are some red flags to look for:

- Unsolicited calls from anyone claiming to be from Medicare
- Anyone needing your personal information so that they can send you an updated Medicare card
- Anyone saying your card is expiring, and they need to send you a new one or you will be charged a fine
- Anyone stating Medicare is issuing new cards and you need to verify your number

Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol has a toll-free hotline to report any Medicare fraud. Call 888-818-2611 to report fraudulent activity. For more information, please call or go to www.smpwi.org

This project was supported, in part, by grant number 90MPPG0102, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201