



Wisconsin Caregiver Coordinator Statewide Meeting

Tuesday, September 23rd 10 am – 2:30 pm

NOTES

ACL Grant: National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers

10:00 am Welcome Lynn Gall, Family Caregiver Support and Lifespan Respite Programs Manager, DHS, and Bryn Ceman, Caregiver Programs Specialist, GWAAR

- [National Strategy & Wisconsin 2024 ACL Award 9.23.25](#) quick overview
 - Including [Implementing the National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers](#), DHS Website
- Emphasis: The work being done through this grant is intended to make your day-to-day work with caregivers effective and impactful. Today is also an opportunity for feedback and ideas.
- Grant strategy team would like to be engaged with **in-district advocacy events**.
- Based on what you've learned today, brainstorm one realistic activity or outreach strategy you can implement in your local caregiver program that supports your focus area. Bonus if it's something simple, free, or already underway.
- Just a reminder: AFCSP Documents updated: [AFCSP Enrollment Form](#), [AFCSP vs NFCSP Comparison Chart](#), [Cross Comparison of AFCSP, NFCSP, and RCAW grants](#), [AFCSP Fact Sheet](#), [AFCSP Fact Sheet Hmong](#), [AFCSP Fact Sheet US Spanish](#), [AFCSP Tribal Fact Sheet](#), and [AFCSP-NFCSP Fact Sheet](#).

10:15 am Advocacy Update (virtual) Janet Zander, Public Policy & Advocacy Coordinator, GWAAR

- [Advocacy Update Statewide Caregiver Coordinators Mtg_9-23-25](#)
 - Watch for sign on letter/action on Healthy Aging grant Senate Bill 410 to fund healthy aging in amount of \$450,000. Currently 24 legislators signed on and next goal is public hearing with follow up action.
 - Caregiver Designation Bill: Opportunity for caregivers when applying/renewing license to provide names/contact for up to 3 people for whom they provide care. DMV could disclose that information to law enforcement agency in event of accident/injury. We would also like to push to add agencies/individuals to provide care in interim to information collected.
 - Memory Care Designation Bill:
 - Once drafted it will get shared, and we should contact legislators to let them know how important the bill is to caregivers.
 - [Volunteer Driver Insurance advocacy opportunity](#): WAAN's position to modify state law to protect volunteer drivers from insurance companies classifying volunteer driving as commercial activity.

- Speaker Voss to create Speaker Taskforce on Elder Services. Rep Schneider will be chair of committee. Rep Schneider notes interest in prioritizing palliative care, aging at home, elder abuse, social isolation, transportation. Plans to also hold public hearings in October/November to gather more input.
- 2026 Federal budget: House voted to pass continuing resolution to keep funding when it expires 9/30. House narrowly passed in time to get to Senate but Senate did not pass. Senate has 1 day to pass to avoid shutdown when they return. A shutdown would mean all nonessential activities cease. Gov't employees would be furloughed or asked to work without pay. SS, Medicare, Medicaid would continue since they do not need annual approval in budget.
- Still waiting for re-auth of OAA and Lifespan Respite.
- AFCSP bill passage! WI Act 21—eliminates income eligibility. Had tremendous legislative support. Signed into law in August.
- In-District meetings, [Advocacy Toolkit](#)

10:30 am Objective 1.1 Increased Awareness of and Outreach to Family Caregiver Sue Murawsky, Client Success Manager, Trualta

- [Trualta - National Strategy to Support Wisconsin Caregivers](#)
- Ideas from others:
 - Kenosha County: Discusses Trualta during her home visits and provides flyers with information circled to get them logged in.
 - Sheboygan County: During caregiver consultation she gets permission to invite them and tell them the message they will receive is valid and not spam. She will also go in and re-send if needed as the caregiver be balancing many tasks when its initially sent.
 - Terri worked with Sue from Trualta to do a caregiver 101 class to get people onboard.
 - Trualta is budgeted for another year. The more enrollments with get, the lower the “per person” dollar amount will be when we as to extend funding.
 - Encouraged to share with faith communities and with libraries.
 - WFACSA attending the Wisconsin Library Association (WLA) Conference in Oct to promote Trualta and other family caregiver supports.

11:00 am Objective 1.3 Caregiver Awareness Campaign Kristin Litzelman, Ph.D. UW-Extension

- [Objective 1.3 Caregiver Awareness Campaign](#) presentation
 - Includes links to draft campaign marketing videos
 - [Objective 1.3 Feedback Form](#) (The form can still be completed and submitted to Dr. Kristin Litzelman at litzelman@wisc.edu following the meeting!)

11:30 am Objective 1.4 Underserved Populations Rachel Watkins-Petersen, Assistant Director, RCAW and Kayla Steinke, Caregiver Support Coordinator, Milwaukee AAA

- [UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS WORKGROUP](#)
 - [UWM Helen Bader School of Social Welfare - Southeastern Wisconsin Caregiving Symposium: Supporting Children, Youth & Young Adults as Caregivers](#)
 - [Youth Caregiver Resources | Wisconsin Family Caregiver Support Program](#)
- Participants noted the importance of creating materials that are accessible to rural caregivers. This may mean relying less on social media, virtual resources or other technology (such as QR codes) isn't possible. **Newspapers, local cable & radio, mailers, are more effective** (in some areas).
- Some participants note challenges helping people apply for Respite Care Association of Wisconsin (RCAW) grants who do not have internet access. Leslie Thede from RCAW states she will help people complete by phone when needed.

12– 12:30 pm LUNCH/BREAK/NETWORK

(Light lunch provided. Please bring your own if you have dietary restrictions or allergies.)

12:30 pm Objectives 2.3 Build Partnerships & Engagement and Objective 3.1 Strengthening Services & Support Leslie Thede, Program Manager, RCAW and Beth Field, Ph.D. UW-Madison

- [Build Partnerships & Engagement & Strengthening Services & Support](#)
 - Caregiver-Centered Care competencies training for professionals will be launched in November that walks through the framework to integrate caregivers into your care planning process. All caregiver coordinators encouraged us to schedule in a time to participate. There will be a survey after to determine if it is useful.
 - You are **encouraged** to share with other professionals far and wide. Examples: Doctor, coffee shop worker, etc.
 - Can contact Beth Fields (befields2@wisc.edu) and Leslie Thede (lthede@respitecarewi.org) for more information.
- [Healthy Meals, Healthy Minds \(HMHM\) Grant Program for Family Caregivers](#)
 - Massage may be an option in the future.
 - Currently, funds cannot be used for deli, ready-made meals from grocery stores.
 - Save this and other RCAW applications with notes for caregivers = easier to re-apply.

1:00 pm Objectives 4.1 and 4.2 Ensure Financial and Workplace Security Harriet Redman, Founder/Director of Special Projects, [WisconSibs](#) and Lynn Gall

- [Working Caregivers - GOAL 4](#)
 - [HR CareKit](#)

- [Exemplary Employer Recognition Award](#)
- [GOALS 4 Feedback handout](#)

1:45 pm Game/Prizes - Wrap Up Lynn Gall and Bryn Ceman

- [Caregiver Coordinator Impact Game](#) + Vote = Prizes
- Reminder about collecting caregiver stories!
- **Impactful ideas:**
 - Caregiver Roadmap (****Most Replicable****)
 - Local radio/cable with topic of Caregiver Challenge
 - Make connections with Chamber of Commerce – they may spread information with multiple chambers
 - Badger Talk—Option to bring speaker to your county:
<https://badgertalks.wisc.edu/>
 - Free caregiver trainings opportunities:
 - [Free CDCP Training in Wisconsin | WisCaregiver CDCP](#)
 - <https://www.uwgb.edu/wisconsin-caregiver-academy/caregivers/>
 - Goal to continue sharing and inviting caregivers to Trualta
 - Education series hosted for caregivers
 - Gut-brain conversation (****Most Creative****) – Beth Christman
(Beth.Christman@douglascountywi.gov)
 - Additional resources: [Feed Your Mind](#), [Alzheimer's Disease Research Center Classes and Series](#), and [Trualta Healthy Eating](#)
 - Powerful Tools for Caregivers sample class as bridge to employers
 - Opportunity to meaningfully connect with caregivers through employers (****Most Impactful****) – greatest likelihood to keep family caregivers employed longer, more sustainable in their caregiving role, and promotes greater financial independence (e.g. SS contributions, retirement savings, health insurance, etc.) in the future.

Future Statewide Webinar Date:

- Tuesday, November 25th at 10 am – National Family Caregiver Month & Marketing Toolkit (Follow Up / Feedback)
- Future agendas & notes will be forthcoming and posted on the GWAAR [website](#) along with the recordings, notes, and other meeting documents following each meeting.
- Please feel free to email Bryn at: bryn.ceman@GWAAR.org and/or Lynn at: Lynn.Gall@dhs.wisconsin.gov with NFCSP/AFCSP meeting topics or guest speaker ideas.