



Volume 8, No. 12 March 24, 2026
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✓ Save the date

Next ACE Meeting – April 8

1:30 – 3:00 p.m.



Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

Nice to Know

Second quarter ACE meeting next month

Wednesday, April 8 | 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

The second quarter ACE (A Commitment to Excellence) meeting is coming up soon! Join us for updates including the 2025 Federal NAPIS Report and a Fiscal update covering 2026 allocations and more.

View the agenda: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008972>



Save the dates for 2026 ACE meetings

- Wednesday, July 8, In-person at Stevens Point, 10:00 – 2:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, October 14, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Nice to Know

Janet Zander announces May 15 retirement

After 13 years with GWAAR and over three decades dedicated to the aging network, Janet Zander, Director of Advocacy and Public Policy, has announced her retirement. Her last day at GWAAR will be May 15, 2026.

Janet's presence at GWAAR will be greatly missed. Please join us in thanking Janet for her many contributions to the aging network and congratulating her on her upcoming retirement.

In memory of Rob Wilkinson

We were saddened to learn of the passing of the GWAAR Board of Directors Chair, Rob Wilkinson, earlier this month. Rob served as a valued member of our Board of Directors and Advisory Council for many, many years and was a steadfast advocate for our mission. His leadership, wisdom, kindness, and passion for helping the Aging Network and older adults in Wisconsin, will always be remembered and he will be profoundly missed.

Reminder: We're hiring:

All current open positions can be viewed at <https://gwaar.org/jobs> including:

- Advocacy and Public Policy Director
View the full job description: <https://bit.ly/4ueJkr0>
View or share on LinkedIn: <https://bit.ly/4rQySUK>
- Part-time Human Resources and Benefits Liaison
View the full job description: <https://bit.ly/46mcKck>
View or share on LinkedIn: <https://bit.ly/3P4zrff>
- Veteran Self-Directed Program (VSDP) Care Consultant
View the full job description: <https://bit.ly/4shIRCx>
View or share on LinkedIn: <https://bit.ly/48tiHEF>



Reminder: Older Americans Month 2026 Theme: Champion Your Health

Every May, the Administration for Community Living (ACL) leads the nation's observance of Older Americans Month, a time to recognize older adults' contributions and reaffirm our commitment to supporting their health and independence.

The 2026 theme, Champion Your Health, underscores prevention, wellness, and personal responsibility as cornerstones of healthy aging. It encourages taking an active role in managing and advocating for your health, accessing preventive care, and making informed decisions.

This year, the focus is on evidence-based approaches, self-management, caregiver roles, and community partnerships that empower individuals to lead healthy lives.

The 2026 logos, sample article, and activity ideas are available now. Stay tuned for this year's poster, social media graphics, and more. Use the hashtag #OlderAmericansMonth on social media to share your plans and see what others are doing!

Information and updates: <https://acl.gov/oam/older-americans-month>



Abuse in Later Life Grant

Nice to Know

Reminder: Walking Each Other Home: Pursuing Respect, Justice, and Wellbeing for Older Victims Cross-Training for Faith Leaders and Advocates

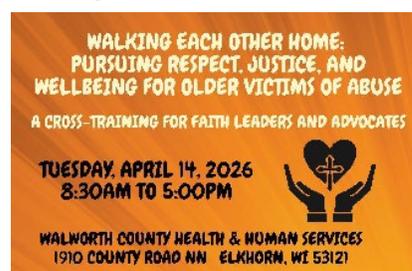
Tuesday, April 14 | 8:30 a.m. -5:00 p.m.

Walworth County Health & Human Services Building

1910 County Road NN | Elkhorn, WI 53121

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

View the flyer: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewfile/id/2008928>



Advocacy

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

Nice to Know

Legislation Providing Needed State Funding for FoodShare Signed into Law

On March 23, 2026, Governor Evers signed [AB 180](#) (as amended) into law – 2025 Wisconsin Act 116. This legislation was approved by the State Senate on March 17 and by the State Assembly last month. Though AB 180 also imposes extra restrictions on what can be purchased with FoodShare benefits, this legislation became the vehicle to ensure that the much-needed funding for the program could be secured, and the delivery of essential services would continue while safeguarding Wisconsin taxpayers.



AB 180: https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2025/related/amendments/ab180/ssa1_ab180

The [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\)](#), known in Wisconsin as [FoodShare](#), is jointly run by federal, state, and local governments with the goal of stopping hunger across the country. In Wisconsin, the Department of Health Services (DHS) administers this program in partnership with county governments. SNAP provides nearly 700,000 Wisconsinites, including older people, people living with disabilities, children, and families, with basic food necessities.

A new federal law passed last summer made several significant changes to SNAP, including reducing the federal governments share of the administrative cost share for the program (which will cost Wisconsin an additional \$32.3 million); expanding work requirements to include adults through age 64 (previously work requirements applied to adults ages 54 and under who didn't have a child under age 18 living in their home) at a cost of \$20.7 million so support additional needs in the employment and training program; and for the first time in SNAP's 80-year history, requiring states who are unable to achieve and maintain an error rate below 6% to cover 5-15% of SNAP benefit costs (this requirement could cost Wisconsin taxpayers up to \$205.5 million in penalty fees every year).

State and county budgets are insufficient to cover the increased costs and reduction in federal funding. The Wis. Department of Health Services (DHS) asked the Legislature for \$69.2 million in state funding to help Wisconsin comply with new federal requirements.

SNAP: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program>

FoodShare: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/foodshare/index.htm>

Governor Evers Signs Admissions Consent/Patient Representative Bill into Law

Last Friday (3/20/26), Governor Evers signed [AB 598](#) (as amended) into law - [2025 Wisconsin Act 115](#). On the final day of its general-business floor period this session (3/17/26), the State Senate passed this legislation which creates an alternative to the guardianship process by allowing patient representatives (next-of-kin) to consent to admissions to certain health care facilities without requiring a petition for guardianship or protective placement. The amended bill also includes hospital price transparency language. The bill was approved by the State Assembly in February. The legislation goes into effect on June 1, 2026. This law is set to end three years after the effect date.

AB 598: https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2025/amendments/ab598/asa3_ab598

2025 Wisconsin Act 115: <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2025/related/acts/115>

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Patient advocates remain concerned that this legislation could put patients at risk of abuse or financial exploitation. While the bill expires in three years, the data being collected is limited to the number of times hospitals pick a Patient Representative. Other important data related to what happens to patients, was guardianship ever pursued or were patient representative powers ever revoked due to regained patient capacity or abuse of patient representative powers over finances and placements, and did patient representatives understand their roles, will likely remain unknown. **It will be very important for patients and families to contact their state legislators regarding their patient representative experiences.**

Survival Coalition and the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network put out a [statement](#) to the press sharing their concerns about the bill.

<https://www.wispolitics.com/2026/survival-coalition-senate-passes-bill-that-lets-hospital-pick-a-decision-maker-puts-patients-rights-at-risk/>

Elder Services Task Force Legislation: One Victory and More Work to Be Done

On the final day of its regular floor session (3/17/26), **the Wisconsin State Senate unanimously passed the Cryptocurrency Kiosk Bill (AB-968)** to protect residents, particularly seniors, from fraud by regulating crypto kiosks and enabling refunds for scam victims.

AB-968: <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2025/proposals/ab968>

Investigations of crypto kiosk use revealed that more than 9 in 10 are fraudulent. This legislation protects the hard-earned money of Wisconsinites by:

- Setting daily transaction limits at \$1,000
- Requiring cryptocurrency kiosk operators to provide users with receipts
- Implementing consumer identification measures for every transaction
- Allowing scam victims to receive refunds

This critically important legislation now heads to the Governor.

Take Action: Contact Governor Evers by phone (608-266-1212) or [e-mail](#) and ask him to sign this bill into law and stop criminals from wiping out the financial security of older Wisconsinites.

<https://wi.accessgov.com/public/Forms/Page/governor/voice-an-opinion/1>

The Wisconsin state legislature's bipartisan Speaker's Task Force on Elder Service developed a legislative package earlier this year to identify ways to improve the quality of life for older Wisconsinites. The package included six legislative bills (including the cryptocurrency kiosk bill mentioned above) and two associated funding bills. In late February, the State Assembly passed all eight bills proposed by the Task Force.

Two of the aging network's priority bills and the two associated funding bills, unfortunately, were not on the agenda and will not see further action this session. These include:

- **Grants for Fall Prevention Awareness** - Grants to pilot community emergency medical services, grants for fall prevention awareness and initiatives, and making an appropriation - [SB-976/AB-970](#). **Funding for this legislation** was separated from the initial bill and is included in [SB 996](#).
- **Economic Support Specialists** - Grants to pilot economic support specialists in ADRCs and making an appropriation - [SB-977/AB-973](#). **Funding for this legislation** was separated from the initial bill and is now included in [SB 997](#).

Advocacy to fund essential fall prevention awareness and initiatives must continue to get this legislation introduced as a stand-alone bill next session (begins in Jan. 2027) and/or be included in the next biennial budget.

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SB-976: <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/document/session/2025/REG/SB976>

AB-970: <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2025/proposals/ab970>

SB 996: <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2025/proposals/sb996>

SB-977: <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/document/session/2025/REG/SB977>

AB-973 <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2025/proposals/ab973>

SB 997: <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2025/proposals/sb997>

Sponsorship of WAAN Advocacy Events

Mark your calendars, on Wed., **May 6, 2026, from 1-2 p.m.**, the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) will host a “Day of Action” including a virtual training followed by an online campaign. We will use this day to celebrate Older Americans Month and lift priority aging network issues for the next budget and legislative session. Our day of action will be complemented by local, in-district meetings held by WAAN core members throughout the state. Local meeting hosts are encouraged to schedule in-district meetings between late March and the end of October 2026. **Sponsorship information for these events is now available at:** <https://gwaar.org/waan-day-of-action-2026>. Additional information regarding the Day of Action will be posted soon.



GWAAR Goes to Washington

On March 16 and 17, 2026, GWAAR’s executive director, advocacy and public policy director, a board member, and an advisory council member (as well as Milwaukee County’s Aging Services advocacy and policy manager) participated in USAging’s 2026 Aging Policy Briefing in Washington, D.C. The first day included information on a variety of topics, including FY 2027 federal appropriations for key aging programs and federal updates on aging, caregiving, health policy, and more. See USAging’s 2026 [Policy Priorities at a Glance](#). The second day included tips for visits with our Members of Congress and then meetings on Capitol Hill to advance the federal policy priorities. [Policy Priorities at a Glance:](#) <https://bit.ly/4s2MoUU>



Pictured l to r (Robert Best, GWAAR Advisory Council, Emily Petersen, Advocacy and Policy Manager Aging, Janet Zander, GWAAR Advocacy and Public Policy Director, Rowena Nelson, GWAAR Board of Directors, John Schnabl, GWAAR Executive Director, Sandy Markwood, USAging CEO

Federal Funding Fallout2025: Updates and Q&A

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.



3/27 English Registration: <https://bit.ly/4c4E95C>

3/27 Spanish Registration: <https://bit.ly/FedFundSpa327>

View updates and resources: <https://wi-bpdd.org/index.php/federal-funding-updates/>

National Healthcare Decisions Day (NHDD) – April 16

National Healthcare Decisions Day is celebrated annually on April 16, the day after the date traditionally known as Tax Day. The date was chosen based on this quote from Benjamin Franklin, “...in this world, nothing is certain except death and taxes.” So, by April 15 of each year make sure your taxes are completed and on April 16th complete or review your health care wishes.

NHDD is a way to encourage people to have conversations about their wishes for care through the end of life. This day, as well as events held throughout the year, are intended to empower people to complete advance directives by providing education on the importance of advance care planning and sharing the tools (forms, resources, guides, training) to help them express their wishes regarding healthcare.

Learn more: <https://theconversationproject.org/nhdd/>

Family Caregiver Support

[Bryn Ceman](#), Caregiver Programs Specialist

Need to Know

📌 **Reminder: 2025 AFCSP Fiscal Report Due Friday, March 27**

Please submit your 2025 AFCSP Fiscal Report (Wisconsin Alzheimer’s Family Caregiver Support Program), detailing last year’s expenditures. 📅 Due: March 27, 2026

🔗 **Submit here:** <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/8681804/2025-AFCSP-Fiscal-Report>

📌 **Note:** The survey cannot be saved. Please gather your information in advance and submit in one sitting.

If needed, please forward to the appropriate person in your agency.

Wisconsin's
FamilyCaregiver
Support Programs

Reminder: March Caregiver Coordinator Statewide Meeting Materials Available

Thank you to everyone who attended the March 11 Wisconsin Caregiver Coordinator Statewide Meeting. The recording, presentation slides, meeting notes, and Q&A are now available on both the GWAAR website and the GWAAR SharePoint site for your reference.

<https://gwaar.org/wisconsin-caregiver-support-community-monthly-calls>

Materials posted include: 🇺🇸 Caregiver Grant Programs Overview, Best Practices & FAQs |

👉 Respite Care Association of Wisconsin (RCAW) Caregiver Grants Overview | 📄 Meeting Notes & Q&A from the March Statewide Meeting

 **Upcoming Meeting Reminder** - Our next Caregiver Coordinator Statewide Meeting will be held:

 Wednesday, May 13, 2026 |  10:00 – 11:30 a.m. CT (extended by 30 minutes)

This meeting will include a focus on Relative Caregivers (Kinship, Grandfamilies, Older Relative Caregivers, and RAPP). We will also hear from the Respite Care Association of Wisconsin and hold additional time for discussion about current best practices, enrollment forms, and more.

We encourage all caregiver coordinators and partners to review the materials and join us for the May discussion.

Nice to Know

 **Webinar: Innovative Approaches to Dementia Supports and Services**

 Tuesday, April 7 | 1:00–2:00 p.m.

Join the National Alzheimer’s and Dementia Resource Center (NADRC) for the webinar “Meeting Communities Where They Are: Innovative Approaches to Dementia Supports and Services.”

This session will highlight two community-based dementia programs serving African American and Korean American communities, demonstrating strategies to reduce barriers, increase engagement, and deliver culturally responsive supports for people living with dementia and their caregivers.

 Presenters

- Jackie Dedeaux, MS, LSW – Southern Mississippi Planning & Development District
- Hye-Won (Grace) Shin, PhD – Somang Society

 Free and open to the public |  **Register here:** <https://bit.ly/4rW7t3c>

 The webinar will be recorded and available afterward. Closed captioning will be provided.

Reminder: Caregiver Education Opportunity to Share with Families

Thursday, March 26 | 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Hybrid option: In-person (Monroe, WI) or virtual

Registration required by March 24

Professionals who support caregivers may wish to share this upcoming session with the families they serve.

 **Ombudsman 101: What Every Caregiver Should Know** will help caregivers understand the role of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program and how it supports residents and families in long-term care settings.

 Presented by Lisa Tranel, Regional Ombudsman, Wisconsin Board on Aging & Long-Term Care.

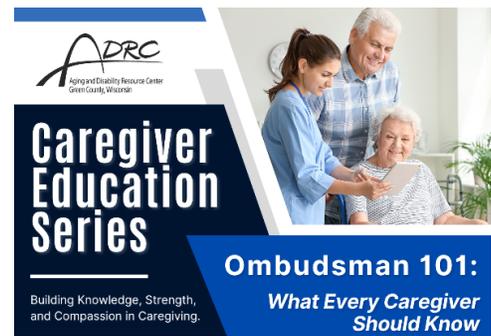
This session is especially helpful for caregivers supporting someone living in, or considering, long-term care or memory care.

 Contact Bonnie Beam-Stratz: 608-426-4295 | bbeam@gchsd.org

 Local option: Karen Tennyson will also be attending. If you are interested in watching together at the ADRC office, don't hesitate to contact her directly.

Please consider sharing this opportunity with caregivers in your networks.

Learn more/view flyer: <https://bit.ly/3PI6mq8>



Reminder: Upcoming Events & Resources for Relative Caregivers

Across Wisconsin, many older adults step into caregiving roles for grandchildren and other relatives. Below are a few upcoming resources and events you may wish to share with kinship and relative caregivers in your communities.



♥ Hybrid Course: You Are Not Alone – Hope & Healing for Relative Caregivers

📅 April 9, 2026 | 🕒 12:00–1:30 p.m. | FREE

A supportive session focused on connection, resilience, and healing for kinship caregivers.

Register: <https://bit.ly/3PhppYk>

Reminder: Call for Abstracts: 4th Biennial Conference on Caregiving Research

The University of Utah Family Caregiving Collaborative is accepting abstract and symposia submissions for the 4th Biennial Conference on Caregiving Research: Reaching New Heights—Elevating Caregiving Research, Policy, and Practice.



📅 Submission Window: March 1–31, 2026

📄 Formats: Poster, Podium, and Symposia

🔔 Decision Notification: May 2026

Topics may include caregiving research, workforce/education, practice, and policy across the lifespan.

🔗 **Learn more or submit:** <https://nursing.utah.edu/caregivingconference>

Late-breaking poster abstracts will also be accepted June 1–15, 2026.

Fiscal Resources and Data Management

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

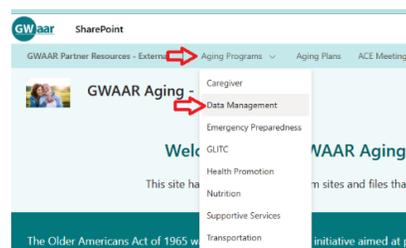
Need to Know

Reminders

All webinars are recorded and posted on the GWAAR Partners Resources site and accessed by registered users.

<https://gwaar.sharepoint.com/sites/PartnerResources> | Aging Programs | [Data Management](#)

<https://gwaar.sharepoint.com/sites/PartnerResources> | [Fiscal Resources](#)



2026 Budgets

The 2026 budget form has been posted in the Fiscal Resources library. The 2026 Budget, along with the online transfer and waiver requests, is due March 31, 2026.

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****PeerPlace Review and Cleanup****

Aging Units should be receiving notices regarding eligibility errors (i.e. missing DOB or underage ineligible clients) to be addressed by March 31. Please note, error Reports/View Builders should be run monthly to ensure accuracy in data and fiscal reporting. Please refer to the associated webinars for your program.

****2026 Webinars and In-Person Trainings****

Regional Trainings (in-person)

GWAAR will be hosting four (4) Fiscal and PeerPlace Aging regional training sessions. Each session will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Non-refundable cost to attend is \$25 per person, with morning snack, lunch and beverages included. Please complete the following registration indicating which session you will be attending. Attendance is limited to 40 participants per location. 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, DCS or ADRC specific information.) **A confirmation email will be sent to you within 10 business days, along with an invoice for payment.** Payment will be required for no-shows or cancellations within 14 days of the training date.

Data Training Dates and Locations:

Adventure Awaits – Navigating the Sea of Data - Registration: <https://forms.office.com/r/14GH1zPXHM>

If you would like to assist with topics for our data training, please complete this [form](#):

<https://forms.office.com/r/4TniLx5qvW>

Meeting Date	Location	Address
Wednesday, April 22, 2026	Holiday Inn - Hayward	15586 Co Rd B, Hayward, WI 54843
Tuesday, May 12, 2026	Tomah - Cranberry Country Lodge	319 Wittig Rd, Tomah, WI 54660
Tuesday, May 19, 2026	Antigo - NorthStar Lanes	400 Prosser Place, Antigo, WI 54409
Wednesday, May 27, 2026	Beaver Dam - Moraine Park Technical College	700 Gould Street, Beaver Dam, WI 53916

Fiscal Training Dates, Locations and Registrations:

Secrets Revealed – Unlocking the Fiscal Mystery - Registration: <https://forms.office.com/r/24xZ0hNB7S>

If you would like to assist with topics for our fiscal training, please complete this [form](#):

<https://forms.office.com/r/B7VedNMCSs>

Meeting Date	Location	Address
Thursday, April 23, 2026	Holiday Inn - Hayward	15586 Co Rd B, Hayward, WI 54843
Wednesday, May 13, 2026	Tomah - Cranberry Country Lodge	319 Wittig Rd, Tomah, WI 54660
Wednesday, May 20, 2026	Antigo - NorthStar Lanes	400 Prosser Place, Antigo, WI 54409
Thursday, May 28, 2026	Beaver Dam - Moraine Park Technical College	700 Gould Street, Beaver Dam, WI 53916

Tribal Fiscal and Data Focus Topics Training – SAVE the DATE! Thursday, May 21, 2026 – please contact GLITC for more information.

Health Promotion

[Angie Sullivan](#), Health Promotion Program Specialist

Need to Know

GWAAR Releases Updated Title III-D Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Document

GWAAR has published an updated Title III-D Health Promotion and Disease Prevention FAQ to support Wisconsin’s aging network. The revised document offers clearer guidance on allowable activities, evidence-based program requirements, and reporting expectations—addressing many of the questions

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aging units and ADRCs encounter in day-to-day program implementation.

This streamlined resource is designed to help local partners plan effectively, ensure compliance, and strengthen the delivery of high-quality health promotion programs for older adults across Wisconsin. GWAAR encourages all Title III-D providers to review the updated FAQ and share it with staff involved in program operations.

View the updated FAQs: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008967>

View in the GWAAR Health Promotion SharePoint Library (registered users): <https://bit.ly/4bPfroF>

Nice to Know

Reminder: Falls Prevention Summit Advancing Resilience: A Virtual Falls Prevention Summit Register

Tuesday, April 21 (Day 1) &

Thursday, April 23 (Day 2)

9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Register and See the Agenda here - <https://fallsfreewi.org/summit/>

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

AGENDA

**Advancing Resilience:
A Virtual Falls Prevention Summit**

Falls Free Wisconsin

TUESDAY	DAY 1: TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2026
9:00 AM	WELCOME
9:10 AM	KEYNOTE: FALLS RESILIENCY Erin Eleu, ACSM-CPT, AGENTS of Movement
10:05 AM	PANEL: BINGOCIZE IN WISCONSIN Cassie Sanders & Nichole Gaudette, Richland County Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Schuyler Metoxen & Patricia Harms, Oneida Aging & Disability Services Lori J. Fure, ADRC of the Lakeshore Angie Sullivan, CHES, Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR)
10:40 AM	BREAK
10:50 AM	PRESENTATION: NUTRITION & FALLS Pam VanKampen, RDN, CD & Kristi Cooley, RDN, CD, GWAAR
11:30 AM	BREAK
11:40 AM	PRESENTATION: 4Ms FRAMEWORK OF AN AGE-FRIENDLY HEALTH SYSTEM Jasmine Townsley, DO UW-Health - Geriatric Medicine Fellowship
12:15 PM	WRAP UP: STATE AND LOCAL RESOURCES Suzanne Morley, CHES, Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging

Intended audience: Falls/injury prevention professionals, aging network, healthcare/EMS, students in aging-related fields, etc.

FallsFreeWI.org/summit