



Volume 8, No. 15 April 14, 2026  
608-243-5670 | [info@gwaar.org](mailto:info@gwaar.org) | [gwaar.org](http://gwaar.org)



AGING  
ADVOCACY

DAY OF ACTION: MAY 6



We are **HIRING**

Learn more at [gwaar.org/jobs](http://gwaar.org/jobs)



## Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

### Nice to Know

**Next newsletter: Wednesday, April 22**

Please note, there will be a slight delay in the delivery of next week's newsletter. Look for it on Wednesday, April 22. If you would like to read past issues, they're available at: <https://gwaar.org/newsletters>

### Board Updates

At the Board of Directors meeting on April 10, the following updates to the board leadership were made:

Cookie Lough, Chairperson  
John Helling, Vice Chair

**To view updated information and bios, visit:** <https://gwaar.org/meet-our-board>

The board also voted on and approved the tweaking of GWAAR's mission statement to be the following:

*Our mission is to deliver innovative support to aging agencies and contracted partners as we work together to promote, protect, and enhance the well-being of older adults, adults with disabilities, and their caregivers.*

### Reminder: Use Your Leadership Skills to Support Older People in Wisconsin

GWAAR is looking for thoughtful, civic-minded, energetic individuals to serve on its 11-member board. Board Members play a critical role in guiding and overseeing the agency's actions and initiatives.

Candidates must live outside Dane and Milwaukee Counties and be able to devote time and energy to the GWAAR's governance.

Learn more: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2005629>

**Questions?** Contact GWAAR Executive Director John Schnabl, [john.schnabl@gwaar.org](mailto:john.schnabl@gwaar.org)



**Please take a moment to complete our short ACE Meeting survey at the link below:**

[April 8, 2026 ACE Meeting Survey – Fill out form: https://forms.office.com/r/zctVNd3afm](https://forms.office.com/r/zctVNd3afm)

We value your input as it assists us with the planning process.

If you wish to view the ACE meeting recording, supporting documents and presentations, they can be found on our GWAAR Partners Resource-External site, a GWAAR SharePoint site for use by GWAAR Aging Units and others --[ACE MEETINGS](#).

This site was designed to provide our partners with a secure and convenient location to access the information you need to support your clients and staff. Here you will find upcoming GWAAR news and events, informational and training documents and recordings, as well as other important resources.

Partner Users must register to access this site: [Registration for the GWAAR Partner Resource-External Site](#) . You should receive access information within 3-5 business days. If you have any questions about the registration process, you may contact [Carrie.Kroetz@gwaar.org](mailto:Carrie.Kroetz@gwaar.org).

### **Retirement celebration for Janet Zander**

*Thursday, May 14 | visit any time from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.*

*Room 315, 1414 MacArthur Road; Madison, WI 53714*

Please join us in congratulating Janet Zander, Director of Advocacy and Public Policy, on her retirement after 13 years with GWAAR and more than three decades dedicated to the aging network. An open house celebration will be held on Thursday, May 14 from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Snacks and light refreshments will be provided. Congratulations Janet!



If you wish to send a card, please feel free to mail it to: 1414 MacArthur Rd., Madison, WI 53714  
Cards will be forwarded once received.

### **Congratulations Deb Smith!**

After almost six years with GWAAR, Deb Smith, Accountant in the Fiscal Department, announced her retirement. Her last day at GWAAR will be April 23, 2026. Most in the aging network know her from when she reviewed and processed claims and then moved into the monumental task of distributing and tracking contracts and amendments for 120 providers, and then tracking down and reviewing Provider Audits. The Fiscal Team already misses Deb and asks everyone to join us in thanking Deb for her many contributions to the aging network and congratulating her on her upcoming retirement.



### **Reminder: We're hiring**

To view the current GWAAR job openings, visit <https://gwaar.org/jobs>

### **Health Promotion Program Specialist**

GWAAR is seeking a dedicated, full-time Health Promotion Program Specialist to join our team. This position plays a key role in supporting Wisconsin's county and tribal aging units and Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC), with a primary focus on health promotion programming and supportive services.

To apply, please send a cover letter and resume to Jean Lynch, Program Specialist Manager, [Jean.lynch@gwaar.org](mailto:Jean.lynch@gwaar.org) | [View full job description: https://bit.ly/41ndRph](https://bit.ly/41ndRph)

### ***Fiscal Assistant***

This full-time position works in the GWAAR Fiscal Department supporting programs in a wide variety of fiscal activities including the distribution and tracking of all contracts, amendments, and agreements; the collection and review of all provider annual audit reports.

To apply, send cover letter and resume to: [info@gwaar.org](mailto:info@gwaar.org)

***View the full job description:*** <https://bit.ly/4bMwlpj>

### ***Veteran Self-Directed Program (VSDP) Care Consultant***

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

### **Reminder: USDA Rural Development Single Family Housing Programs Lunch and Learn Webinar**

*Tuesday, May 5 | 12:00 – 12:30 p.m.*

Aging and disability network staff are encouraged to join this webinar to learn more about low-income loans for housing repairs or modernization, grants for low-income older Wisconsinites to remove health and safety hazards, and direct loans for first-time homebuyers. To register, contact Veronica Hinke:

[Veronica.Hinke@usda.gov](mailto:Veronica.Hinke@usda.gov)

View the flyer: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewfile/id/2008976>



### **Reminder: Aging Together Research Study Seeking Participants**

The University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee is currently recruiting people 50+ years of age who might be willing to participate in research study about the Aging Together anti-ageism peer support program.

Participants will meet online via Zoom on Fridays from April 24<sup>th</sup> – June 26<sup>th</sup>.

Please share the flyer with eligible people in your community.

Additional information and contact information are available on the flyer:

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008974>

## **Advocacy**

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*Janet Zander, Advocacy and Public Policy Director*

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

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#### **The 2025–2026 Wisconsin Legislature – Final Update**

The 107<sup>th</sup> Session of the Wisconsin Legislature officially concluded their regular session legislative work. The Legislature is not expected to come back to the floor except to possibly vote on a tax relief passage in a Special Session (called by the Governor) or an Extraordinary Session (called by the Legislature). Governor Evers also signed [Executive Order #285](#), calling the Wisconsin Legislature into special session on April 14, 2026. The purpose of the special session is to consider and act upon a [proposed constitutional amendment](#) banning partisan gerrymandering in drawing state legislative districts. The legislature is not scheduled to return for a full new session until January 4, 2027.

*-continued-*

Over the course of the 107th Wisconsin Legislative Session, 1185 bills were introduced in the Senate and 1238 bills were introduced in the Assembly. To date, the Governor signed **247** bills into law. **Last week, the following bills supported by GWAAR were signed into law.**

**On April 8, 2026, AB-968 Cryptocurrency Kiosk Bill** (part of the Speaker's Task Force on Elder Services legislative package) **was signed into law by Gov. Evers - [2025 Wisconsin Act 226](#)**. This legislation protects Wisconsinites from fraud by requiring operators of virtual currency (cryptocurrency) kiosks in Wisconsin to be licensed as money transmitters and establishes consumer protection and fraud prevention requirements applicable to crypto kiosks. Investigations of crypto kiosk use revealed that more than 9 in 10 are fraudulent. Though a substitute amendment to the bill eliminated the proposed caps placed on transaction fees (some currently as high as 30%), 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

**The following housing bills were signed into law on April 8, 2026:**

- AB 182 now [2025 Wisconsin Act 236](#) (relating to changes to the low-income housing tax credit [LIHTC] – This legislation requires the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA) to set aside at least 35% of its annual LIHTC allocations for qualified projects in *rural* areas and expands the number of future projects that qualify by removing the requirement that LIHTC projects be financed by tax-exempt bonds.
- AB 194 now [2025 Wisconsin Act 237](#) (relating to modifications to housing programs under WHEDA) – This legislation removes barriers to participation by permitting the Infrastructure Access Program, Restore Main Street Program and Vacancy-to-Vitality Program to access loans *and* use historic tax credits or tax incremental financing (TIF) (referred to as stacking which is currently prohibited). The legislation also allows loans to be secured by personal guarantees *and* corporate guarantees. Additionally, to improve participation in the three programs enacted last session to address Wisconsin's housing shortage, the bills makes specific changes to the individual programs and increases the cap set for the percentage of a developers project cost to 33% and makes changes to the dollar cap set for the programs to further incentivize developers and local governments interest in the loans.

See **WAAN's latest press release** regarding bills signed into law on April 8, 2026 - [New Laws Protect Older Wisconsinites From Crypto-Scams and Address Housing: <https://bit.ly/47YJCst>](#)

**More Work to Be Done** - With the last regular floor period now completed, several GWAAR and Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) priorities did not get across the finish line or failed to be introduced. Some of the priorities are funding for Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs), adult protective services, elder benefit specialist counseling, falls prevention initiatives, family caregiver support/training, the Guardianship Support Center, home-delivered meal services, long-term care ombudsman services,

Parkinson's Disease registry, transportation services, improvements to voting access and training of poll workers, and workforce supports for direct care workers. Priorities without specific funding needs include caregiver designation in electronic records (DOT), requirements for the use of "memory care" designation, insurance protections for volunteer drivers, and protection of voting rights. **Advocacy efforts on these proposals will need to continue to get them included in the next biennial budget (2027-2029) or taken up in the next legislative session beginning in Jan. 2027.**

### **Save the Date Reminder: WAAN 2026 Aging Advocacy Day of Action**

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. **WAAN has selected these three issues as the priorities for our Day of Action training and campaign:**



1. Older Americans Act – State funding for home-delivered meals
2. ADRC – State Funding
3. Falls Prevention – State funding

**Click here to register for the virtual training on May 6:**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/gSh5PNw6QYG67RVUqaGcEA> (registration is limited to the first 300 participants). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

The day of action will be complemented by local, in-district events 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. Please share your plans for your in-district meeting with Janet Zander, Advocacy & Public Policy Director, GWAAR at: [janet.zander@gwaar.org](mailto:janet.zander@gwaar.org).** Check out the Day of Action website to view La Crosse County's - [How-To Guide: Planning and Hosting an In-District Legislative Meeting](#) and other resources.

**Thanks to our sponsors (listed on our Day of Action webpage), funds are available to help support expenses related to your in-district meeting.** Anyone interested in being added as a sponsor can find more information here: <https://gwaar.org/waan-day-of-action-2026>. An application to request reimbursement of in-district expenses (up to \$300) can be found here: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008991>.

### **Federal Fiscal Year 2027 Budget**

The president is proposing a 10-percent overall cut to non-defense discretionary (NDD) funding in fiscal year (FY) 2027. Within that funding, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Older Americans Act (OAA) and other aging-related programs currently within the Administration for Community Living (ACL) were level funded. The president's budget also includes the same cuts to major programs proposed in his FY 2026 budget. To see the specific funding levels for OAA and other aging services programs, see USAging's latest [Appropriations Chart-April 6, 2026](#).

Flat funding for OAA does not address the growing need for programs and services nor the rising costs of the services, **use WAAN's Older Americans Act Action Alert** to urge your federal lawmakers to boost funding for OAA programs and to protect other critical aging services and programs in federal fiscal year (FFY) 2027. **The email and advocacy ask in the action alert are editable** so you can personalize your message and share how OAA programs are working for you or others in your community and any challenges you are experiencing. **Take Action:** <https://bit.ly/4dqmCGt>.

## Reminder: Federal Funding Fallout: 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.



**4/17 English registration:** <https://bit.ly/FedFunds417>

**4/17 Spanish registration:** <https://bit.ly/FedFundSpa417>

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

## Family Caregiver Support

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[Bryn Ceman](#), Caregiver Programs Specialist

### Need to Know

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#### 🌟 Featured: Wisconsin Leadership in Caregiver Support 🌟

We're proud to share a recent video highlighting how Tualta serves as both a direct support for family caregivers and a valuable professional resource for those working alongside them.

This feature includes Margaret Ricchio, Kenosha County ADRC Caregiver Coordinator, whose leadership and dedication continue to strengthen caregiver supports across Wisconsin. Margaret's involvement in multiple WFACSA workgroups reflects the collaboration and commitment driving this work forward.

📺 **Watch the video:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6FwT72gDo70>

💙 Tualta offers no-cost, online training that supports:

- 🧠 Dementia and memory care
- 💪 Caregiver wellness and burnout prevention
- 🔧 Practical, hands-on care techniques
- 📖 Access to trusted caregiving resources

📢 Please share widely! We encourage partners across the Aging & Disability Network to share this video with colleagues, caregivers, and community partners. Together, we can expand awareness and ensure more caregivers have access to the tools and support they need.

Thank you for your continued leadership in supporting Wisconsin's caregivers.

#### 🌟 Reminder: Explore Tualta: Free Virtual Learning Opportunity 🌟

Friday, April 17, 2026 | 10:00 a.m.

We invite you to join an upcoming virtual session to learn more about Tualta, an innovative online platform offering 24/7 education, tools, and support for family caregivers across Wisconsin.

- 💙 Session Topics Include:
- 🧠 Dementia Care
- 💪 Caregiver Wellness
- ⚠️ Fall Prevention
- 🌈 Autism Supports

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## 👥 Who Should Attend?

Caregiver Coordinators, ADRC and Aging Unit staff, Tribal partners, employers, HR professionals, and all family caregivers. Open & FREE to all Wisconsinites.

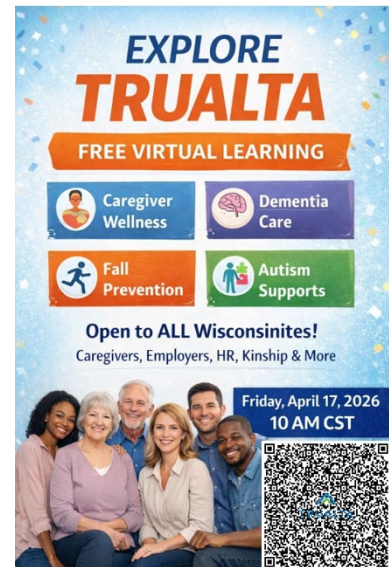
🔗 **Registration:** <https://bit.ly/4twclYr>

📣 Please help us spread the word!

We encourage Caregiver Coordinators and partners across the Aging & Disability Network to share this opportunity with colleagues, community partners, caregivers, and families. 🏛️ We also welcome elected officials and community leaders who would like to learn more about how Trualta supports family caregivers across Wisconsin.

Together, we can expand access to valuable resources and strengthen support for caregivers statewide.

💙 Thank you for your continued commitment to Wisconsin's caregiving community.



## Nice to Know

### Reminder: Caregiver Centered Care training available

Family caregivers play a vital role in care, but many professionals have never received training in how to support them effectively.

The Wisconsin Family and Caregiver Support Alliance is proud to offer Wisconsin's version of Caregiver Centered Care (CCC) training, adapted in collaboration with the University of Alberta.

This training helps professionals and community members build the relational skills needed to truly support family caregivers.

Through the Caregiver Centered Care Competency Framework, participants learn how to:

- 👁️ Recognize caregivers and their role in care
- 💬 Communicate effectively with families
- 🤝 Partner with caregivers as part of the care team
- 🌱 Foster supportive care environments
- 🔍 Navigate systems and services
- 🌟 Enhance caregiver well-being

Whether you work in healthcare, social services, community outreach, or simply want to better support caregivers in your community, this training provides practical tools you can apply right away.

💙 Stronger caregiver partnerships lead to better care for everyone.

🔗 **Learn more about Caregiver Centered Care training today.** <https://wisconsincaregiver.org/>

*This project is supported by the Administration for Community Living (ACL), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$490,000 with 75 percentage funded by ACL/HHS and \$163,000 and 25 percentage funded by non-government source(s). The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by ACL/HHS, or the U.S. Government.*



Build skills to recognize, communicate with, and partner with family caregivers.

👥 Who should take this training?

- 👩‍⚕️ Healthcare professionals
- 👤 Social service & community staff
- 📄 Care coordinators & case managers
- 🏠 Community members who support caregivers

🌐 [www.wisconsincaregiver.org](http://www.wisconsincaregiver.org)

## Fiscal Resources and Data Management

*Carrie Kroetz, Data Management and Technology Coordinator*

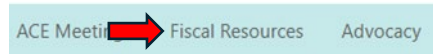
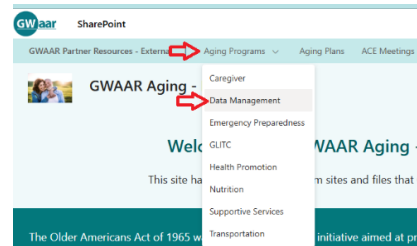
### Need to Know

#### \*\*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](#)



#### \*\*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 April 17. 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/4Tnlx5qvw>

Meeting Date	Registration Deadline	Location	Address
22-Apr	Registration closed	Holiday Inn - Hayward	15586 Co Rd B, Hayward, WI 54843
12-May	28-Apr	Tomah - Cranberry Country Lodge	319 Wittig Rd, Tomah, WI 54660
19-May	5-May	Antigo - NorthStar Lanes	400 Prosser Place Antigo WI 54409
27-May	13-May	Beaver Dam - Moraine Park Technical College	700 Gould Street Beaver Dam WI 53916

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**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):

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

Meeting Date	Registration Deadline	Location	Address
23-Apr	Registration closed	Holiday Inn - Hayward	15586 Co Rd B, Hayward, WI 54843
13-May	29-Apr	Tomah - Cranberry Country Lodge	319 Wittig Rd, Tomah, WI 54660
20-May	6-May	Antigo - NorthStar Lanes	400 Prosser Place Antigo WI 54409
28-May	14-May	Beaver Dam - Moraine Park Technical College	700 Gould Street Beaver Dam WI 53916

**Tribal Fiscal and Data Focus Topics Training** – GLITC will be hosting the Tribal Fiscal and Data Training along with the May TAU meeting. Please contact GLITC for more information regarding registration and hotel accommodations.

Meeting Date	Location	Address
21-May	Menominee Tribe - Keshena	Menominee Casino & Resort N277 WI-47, Keshena, WI 54135

**Guardianship Support Center**

*Polly Shoemaker, WI Guardianship Support Center Attorney*

**Nice to Know**

**Latest issue of The Guardian available**

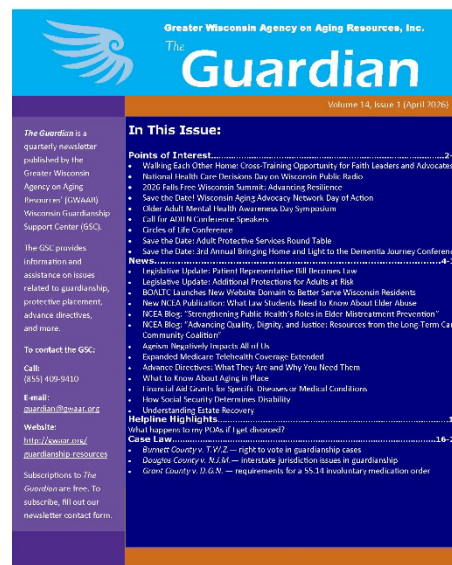
The Guardian is a quarterly newsletter published by the Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources’ (GWAAR) Wisconsin Guardianship Support Center (GSC). The GSC provides information and assistance on issues related to guardianship, protective placement, advance directives, and more.

**Read the April 2026 issue:**

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008988>

It can also be found on the Guardianship Support Center page:

<https://gwaar.org/guardianship-resources> | [2026 - Volume 14, Issue 1](#)



## Health Promotion

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

### **Need to Know**

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#### **Updated Health Promotion Orientation available in SharePoint**

An updated recording of the OAA Title III-D Orientation is available on the GWAAR SharePoint site under Health Promotion/Orientation Materials and will be available in GWAAR ED soon.

To find the presentation (registered users) visit <https://gwaar.sharepoint.com/sites/PartnerResources> | Aging Programs | Health Promotion | Health Promotion Files (click the image) | [OAA Title III-D Orientation Materials](#)

## Medicare Outreach and Assistance

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[Stephanie Haas](#), Medicare Outreach Coordinator

### **Nice to Know**

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#### **Medicare Outreach Training**

##### **Reframing Aging: Changing the Conversation**

Tuesday, April 28 | 2:00 -3:00 p.m.

State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) counselors, supervisors, and other interested agency staff are invited to an optional training on Reframing Aging: Changing the Conversation. In this training, participants will learn about Reframing Aging and how the way we talk about aging shapes perceptions, trust, and engagement. By shifting away from outdated language and instead use messaging that is respectful, inclusive, and empowering participants will strengthen their outreach, build stronger connections with the people they serve, and support more informed decision-making.

**Live meeting link:** <https://bit.ly/4e4PIRd>

**View the flyer:** <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008980>



The flyer features a blue and orange wavy header. The main title is "MEDICARE OUTREACH TRAINING" in bold orange letters. Below it, a blue box contains the subtitle "Reframing Aging: Changing the Conversation". The body text describes the training for SHIP staff. At the bottom, there are three blue boxes with icons: a calendar for "April 28, 2026", a clock for "2:00pm - 3:00pm", and a Zoom icon for "Zoom Link". To the right, an orange box provides contact information for Stephanie Haas. Logos for SHIP and GWAAR are at the bottom.

## Volunteerism

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[Nick Musson](#), Transportation & Aging Plan Specialist

### **Nice to Know**

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#### **Reminder: Volunteer Recognition Day April 20**

Each year on April 20, we celebrate Volunteer Recognition Day, a time to thank the individuals who generously give their time to support our communities.

Across Wisconsin, volunteers are essential to aging units, ADRCs, and transportation programs. Whether delivering meals, providing rides, or offering companionship, volunteers help older adults and individuals with disabilities stay connected and independent.

*-continued-*



The flyer has a purple background with white text. It says "VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION DAY" in large letters, followed by "APRIL 20" in a white box. There is a circular inset photo of a person in a blue shirt with "VOLUNTEER" on the back, being embraced. The GWAAR logo is at the bottom right.

In many communities, especially rural areas, these contributions are critical. Volunteers do not just provide services; they build relationships, strengthen communities, and improve quality of life.

Volunteer Recognition Day is a reminder to say thank you, but appreciation should not stop there. Recognizing volunteers year-round helps sustain engagement and reinforces the value they bring to our work.

**To all volunteers across our network, thank you for the difference you make every day.**

We encourage you to check in with your local aging unit or ADRC to see what volunteer appreciation events are happening in your community.

## Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol

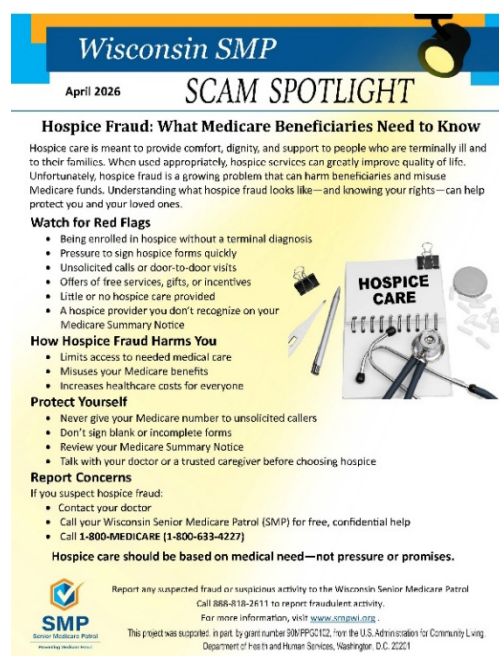
[Ingrid A. Kundinger](#), Senior Medicare Patrol Program Director

### Nice to Know

#### April Scam Spotlight focuses on Hospice fraud

Hospice fraud has been in the national spotlight recently, impacting the Medicare program. This month's Scam Spotlight focuses on hospice fraud and what Medicare beneficiaries need to know about it. When used appropriately, hospice services can greatly improve quality of life with a terminal diagnosis. Unfortunately, hospice fraud is a growing problem that can harm beneficiaries and misuse Medicare dollars.

**Read the April Scam Spotlight:** <https://bit.ly/41j1Zog>



The poster features a blue and yellow header with the text "Wisconsin SMP" and "April 2026 SCAM SPOTLIGHT". Below the header, the title "Hospice Fraud: What Medicare Beneficiaries Need to Know" is displayed. The main body of the poster contains several sections: "Hospice Fraud: What Medicare Beneficiaries Need to Know" (introduction), "Watch for Red Flags" (bullet points), "How Hospice Fraud Harms You" (bullet points), "Protect Yourself" (bullet points), and "Report Concerns" (bullet points). At the bottom, there is a call to action to report suspected fraud and a logo for the Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP). An illustration of a stethoscope and a clipboard with a "HOSPICE CARE" document is also present.

**Wisconsin SMP**  
April 2026 **SCAM SPOTLIGHT**

**Hospice Fraud: What Medicare Beneficiaries Need to Know**

Hospice care is meant to provide comfort, dignity, and support to people who are terminally ill and to their families. When used appropriately, hospice services can greatly improve quality of life. Unfortunately, hospice fraud is a growing problem that can harm beneficiaries and misuse Medicare funds. Understanding what hospice fraud looks like—and knowing your rights—can help protect you and your loved ones.

**Watch for Red Flags**

- Being enrolled in hospice without a terminal diagnosis
- Pressure to sign hospice forms quickly
- Unsolicited calls or door-to-door visits
- Offers of free services, gifts, or incentives
- Little or no hospice care provided
- A hospice provider you don't recognize on your Medicare Summary Notice

**How Hospice Fraud Harms You**

- Limits access to needed medical care
- Misuses your Medicare benefits
- Increases healthcare costs for everyone

**Protect Yourself**

- Never give your Medicare number to unsolicited callers
- Don't sign blank or incomplete forms
- Review your Medicare Summary Notice
- Talk with your doctor or a trusted caregiver before choosing hospice

**Report Concerns**

If you suspect hospice fraud:

- Contact your doctor
- Call your Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) for free, confidential help
- Call **1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)**

**Hospice care should be based on medical need—not pressure or promises.**

Report any suspected fraud or suspicious activity to the Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol  
Call 888-818-2611 to report fraudulent activity.  
For more information, visit [www.smp0305.org](http://www.smp0305.org).

This project was supported, in part, by grant number 988PFGC122, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201