



Volume 8, No. 16 April 22, 2026
608-243-5670 | info@gwaar.org | gwaar.org



**AGING
ADVOCACY**

DAY OF ACTION: MAY 6



We are **HIRING**

Learn more at gwaar.org/jobs



Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

Nice to Know

We are hiring: Guardianship Support Center Managing Attorney

We are hiring a full-time attorney in our Elder Law & Advocacy Center. This is a full-time grant-funded position managing the Wisconsin Guardianship Support Center. The attorney will staff a statewide telephone helpline providing neutral information on adult guardianship and related matters, collaborate with statewide partners and counties to promote and educate consumers on advance directives, and participate in broad-based workgroups on guardian training and systems advocacy. The attorney will also provide direct outreach and education on adult guardianship and related topics, including presentations to professionals and consumers, a quarterly newsletter, and consumer publications available on the program website. Starting salary range is \$65,000-\$70,000 annually.



This position requires a *Juris Doctor* degree from an ABA-accredited law school and admission to the State Bar of Wisconsin. We are seeking candidates who have a demonstrated commitment to working with and addressing the needs of vulnerable adults, their caregivers, and professionals who work with them. Knowledge of adult guardianship and advance directive options, long-term care, and/or the adult protective services system is strongly preferred. The ideal candidate will also be familiar with state and federal benefit programs and/or have client experience in estate planning. Occasional overnight statewide travel is required.

To apply, send cover letter and resume to: info@gwaar.org.

View the full position description: <https://bit.ly/4tr4sJx>

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

[Health Promotion Program Specialist](#)

GWAAR is seeking a dedicated, full-time Health Promotion Program Specialist to join our team.

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

Congratulations Doreen Goetsch!

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

Please join me in thanking Doreen Goetsch for her years of service the Wisconsin Aging Network and congratulating her on her upcoming retirement! Doreen has been a fierce advocate for older people in Wisconsin and a strong support for the APS network. Doreen worked both at the local and state level, focusing on the importance of training and making resources available for people impacted by elder abuse. During her time at GWAAR, Doreen worked with local communities to strengthen their ability to recognize and support people facing elder abuse while strengthening the referral network. Doreen's work with direct service providers, law enforcement, faith leaders has made an impact and for that we are grateful. Thank you, Doreen, for your dedicated years of service! We wish you all the best in your retirement!



GWAAR in the news

Attorney Polly Shoemaker was quoted in this recent article about the case before the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Read it here: [Legal case over access to sensitive voter data returns to Wisconsin Supreme Court](https://bit.ly/4tsKXAk)
<https://bit.ly/4tsKXAk>



Reminder: 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.

Reminder: 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: 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](#).

Information on registration for the GWAAR SharePoint site can be found here: <https://gwaar.org/gpr-ext>

Or, by visiting gwaar.org | About | GWAAR Partner Resources-EXT.

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

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 24th – June 26th.

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

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

Nice to Know

Welcome Emily Petersen!

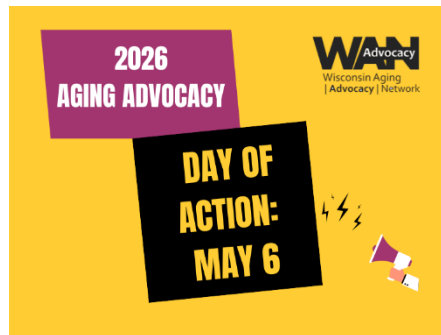
We are pleased to announce that Emily Petersen will be joining GWAAR on May 4 as our new Advocacy and Public Policy Director. Many of you already know Emily from her work within the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN). We look forward to sharing more updates when she arrives in May.



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.** 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>.

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.

4/24 English registration: <https://bit.ly/FedFunds424>

4/24 Spanish registration: <https://bit.ly/FedFundSpa424>

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



Family Caregiver Support

[Bryn Ceman](#), Caregiver Programs Specialist

Need to Know

🌟 **WisconsinCaregiver.org: A Free Resource for You and the Caregivers You Support** 🌟

A reminder to Caregiver Coordinators and partners across the Aging & Disability Network that WisconsinCaregiver.org is a free, statewide resource hub designed to support both professionals and family caregivers.

The site has undergone major upgrades in recent months, making it easier than ever to navigate and connect Wisconsinites to local Aging Units, ADRCs, and Tribal partners.

💙 Caregivers can:

- ✓ Find trusted resources and supports
- ✓ Access education and training (including Trualta)
- ✓ Connect to local services by county or Tribe

Professionals can also use the site as a go-to tool for referrals, outreach, and education—helping caregivers access the right supports at the right time.

📣 Please continue to share widely with caregivers, colleagues, and community partners to ensure more individuals know help is available.

🌐 Visit: <https://wisconsincaregiver.org/>

Together, we can make it easier for caregivers across Wisconsin to find the support they need.



🌟 **Reminder - Featured: Wisconsin Leadership in Caregiver Support** 🌟

We're proud to share a recent video highlighting how Trualta 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>

💙 Trualta 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.

Nice to Know

🌟 Upcoming National Caregiving Advisory Council Meeting 🌟

📅 Wednesday, April 29 | 🕒 1:00 – 5:30 p.m.

The RAISE Family Caregiving Advisory Council and the Advisory Council to Support Grandparents Raising Grandchildren will hold a joint meeting.

This national meeting will bring together thought leaders to discuss the evolving caregiving landscape and help inform updates to the National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers.

We're proud to share that Lynn Gall, Manager of Family Caregiver Support and Lifespan Respite Programs (DHS Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources/Office on Aging), will be presenting on Wisconsin's work advancing the National Strategy and supporting caregivers across the state.

👥 Watch live:

<https://acl.gov/news-and-events/announcements/joint-meeting-raise-family-caregiving-advisory-council-advisory-0>

🔔 We encourage partners across the Aging & Disability Network to tune in and learn more about national and state-level efforts to strengthen support for family caregivers.

For questions: SGRG.mail@acl.hhs.gov or RAISE.mail@acl.hhs.gov



🔔 Upcoming Webinar for Caregiver Coordinators!

📅 Thursday, April 30 | 🕒 1:00–2:00 p.m.

Looking to strengthen how you support caregivers in navigating services and resources? Don't miss this upcoming national webinar hosted by ACL's National Caregiver Support Collaborative (NCSC)!

🌟 Caregiver Navigation Innovations and Strategies

This session will highlight innovative caregiver navigation models from across the aging network, including insights from USAging and community-based programs nationwide.

🌟 Learn about:

- The caregiver navigation continuum
- National trends and models from USAging's environmental scan
- Real-world strategies to better support caregivers and their well-being

💬 Live Q&A included!

ASL and CART services will be provided.

🔗 Register here:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_B-FdKaaQKC3_FXtGuaq9w#/registration



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.



Families Like Mine – Northern Wisconsin

May 16 | 10:00 AM–2:00 p.m. | FREE

Regional drop-in event for relatives raising children through formal or informal caregiving arrangements.

Register: <https://bit.ly/4tC1i5V>

Families Like Mine – Southwestern Wisconsin

June 6 | 10:00 AM–2:00 p.m. | FREE

Connect with other relative caregivers and learn about available supports and resources.

Register: <https://bit.ly/4trj0sG>

Fiscal Resources and Data Management

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

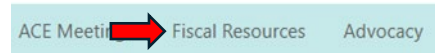
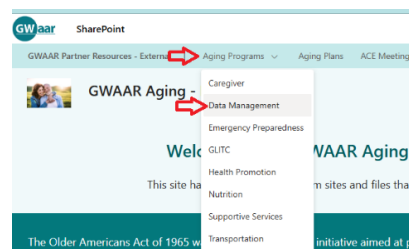
Need to Know

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

GWAAR will conduct another round of data review over the next few weeks and will reach out to Aging Units regarding noticed errors. Thank you all for being so prompt in addressing these! Just as a reminder, 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.

-continued-

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 | 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 |

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 | 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

Reminder: 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

Need to Know

Reminder: 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

[Stephanie Haas](#), Medicare Outreach Coordinator

Nice to Know

Reminder: 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>



MEDICARE OUTREACH TRAINING

Reframing Aging: Changing the Conversation

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.

April 28, 2026
2:00pm - 3:00pm
Zoom Link

If you have any questions, contact:
Stephanie Haas
Medicare Outreach Coordinator
stephanie.haas@gwaar.org

SHIP State Health Insurance Assistance Program
GWaar Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources, Inc.

Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol

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

Nice to Know

Reminder: 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>



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 888-819-3611 to report fraudulent activity.
For more information, visit www.smpdel.org.

This project was supported, in part, by grant number 90MPPG112, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201