



Volume 8, No. 18 May 5, 2026
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**AGING
ADVOCACY**

DAY OF ACTION: MAY 6



Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

Nice to Know

Mark your calendar for the Third Quarter 2026 ACE (A Commitment to Excellence) meeting:

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



Use Your Leadership Skills to Support Older People in Wisconsin

GWAAR is looking for thoughtful, civic-minded, energetic individuals to serve on its 10-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



Reminder: We are hiring

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

[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.

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

[View the full position description:](https://bit.ly/4tr4sJx) <https://bit.ly/4tr4sJx>



Reminder: It's Older Americans Month!

This year's Older Americans Month (OAM) theme, Champion Your Health, highlights prevention, wellness, and personal responsibility as cornerstones of healthy aging. It calls on individuals, families, caregivers, and communities to take action — managing health, advocating for themselves and others, accessing preventive care, and making informed decisions that support independence.



Visit ACL's OAM website for ready-to-use materials to support your outreach.

OAM Materials | ACL Administration for Community Living: <https://acl.gov/oam/materials>

- Logos and posters
- Social media posts and graphics
- Short-form video prompts
- Activity ideas
- Sample article
- Virtual backgrounds

Older Americans Month | ACL Administration for Community Living: <https://acl.gov/oam/older-americans-month>

Reminder: Open House 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.



Advocacy

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

Nice to Know

New WAAN Issue Briefs

In preparation for the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network's (WAAN's) Day-of-Action on May 6th, as well as the upcoming legislative session and state biennial budget for 2027-2029, WAAN members have been busy preparing new and updated issue briefs.

For the Day-of-Action we will highlight the following three issue briefs:

- **Invest in Aging & Disability Resource Centers –** <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewfile/id/2009016>
- **Reducing Falls Among Older Wisconsinites -** <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2009015>
- **Safeguard Home-Delivered Meals -** <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2009014>



We have a couple more WAAN issue briefs ready to be released soon, with more to come after that. Stay tuned!

Legislative Council Study Committees

One of the Wisconsin State Legislature's standing joint committees is the Joint Legislative Council (JLC) (<https://legis.wisconsin.gov/lc/joint-legislative-council/about-jlc/>). The JLC's primary responsibility is to establish study committees to study significant issues and problems identified by the Legislature, *typically* during even-numbered years after adjournment.

The Council is composed of 22 legislators (11 Senators and 11 Assembly Representatives), including all the legislative leadership. Members of this legislature's JLC can be viewed here: (<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2025/committees/joint/3009>).

Members of the legislature submit proposals to the JLC. The Council then reviews the proposals and determines if the proposed study or investigation is feasible and is a subject that is not already assigned. A Joint Study Committee is then appointed to conduct the study or investigation.

Last week, the JLC announced seven proposed study committees for 2026. The proposed study committees are:

- Special Committee on State-Tribal Relations
- Study Committee on the District Attorney Funding Formula
- Study Committee on the Laws to Restore Floodplains
- Study Committee on Cryptocurrency
- Study Committee on the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Health Care
- Study Committee on the Definition of "Veteran"
- Study Committee on Cemeteries

The members appointed by the Council to serve on a study committee are legislators and citizens who are interested in or knowledgeable about the study topic. There is no formal "application" form; instead, citizens are typically recommended by legislators, stakeholder groups, or recognized experts in the study topic. Interested citizens can contact their state senator or representative to express interest in serving on a committee related to their expertise. The JLC makes the final appointments based on recommendations from legislative leadership and committee chairs.

Once a study committee completes its work, the chair of the committee submits a report of the committee's recommendations to the Joint Legislative Council. The Council reviews the legislation recommended by the study committees and, if a majority of Council members vote for introduction, the JLC sponsors the legislation. Bills are introduced in the following session and then follow the normal legislative processes, beginning with standing committee review.

The work of previous study committees can be reviewed here - <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/misc/lc/study>. This link will be updated to include the new study committees once members are appointed and their work begins.

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.

5/8 English registration: <https://bit.ly/FedFunds58>

5/8 Spanish registration: <https://bit.ly/FedFundSpa58>

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



Elder Abuse Programs

[Donna Rosner](#), Elder Abuse Program Specialist

Nice to Know

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD): June 15

Get ready for WEAAD with [NCEA's campaign resources](#), including ready-to-share materials and tools to help raise awareness and promote prevention in your community.

NCEA's campaign resources: <https://ncea.usc.edu/weaad/>

WEAAD Tools & Tips: <https://ncea.usc.edu/weaad/>

May 1 – June 15 - Health & Action for WEAAD Movement Challenge:

<https://ncea.usc.edu/weaad/#move4weaad>

Supplies limited - WEAAD Bookmark Order Form: <https://bit.ly/3QQcnlo>



Family Caregiver Support

[Bryn Ceman](#), Caregiver Programs Specialist

Need to Know

🔔 Upcoming: Caregiver Coordinator Statewide Meeting – May 13

Caregiver Coordinators are invited to join the next Statewide Meeting on Wednesday, May 13 from 10:00–11:30 a.m. This 90-minute session will include updates on advocacy efforts, a training focused on older relative (kinship) caregivers, and highlights from the Respite Care Association of Wisconsin (RCAW).

The meeting will also include an interactive discussion on caregiver program best practices and potential improvements to enrollment forms, including topics such as welcome letters, service expectations, and consistent communication with caregivers.

We look forward to another engaging and collaborative conversation.

👉 Join details and full agenda available here: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2009017>

Wisconsin's
FamilyCaregiver
Support Programs

Fiscal Resources and Data Management

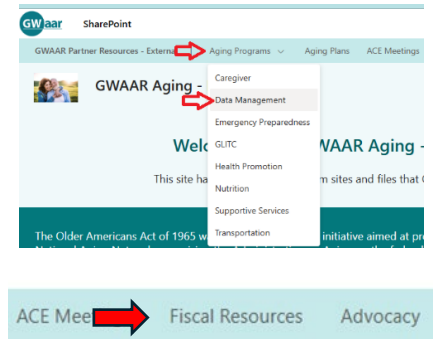
Carrie Kroetz, Data Management and Technology Coordinator

Need to Know

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.

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](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	Registration closed	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):

<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
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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

Nutrition

[Kristi Cooley](#), Nutrition Program Specialist

[Jean Lynch](#), Program Specialist Manager

[Pam VanKampen](#), Nutrition Program & Senior Center Specialist

Need to Know

DHS (BADR) has released materials for the required 2026 Nutrition Participant Satisfaction Surveys. Registered SharePoint users can access them on the DHS Aging SharePoint site or on our GWAAR Nutrition SharePoint site at [Participant Satisfaction Surveys Samples](#), including the Congregate, Home-Delivered Meal (HDM), and Carryout surveys, along with the Custom Question Form.

[Participant Satisfaction Surveys Samples](https://bit.ly/3QPz9tD): <https://bit.ly/3QPz9tD>

Please note that required survey questions cannot be changed. The only allowable modification is for voucher sites or My Meal, My Way sites, where “dining center” may be changed to “Café 60,” “Bistro 60,” etc. on the Congregate Meal Survey. Otherwise, question wording must remain the same.

- Local agencies may submit up to three optional custom questions. If your agency would like to include custom questions, please complete the Meal Survey Custom Question Form and submit it to GWAAR by June 1. We will compile requests and forward them to DHS. Custom questions can be used to capture program-specific information, such as individual dining sites, carryout locations, or HDM routes, with tailored response options.
- The surveys must be completed sometime during 2026, and each agency may choose a timeframe that works best for their schedule. You will be provided with a required link to enter participant survey information. All survey data must be entered by January 31, 2027, or sooner.

-continued-

- Once data entry is complete and you are ready to access survey results, you may contact Eric Grosso at DHS (EricR.Grosso@dhs.wisconsin.gov) for data exports or updates if needed before February 2027, please cc your GWAAR nutrition specialist on any data requests.
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Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol

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

Nice to Know

May Scam Spotlight focuses on Remote Patient Monitoring (RPM)

RPM is the ability for health care providers to monitor certain parts of a person's health from their home. This monitoring allows providers to collect and analyze various data (like heart rate, blood glucose, breathing rate, etc.) and then use it to make and oversee a person's treatment plan.

Unfortunately, the fraudsters have ways to take advantage of Medicare and Medicare beneficiaries in this area. The May Scam Spotlight highlights RPM devices and also explains the importance of reviewing Medicare statements to catch suspicious claims.


Read the May Scam Spotlight: <https://bit.ly/4ncluci>

Wisconsin SMP

May 2026

SCAM SPOTLIGHT

Remote Patient Monitoring




Remote Patient Monitoring (RPM) uses digital devices to collect and send patient data and clinical information. The health care provider reviews the patient's health data. This information is used to manage health conditions, detect health risks, and educate patients.

Often, the information is collected by the patient outside of the health care setting. For example, types of RPM devices include:

- Scales to check your weight
- Tools that check your heart rate
- Technology that measures your blood sugar
- Instruments that check blood pressure
- Tools that check for sleep problems
- Equipment to track breathing
- Monitors to track your baby while you are pregnant

Remote patient monitoring (RPM) covers a wide variety of services a provider may offer to help monitor or assess certain chronic conditions. SMPs are hearing about RPM claims appearing on Medicare statements, like the Medicare Summary Notice (MSN) and/or Explanation of Benefits (EOB), where the beneficiary does not believe they received or agreed to the services. If you see any RPM claims on your Medicare statement that you did not agree to, contact Wisconsin SMP.



SMP
Senior Medicare Patrol
Preventing Medicare Fraud

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

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