



Volume 8, No. 19 May 12, 2026  
608-243-5670 | [info@gwaar.org](mailto:info@gwaar.org) | [gwaar.org](http://gwaar.org)



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

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

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#### **Mark your calendar for the July 8 ACE meeting:**

*Wednesday, July 8 | Lee Sherman Dreyfus University Center, Stevens Point  
10:00 – 2:30 p.m. | Lunch included*

Join us at the third quarter ACE meeting in July for an opportunity to spend time with your peers and participate in our packed agenda!

In addition to GWAAR and bureau updates, we will have a presentation from Megan Takahaski from Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources (BADR) on National Aging Program Information System (NAPIS) reporting and how to utilize different reports as well as how to monitor for federal compliance/completeness. We'll also hear from Jill Renken at the Wisconsin Institute for Health Aging (WIHA) about WIHA health promotion resources and a new program.

In the afternoon we will have breakout sessions with your peers to share your successes and challenges in various aging programs areas.

Watch for registration information and a detailed agenda in early June.



#### **Welcome Emily Petersen, incoming Advocacy and Public Policy Director**

Emily Petersen joined GWAAR as the Advocacy and Public Policy Director on Monday, May 4. Most recently, Emily served as the Advocacy and Policy Manager at Milwaukee County Aging, where she coordinated public policy activities for the Commission on Aging and Advisory Council and oversaw the agency's Medicare Outreach program.

Prior to that, she held several positions within Milwaukee County, including as lobbyist for the Board of Supervisors. Outside of work, Emily teaches yoga, enjoys walks with her dog, Winnie, and enjoys attending Brewers games. She is excited to join GWAAR and continue advocating alongside older Wisconsinites.

Emily can be reached at [Emily.Petersen@gwaar.org](mailto:Emily.Petersen@gwaar.org) or 608-228-7253. Welcome to GWAAR Emily!



#### **Reminder: Open House retirement celebration for Janet Zander this week**

*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.



## Reminder: 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](mailto: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](mailto:info@gwaar.org).

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



## Advocacy

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

### Nice to Know

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#### WAAN Day of Action

Thank you to all who joined us last week for the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network's (WAAN) [Day of Action](#)! More than 80 aging advocates gathered together to learn more about our policy priorities in preparation for next year's state budget. If you missed the virtual training, you can watch the replay: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9FpEOdUHVtI>

For the Day-of-Action we highlighted 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>

**Take action now!** It is not too late to contact your state legislators to advocate for these important funding needs. Check out the two customizable action alerts below that you can use to get directly connected with your representatives.

**Email Alert** (Email can be edited) – you are encouraged to add your own personal story or experience - <https://bit.ly/4w7OMNn>

**Phone Alert** (Feel free to modify the script) – you are encouraged to include your own personal story or experience – <https://bit.ly/4dp31pw>



## In-District Meetings

Legislators are in their districts and eager to hear from constituents about the issues that matter. Now is a great time to schedule an In-District Aging Advocacy event in your region with your state Representatives and Senators. Local hosts are encouraged to schedule these events between now and the end of October 2026. When you schedule your meeting, please reach out to let us know! If you would like information about planning an In-District meeting, view our toolkit here: <https://gwaar.org/advocacy-toolkit>

## Support Family Caregivers with 24/7 Online Expertise and Resources

At the latest WAAN meeting, a new issue brief was adopted to support funding for a permanent Caregiver Education and Support Fund to provide free 24/7 online caregiver education for Wisconsin's 1.1 million family caregivers.

**View the new Caregiver Education and Support Fund brief:**

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008983>

Currently, Wisconsin's caregivers can access the Trualta platform to receive evidence-based training and practical tools at any time. More than 2,450 caregivers are using the platform leading to a reduction in hospital stays, delayed nursing home admittance, and cost-savings for caregivers and the healthcare system. An annual investment of \$100,000 (indexed for inflation) ensures this resource continues to be available for caregivers in the future.

**Learn more about Trualta:** <https://wisconsincaregiver.trualta.com/>

## 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.

**5/15 English registration:** <https://bit.ly/FedFund515>

**5/15 Spanish registration:** <https://bit.ly/FedFundSpa515>

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



## Elder Abuse Programs

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

### Nice to Know

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#### Reminder: 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

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[Bryn Ceman](#), Caregiver Programs Specialist

### Need to Know

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#### Reminder: 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  
**Family**Caregiver  
Support Programs

### Nice to Know

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#### 📌 Upcoming Senate Hearing on Sandwich Generation Caregivers

Tuesday, May 13 | 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

National Alliance for Caregiving (NAC) President & CEO Jason Resendez will testify before the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging regarding the growing pressures facing “sandwich generation” caregivers, those who are adults caring for both children and aging loved ones simultaneously.



Topics are expected to include:

- Workforce and financial impacts of caregiving
- Family caregiver stress and burnout
- Policy solutions and caregiver supports

👥 Watch live here: <https://www.aging.senate.gov/hearings/caught-in-the-middle-supporting-families-in-the-sandwich-generation>

Please plan to watch and consider sharing with caregivers, professionals, advocates, and community partners interested in family caregiving policy and supports.

#### 📌 Caregiver Coordinators - Please share! Help Family Caregivers: Be Prepared, Stay Protected!

📅 Thursday, May 21 | 🕒 1:00–2:00 p.m.

Join USAging & The Carter Center for a free webinar on Emergency Response Planning & Preparedness for Family Caregivers ❤️

💡 Learn how to:



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- ✓ Plan ahead for emergencies
- ✓ Reduce risks for your loved one
- ✓ Stay prepared and confident in times of crisis

👥 Open to family caregivers & those supporting them!

🗨️ Includes live captioning & ASL interpretation

🔗 Register here:

[https://usaging-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_mHUlpzCITqKoJJuMwOp3YA#/registration](https://usaging-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_mHUlpzCITqKoJJuMwOp3YA#/registration)

Please share with caregivers in your community ❤️

### 📌 New Virtual Support Group for Working Family Caregivers

The ADRC of La Crosse County has launched a new monthly Virtual Working Family Caregiver Support Group open to working caregivers across Wisconsin.

This support group is designed for adults balancing employment with caregiving responsibilities for an older adult, spouse/partner, adult child with a disability, or another loved one with ongoing care needs.

The group provides an opportunity for caregivers to:

- Connect with others experiencing similar challenges
- Share resources and strategies
- Reduce isolation and stress
- Build support and community

**Meeting Details:** 📅 First Wednesday of each month

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🕒 6:00–7:00 p.m. | 💻 Virtual Format

**To register:** 📞 ADRC of La Crosse County:  
608-785-5700

**View the flyer:**

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewfile/id/2009028>

**Questions?** Contact Kristine Meyer, CSW, Certified Caregiver Coach at [kmeyer@lacrossecounty.org](mailto:kmeyer@lacrossecounty.org) or 608-386-0922.

Please help spread the word to working family caregivers in your communities.

This support group, along with other ongoing virtual caregiver support groups across Wisconsin, can also be found at: <https://wisconsin-caregiver.org/ongoing-virtual-support-groups>



### Virtual Working Family Caregiver Support Group

**Do you have family caregiving responsibilities in addition to traditional child rearing?**  
It may surprise you to learn that one in four working-age adults provides care or financial assistance to an older family member, an adult child or other loved one with a disability, or a spouse with a long-term illness.

This Support Group is open to ALL Working Family Caregivers! The focus will be on reducing the stress of working family caregivers, who are juggling work, homelife and caregiving.

Meet other working family caregivers and share the caregiving journey!

To Register: Call the ADRC of La Crosse at 608-785-5700

Any questions?

Contact Kristine Meyer at 608-386-0922 or [kmeyer@lacrossecounty.org](mailto:kmeyer@lacrossecounty.org)

Meets virtually the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM

2026 DATES	
February 4	August 5
March 4	September 2
April 1	October 7
May 6	November 4
June 3	December 2
July 1	



## 🌟 New Opportunity for Grandfamilies & Kinship Caregivers

Generations United has launched Grandfamilies & Kinship University (GKU)—a new national leadership and community-impact program for kinship caregivers, including grandparents, relatives, and close family friends raising children.

GKU offers leadership training, peer learning, and support to help caregivers turn their lived experience into action, strengthening their own families while creating positive change in their communities.

No formal leadership experience is required, just a passion to make a difference.

📅 Applications are open through June 8, 2026

🔗 **Learn more and apply:** <https://www.gu.org/projects/gku/>

👉 Caregiver Coordinators & Partners: Please share this opportunity with kinship families in your networks.

## 🌟 Webinar: From Insights to Action – Integrating Family Caregivers into Health Care 🌟

Wednesday, May 27 | 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Building on March’s discussion about the essential role of family caregivers in complex care, this upcoming session takes the next step—highlighting how health systems are actively integrating caregivers into care delivery.



📺 Learn how hospitals and health systems are:

- Testing and expanding caregiver support programs
- Supporting caregivers across diverse care settings and populations
- Leveraging Medicare Caregiver Training Services reimbursement codes

📅 Don’t miss this important conversation on what it takes to truly support family caregivers across the health care system.

🔗 **Register here:** <https://bit.ly/4nrFs2H>

👉 Help spread the word!

## Fiscal Resources and Data Management

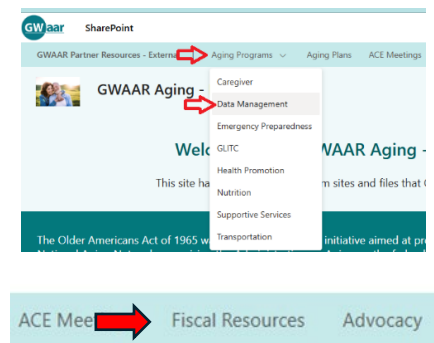
[Carrie Kroetz](#), Data Management and Technology Coordinator

### 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](#)



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**\*\*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/4Tnlx5qvw):

<https://forms.office.com/r/4Tnlx5qvw>

Meeting Date	Registration Deadline	Location	Address
22-Apr	<b>Registration closed</b>	Holiday Inn - Hayward	15586 Co Rd B, Hayward, WI 54843
12-May	<b>Registration closed</b>	Tomah - Cranberry Country Lodge	319 Wittig Rd, Tomah, WI 54660
19-May	<b>Registration closed</b>	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](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	<b>Registration closed</b>	Holiday Inn - Hayward	15586 Co Rd B, Hayward, WI 54843
13-May	<b>Registration closed</b>	Tomah - Cranberry Country Lodge	319 Wittig Rd, Tomah, WI 54660
20-May	<b>Registration closed</b>	Antigo - NorthStar Lanes	400 Prosser Place Antigo WI 54409
28-May	<b>LIMIT REACHED - REGISTRATION CLOSED (05/06/26)</b>	Beaver Dam - Moraine Park Technical College	700 Gould Street Beaver Dam WI 53916

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**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

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[Kristi Cooley](#), Nutrition Program Specialist

[Jean Lynch](#), Program Specialist Manager

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

### **Need to Know**

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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>

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 NO LATER than 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.
- GWAAR will provide you a link to enter participant survey information. You may turn this link into a QR code.
- All survey data must be entered by January 31, 2027, or sooner.
- The surveys must be completed sometime during 2026, and each agency may choose a timeframe that works best for their schedule.
- 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](mailto: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.

# Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol

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


## Nice to Know

### Reminder: 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>




### 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.

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](http://www.smpwi.org)



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