



Wisconsin Caregiver Coordinator Statewide Meeting

NOTES

10:00 am Welcome & Review of Agenda: *Bryn Ceman, Caregiver Programs Specialist, GWAAR*

10:05 am Advocacy Update: *Janet Zander, Advocacy & Public Policy, Coordinator, GWAAR*

- Meet & Greet incoming Advocacy and Public Policy Director, Emily Petersen (Emily.Petersen@gwaar.org) with GWAAR.
- [Permanent Funding for Family Caregiver Education State Issue Brief 4-2-2026](#)
- Brief update on the Governor's bipartisan plan to use roughly \$1.8 billion of the state's budget surplus on tax relief and K-12 Schools. Potential benefit to caregivers.

10:10 am: Relative Caregivers Training / Presentation: *Jane DeBroux, Caregiver Specialist, Area Agency on Aging of Dane County, Holly Telfer, Kinship Care Specialist*

- [5-2026 Attachment 1 - Kinship and Relative Caregivers Training Presentation](#)
- Q&A
 - [Aging Policy Manual: Family Caregiver Support](#)
 - Grandfamilies & Kinship University
 - [Grandfamilies & Kinship University - Generations United](#): Grandfamilies & Kinship University (GKU) is a national leadership and community impact program, led by Generations United, that empowers kinship caregivers to lead, connect, and create change in their communities.
 - Grandparents 55+ eligible regarding of Kinship Care “approval”, so long as they meet NFCSP eligibility requirements.
 - Kinship Navigator Grants are for organizations who offer benefits to kinship families.
 - Grandparents 55+ can be enrolled in NFCSP and Kinship Care at the same time. Families cannot be enrolled in both Foster Care and Kinship Care. [Kinship Care in Wisconsin](#)

10:50 am Respite Care Association of Wisconsin (RCAW) *Rachel Watkins-Petersen, Assistant Director, Respite Care Association of WI*

- [5-2026 Attachment 2 - RCAF Resources for Professionals](#)
- RCAF continues to meet with ADRC/Aging Units throughout the State and offer group respite grants. Example: Brown County just approved!

- Noticing more counties who once had no caregivers receiving grants, now have a couple/few caregivers apply, which is great!
- We'll hear more from RCAW in July.

11:00 am Questions/Feedback on Best Practices and Enrollment Forms (all):

- Potential changes to enrollment forms?
 - Keep them separate but shorter? Combine them but only complete certain sessions?
- A standard Welcome Letters to caregiver?
- Discussion about agreed upon services?
- Caregiver signature, necessary?
- What's important to discuss with caregivers? (e.g. prior approval for services, how funding is dispensed, opportunity to share their caregiver experience? Tax guidance?)
- And more...
- Initial consensus in the chat about one enrollment form both programs. Bryn explained that could be confusing as some information is only collected for one program or another. Additional confusion around what to capture for AFCSP caregivers if services are being used as matched.
- Quick review of draft "Welcome Letter" – covered program, requirements, reimbursement method, prior approval, contribution opportunity and link to share their caregiver story.
- Discussion about elimination of signature, caregiver needs assessment as well as potential PeerPlace changes and initial/post eval for AFCSP participants who enroll with no caregiver.
- Offer for short term workgroup (3 to 6 months) to review:
 - Enrollment Form – potential Welcome Letter to keep Enrollment Form(s) short
 - Updates to Caregiver Needs Assessment
 - Best practices for unusual caregiver situations (those who enroll in AFCSP without a CG, Kinship Families (e.g. needs assessment if for someone caring for an older adult or other adult, not children)
 - Those who volunteered at the meeting: Lynn Karpinsky, Lisa VanRemortel, Martha Bechard, Kalya Olson, Kayla Steinke, Megan Fandrey, and Kristine Meyer. **For those who couldn't attend today's meeting but are interested in the workgroup to update forms, best practices, etc. Please email Bryn (bryn.ceman@gwaar.org) by June 1st. Doodle Poll will follow to set up working meeting times.**

Future Statewide Webinar Date:



- Due to several conflicts in 2026, we're moving our statewide Caregiver Coordinator meetings to the **second Wednesday every other month at 10:00 a.m. Central Time**, beginning in March of 2026.
 - **July 15, 2026, | 10:00 a.m. CT***
 - **September 9, 2026, | 10:00 a.m. CT**
 - **November 11, 2026, | 10:00 a.m. CT**
 - **January 13, 2027, | 10:00 a.m. CT**
- ***Note:** The true "second Wednesday" in July is July 8; however, many of us will be attending the in-person ACE (A Commitment to Excellence) meeting in Stevens Point that week, so July's statewide meeting would instead be held on **July 15**.
- July 15th, 2026 – Focus on Youth Caregivers, Dr. Melinda Kavanaugh, Social Work Professor, UW- Milwaukee, RCAW and Trualta.
- Future agendas & notes will be forthcoming and posted on the GWAAR [website](#) along with the recordings, notes, and other meeting documents following each meeting.
- Please feel free to email Bryn at: bryn.ceman@GWAAR.org and/or Lynn at: Lynn.Gall@dhs.wisconsin.gov with NFCSP/AF CSP meeting topics or guest speaker ideas.