



Volume 8, No. 22 June 2, 2026
608-243-5670 | info@gwaar.org | gwaar.org



Leadership Opportunity

Openings available on our Board of Directors

✔ Applications welcome! [Learn more: gwaar.org/join-the-gwaar-board](http://gwaar.org/join-the-gwaar-board)



We are **HIRING**

Learn more at

gwaar.org/jobs



Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

Need to Know

Reminder: Registration open through June 12 for July 8 ACE meeting

Wednesday, July 8 | 10:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Lee Sherman Dreyfus University Center, Stevens Point

Register now:

<https://gwaar.wufoo.com/forms/z1o22p721chm7ss/>

Registration closes on June 12. Hotel reservations are the responsibility of the registrant.

View the agenda: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2009050>

**Quarterly
ACE Meeting**

Wednesday, July 8

Stevens Point
10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Registration open through June 12



Nice to Know

Staff updates

Congratulations Laura Monroe!

Please join us in congratulating Laura Monroe who has been promoted to Legal Services Manager. In her new role she will oversee the staff in the Elder Law Center, including the Guardianship Support Center.

Congratulations Brittany Nelson!

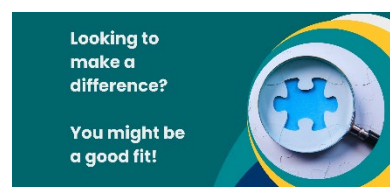
Congratulations also go to Brittany Nelson who has been promoted to Lead Elder Benefit Specialist Support Attorney.

We are hiring

All jobs are posted on our website: <https://gwaar.org/jobs>, including:

Public Interest Elder Law Attorney: <https://bit.ly/4uhJHAq>

Guardianship Support Center Managing Attorney: <https://bit.ly/4tr4sJx>



GWAAR and Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol at the Alzheimer's Association State Conference

Pictured: SMP Volunteers Laura and Barb with Bryn Ceman, Caregiver Programs Specialist

We were pleased to participate as exhibitors and sponsors at this conference which brought nearly 500 professional and family caregivers together. The keynote speaker for this year's conference shared uplifting information about treatments that are helping improve his cognition giving attendees a hopeful glance into the future for people affected by Alzheimer's.



*Photo by Lindsay Stayton Photography
@lindsaystaytonphotography LindsayStayton.com*

Advocacy

Emily Petersen, Advocacy and Public Policy Director

Need to Know

Action Alert: FFY2027 Older Americans Act Funding

On Friday, June 5, the House Appropriations Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee will be holding a mark-up on the Fiscal Year 2027 Bill ([watch live here](#)).

<https://bit.ly/4vmMnNu>

The mark-up will include analyzing and making recommendations on funding for the Administration for Community Living, which houses Older Americans Act programs and services. This is a crucial first step in creating the budget for FFY27 OAA programs and services.

In the week leading up to this Friday's mark-up, we are encouraging everyone to reach out to their federal legislators to ensure they are hearing loud and clear about the importance of increasing funding for OAA programs and services. Representative Mark Pocan is on this subcommittee, so it is especially important that his constituents hear from him, but all representatives are ready to hear your priorities.

-continued-

Please use and customize the action alert to send an email to your representatives this week: <http://bit.ly/4u2koCg>

Be sure you are reviewing the email text before sending as there are blanks to fill in and opportunities to share your story!

The House Appropriations Committee is holding a full Committee mark-up of the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education FFY27 Bill on Tuesday, June 9 ([watch live here](#)).

<https://bit.ly/4dWZdef>

Although we are still early in the FFY2027 Budget process, these early days are some of the most crucial opportunities to elevate our needs—and to continue to do so throughout the next several months.



Nice to Know

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>

Reminder: Federal Funding Fallout Webinar

The Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities will cover what is happening in the state and the latest in Congress, actions the federal administration is taking, and the impacts HR 1 is having on state budgets, disability services, family caregivers, and the health and home and community-based care systems.

6/5 English registration: <https://bit.ly/FedFund65>

6/5 Spanish registration: <https://bit.ly/FedFundSpa65>



Elder Abuse Programs

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

Need to Know

Reminder: World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD): June 15

June 15 is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD). Check out the [WEAAD page](#) for resources and to post your event at both the State and National level! WEAAD National Resources and State Events: <https://bit.ly/4wqNxIY>

View the WEAAD Share Kit: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2009037>



Nice to Know

Common Scams & Frauds Prevention & Awareness Session

Wednesday, June 24 | 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Iowa County Health & Human Services Building 303 W Chapel Street, Dodgeville, WI 53533

Presented by Jeff Kersten, Outreach Specialist - Division of Trade & Consumer Protection

In partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP)

What You'll Learn:

- Details of the most common scams affecting Wisconsin residents
- Warning signs that something may be fraudulent
- How to respond if you or someone you know becomes a victim
- Where and how to report suspected scams
- Free consumer protection factsheets available at the event

For questions or to register call -608-930-9835

View the flyer: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewfile/id/2009054>

**Event will be cancelled if less than 4 people are registered.

Common Scams & Frauds Prevention & Awareness Session
In partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP)

Event Details:

Wednesday, June 24th, 2026
10:00am-Noon

Iowa County Health & Human Services Building
303 W Chapel Street, Dodgeville, WI 53533

Presented by Jeff Kersten
Outreach Specialist - Division of Trade & Consumer Protection

What You'll Learn:

- Details of the most common scams affecting Wisconsin residents
- Warning signs that something may be fraudulent
- How to respond if you or someone you know becomes a victim
- Where and how to report suspected scams
- Free consumer protection factsheets available at the event

For questions or to register call (608) 930-9835
**Event will be cancelled if less than 4 people are registered.

ADRC WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY Building Strong Support for Elders

Emergency Preparedness

[Jean Lynch](#), Program Specialist Manager

Nice to Know

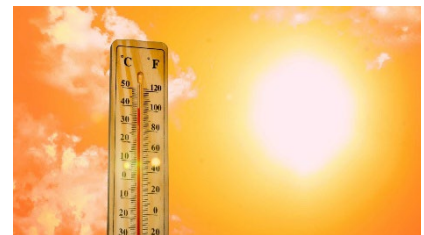
Heat Awareness Day in Wisconsin is June 3

According to a [Wisconsin Emergency Management](#) ReadyWisconsin release, the official start of summer is just weeks away, making this an important time to prepare before temperatures rise. To help Wisconsinites prepare, Gov. Tony Evers declared June 3 as Heat Awareness Day in Wisconsin.

As noted by Paula Tran, state health officer and Division of Public Health administrator. "Heat doesn't affect everyone equally. Older adults, young children, people experiencing homelessness, outdoor workers, and those without reliable air conditioning face disproportionate risk. Heat Awareness Day is a call to ensure no one is left behind when temperatures rise."

View the full release for tips and resources: <https://bit.ly/4nYObJW>

View the National Weather Service HeatRisk site: <https://www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov/heatrisk/>



Family Caregiver Support

[Bryn Ceman](#), Caregiver Programs Specialist

Need to Know

📌 Reminder: Wisconsin Caregiver Coordinator Statewide Meeting Follow-Up

Thank you to everyone who joined the May Caregiver Coordinator Statewide Meeting! 😊

Meeting notes and presentation materials are now available on the GWAAR website: <https://bit.ly/43792Bt>

Unfortunately, due to the Microsoft Teams outage on May 13, the meeting recording was lost. The meeting included important trainings and updates. Please take time to review:

- Kinship and Relative Caregivers Training Presentation
- RCAW Resources for Professionals

We also talked about possible updates to:

- 📄 Caregiver enrollment forms
- 📄 Caregiver needs assessments
- ❤️ A statewide caregiver "Welcome Letter"

To help with this work, we are starting a short-term workgroup (about 3–6 months) to review forms, best practices, and caregiver communication materials. Interested in joining? Please contact Bryn Ceman at bryn.ceman@gwaar.org. A Doodle Poll will be sent to help schedule meetings. We currently have 7 volunteers. Thank you for your support! 💙

Wisconsin's
FamilyCaregiver
Support Programs

Nice to Know

📌 Conference Opportunity for Caregivers of those with Dementia & Caregiver Support Professionals

📅 Wednesday, August 12 | 🕒 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. | 📍 First Baptist Church, Medford, WI

The ADRC of Taylor County is hosting the: ****Bringing Hope & Light to the Dementia Journey Conference****

This free conference is designed to support caregivers, professionals, and individuals living with dementia through education, resources, and connection. The day will include:

- ✅ Keynote speakers
- ✅ Breakout sessions
- ✅ Resource & exhibitor booths
- ✅ Networking opportunities
- ✅ Lunch provided
- ✅ On-site respite available for caregivers

This event may be especially valuable for:

- Caregiver Coordinators
- Dementia Care Specialists
- ADRC Specialists
- Aging Network Professionals
- Healthcare & Community Partners

📌 Registration is free, but required by July 31, 2026.

⚠️ **IMPORTANT:** Caregivers needing on-site respite services must complete respite paperwork by July 1, 2026, to allow time for staffing and intake coordination.

🔗 **Register here:** <https://form.jotform.com/261195163050147>

View the flyer: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2009057>

BRINGING HOPE & LIGHT TO THE DEMENTIA JOURNEY CONFERENCE
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2026
TIME: 8:00AM-4:00PM
LOCATION: FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
751 GRACE WAY, MEDFORD, WI 54451

The ADRC of Taylor County is excited to bring Hope & Light to the Northwoods! The 3rd Annual "Bringing Hope & Light to the Dementia Journey" conference is designed to empower our community dementia caregivers, and those living with dementia through education, resources, and support. The conference agenda includes two keynote speakers, 8 breakout sessions and a variety of exhibitor/resource booths.

The ADRC of Taylor County is partnering with BRI in Medford to provide on-site respite, so caregivers can attend and actively participate in the conference with the peace of mind that their loved one is in a safe environment. Conference attendees will also receive lunch at no cost.

A huge THANK YOU to our conference sponsors:

Registration is now open! Click on the link below or scan the QR to be taken to the online registration form. Please fill out one registration form per person. Please indicate on the form if you or your loved one would like to participate in Respite care so we can forward that information to the contracted provider who will be performing the intake registration. **Deadline for respite applications is July 1, 2026.**

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER ONLINE

Go scan the QR code

QUESTIONS??
Contact: DANAN DETWILER
ADRC Dementia Care Specialist
715-748-1888
danad@tayloradrc.org

Schedule for 8/12/26

8:00-8:30	Check-in
8:30-9:00	Welcome & Registration
9:00-9:30	Keynote by Dan Detwiler
9:30-10:00	Morning Breakout
10:00-10:30	Morning Breakout
10:30-11:00	Lunch
11:00-11:30	Breakout
11:30-12:00	Breakout
12:00-12:30	Respite at No Cost
12:30-1:00	Afternoon Breakout
1:00-1:30	Respite at No Cost
1:30-2:00	Afternoon Breakout
2:00-2:30	Afternoon Breakout
2:30-3:00	Afternoon Breakout
3:00-3:30	Afternoon Breakout
3:30-4:00	Afternoon Breakout

File: GWAAR Flyer

🧠❤️ **Webinar Opportunity: Dementia-Specific Respite Care in Action**

📅 Wednesday, June 10 | 12:00 p.m.

Join this NADRC webinar highlighting innovative dementia-specific respite care programs funded through the Center for Dementia Respite Innovation (CDRI).



Learn how organizations across the country are:

- ✅ Expanding access to person-centered respite care
- ✅ Building sustainable respite models
- ✅ Supporting both caregivers and people living with dementia
- ✅ Partnering with students, volunteers, and community organizations

This webinar may be especially valuable for:

- Caregiver Coordinators
- Dementia Care Specialists
- ADRC & Aging Network Staff
- Respite Providers & Community Partners

🔗 **Register here:** <https://bit.ly/4o6hGtp>

Reminder: Attention Caregiver Coordinators! 🌟

Wednesday, June 3 | 1:00 – 3:30 p.m. | Northcentral Technical College, Wausau

Encourage dementia caregivers to attend the free event, “Caring with Confidence: Dementia Caregiver Symposium” 🧠, 📅. Topics include understanding dementia and building brain-healthy habits. 💡

Share the registration link 🖱️ <https://bit.ly/caringwithconfidence> . ❤️

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.

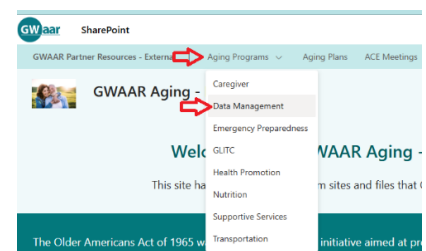
<https://gwaar.sharepoint.com/sites/PartnerResources> | Aging Programs | [Data Management](#)

<https://gwaar.sharepoint.com/sites/PartnerResources> | [Fiscal Resources](#)

****2026 Webinars and In-Person Trainings****

GWAAR will conduct another round of data review over the next few Regional Training Follow-up Webinar – Fiscal and PeerPlace – join us on **June 9 from 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.** to cover a basic re-cap of the regional trainings and aim to address remaining questions. If you are unable to attend the recording will be posted under the Fiscal Resources library on the GWAAR Partner Resources site.

Registration: <https://bit.ly/4x3ldwP>



Nutrition

[Kristi Cooley](#), Nutrition Program Specialist

[Jean Lynch](#), Program Specialist Manager

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

Need to Know

Reminder: 2026 Summer Regional Nutrition Director Meetings Registration Deadline Approaching

As shared at the WAND Conference, the 2026 Summer Regional Nutrition Director Meetings are set. You only need to attend one meeting location offered throughout the state. These meetings provide an opportunity to receive program updates, discuss best practices, and connect with peers across the network.

Meeting information: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2009047>

RSVP to Jean Lynch at GWAAR (jean.lynych@gwaar.org) by June 5, 2026. When registering, please include:

- Which meeting you will attend
- Whether you plan to eat lunch
- Any dietary accommodations needed

BADR will provide meals, snacks, and coffee for attendees.

The meeting dates, locations, updates, and the draft agenda are available on the Aging SharePoint Site or the GWAAR External Website in this folder (available to registered SharePoint users)

[Summer Nutrition Director Meetings](#).

Agenda topics include nutrition standards updates, client registration and screening best practices, congregate dining participation strategies, home-delivered meal advocacy, and program sharing/discussion. **View the agenda:** <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2009046>

We hope to see you all this summer. Questions, please reach out to your Nutrition Program Specialist.

Nice to Know

Delivery With A Ring: Helping Ensure Older Adults Never Miss a Meal

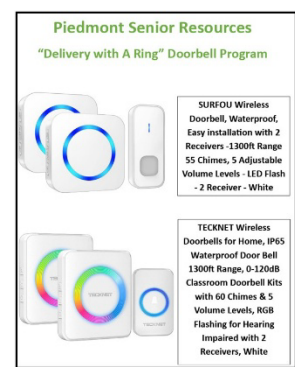
A simple solution is making a big difference for older adults receiving home-delivered meals. Inspired by the innovative “Delivery With A Ring” program developed by Piedmont Senior Resources Area Agency on Aging (PSR), programs are exploring how wireless doorbells can improve meal delivery success, safety, and peace of mind for participants. After some participants reported missing meal deliveries because they could not hear a knock at the door, PSR began providing easy-to-use wireless doorbells to individuals in need. The system includes two receivers that can be placed in different areas of the home, helping ensure participants hear or see when a driver arrives no matter where they are in the house.

Many of the doorbells feature adjustable volume settings and flashing lights, making them especially helpful for older adults with hearing or vision challenges.

Even better, meal delivery drivers can easily install the devices during their regular delivery routes, adding convenience without creating extra burden for participants. This small but impactful effort helps:

- Reduce missed meal deliveries
- Improve communication between drivers and participants
- Support safety and independence at home
- Increase peace of mind for participants and caregivers

-continued-



This issue also highlights expanding outreach efforts in tribal communities, the health benefits of gardening for older adults, a new crypto kiosk law in Wisconsin to stop criminals in their tracks, why gut health matters, a re-cap of the annual Volunteer Retreat, and so much more!

You are welcome (and encouraged) to share this newsletter with anyone you think might find the information useful – whether it be consumers, Medicare beneficiaries, neighbors, family and friends, those who work with older adults, etc.

Please feel free to contact the Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol if you have any questions. We can be reached at our toll-free helpline, (888) 818-2611 or by email, smp-wi@gwaar.org.

If you are hosting an upcoming community event or looking for a presentation for your group, please reach out, we would love to share our information and resources with you!

Read the Summer Scoop: <https://bit.ly/4vjDFzk>

June Scam Spotlight focuses on Unnecessary Tests and Services

Medicare pays for services that are medically necessary to diagnose or treat a medical condition. When providers order unnecessary tests, services or equipment, it can be Medicare fraud.

Read the June Scam Spotlight: <https://bit.ly/4xklk7t>

The SMP SCOOP
PROTECT DETECT REPORT SUMMER 2026

Helping Wisconsinites Prevent Medicare Fraud – Together
By Ingrid Kundinger, SMP Program Director

June 1-5, 2026, marks the 5th annual Medicare Fraud Prevention Week, a nationwide effort led by the Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) to empower beneficiaries, caregivers, and communities to prevent, detect, and report Medicare fraud, errors, and abuse.

While this week brings national attention to the issue, Medicare fraud is not limited to a single moment in time. Scammers are constantly adapting their tactics, which makes it more important than ever for beneficiaries, caregivers, and communities to stay informed and alert all year long.

That's where the idea of "together" comes in. Preventing Medicare fraud isn't just the job of one person or one organization, it takes all of us working together. Whether it's protecting your own information or helping a neighbor recognize a scam, every action makes a difference.

We Need Your Help to Fight MEDICARE FRAUD

How You Can Be Part of the Solution:
Protect your personal information. Your Medicare number is valuable guard it like you would a credit card. Don't share it with unsolicited callers or unknown individuals.
Detect problems early. Carefully review your Medicare Summary Notices (MSNs) or Explanation of Benefits (EOBs) for charges or services you don't recognize.

TO CONTACT WI SMP
Call: (888) 818-2611
E-mail: smp-wi@gwaar.org
Website: www.smpwi.org
Facebook: @WisconsinSeniorMedicarePatrol
To subscribe, please send us an e-mail.

GWaar
Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources, Inc.

SMP
Senior Medicare Patrol
Preventing Medicare Fraud

Continued on page 2

The Wisconsin SMP program is supported, in part, by grant number 90MPPG0102-01-01, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201. Contents underlying projects under government sponsorship are encouraged to express their findings and conclusions. Points of view or opinions do not, therefore, necessarily represent official views of the Administration for Community Living or any agency.

Wisconsin SMP SCAM SPOTLIGHT

Excessive or Unnecessary Tests and Services

MORE IS NOT ALWAYS BETTER

Medicare pays for services that are medically necessary to diagnose or treat a medical condition. When providers order excessive or unnecessary tests, services, or equipment, it can be Medicare fraud.

Examples of Unnecessary Services May Include:

- Ordering tests that are not needed
- Frequent visits without medical reason
- Providing equipment the patient did not need
- Unnecessary procedures or treatments
- Billing for therapy or home health visits that are not needed

REAL-LIFE EXAMPLES OF THIS FORM OF MEDICARE FRAUD

<p>UNNECESSARY GENETIC TESTING Beneficiaries are offered "free" genetic or cancer screening tests that are not medically necessary. Medicare is billed thousands of dollars for tests they did not need.</p>	<p>EXCESSIVE DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT (DME) Suppliers send equipment or supplies you did not ask for or need—such as braces or catheters—and bill Medicare every month.</p>	<p>UNNECESSARY HOME HEALTH OR THERAPY Providers may continue therapy or home health visits longer than needed and bill Medicare even when not medically justified.</p>	<p>FREQUENT DIAGNOSTIC TESTING Clinics may order expensive tests—such as nerve tests, ultrasounds, or cardiac screenings—without a clear medical need.</p>
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WARNING SIGNS
Be cautious if:

- You are offered "free" tests or equipment
- A provider pressures you into services you do not understand
- You receive supplies you did not order
- Your Medicare Summary Notice lists services you don't recognize
- You are told Medicare "covers everything" without explanation
- A provider asks you to sign blank forms or paperwork

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

- Review your Medicare Summary Notices (MSNs) regularly.
- Ask questions about tests, treatments, or equipment.
- Talk with your primary doctor before agreeing to unfamiliar services.
- Keep records of appointments and equipment received.
- Report suspicious billing or services.

If something doesn't seem right, trust your instincts and speak up.
Asking questions can help stop fraud and protect your health and Medicare benefits.

SMP
Senior Medicare Patrol
Preventing Medicare Fraud

To report suspected Medicare Fraud, Errors, or Abuse contact Wisconsin SMP: 800-818-2611 or Email address: smp-wi@gwaar.org
This project was supported, in part, by grant number 90MPPG0102, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201.