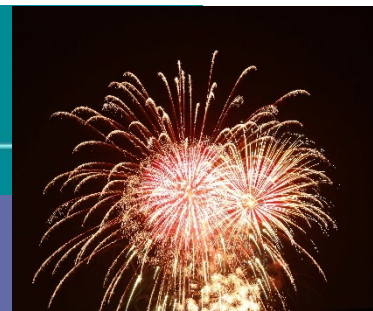




Volume 8, No. 26 June 30, 2026
608-243-5670 | info@gwaar.org | gwaar.org



Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

Need to Know

GWAAR closed on Friday, July 3 for the Independence Day holiday

Wishing everybody a safe and enjoyable Fourth of July as we celebrate the nation's 250th anniversary!



Reminder: July 8 ACE Meeting

Wednesday, July 8 | 10:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Registration/refreshments 9:00 a.m., lunch included

Lee Sherman Dreyfus University Center | 1015 Reserve Street,
3rd Floor, Alumni Room | Stevens Point, WI 54481

We are looking forward to seeing many of you at the ACE Meeting on Wednesday, July 8 in Stevens Point. Please park in Lot R right off Reserve St. A PDF parking permit will be emailed to you, so parking is free.



Please review the updated agenda, which includes an updated list of breakout sessions for the afternoon.

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

Nice to Know

ADILN Conference Breakout Session Schedule Now Available

September 21-23 | 1305 Kalahari Drive, Wisconsin Dells

Register before August 21 to take advantage of early bird pricing.

Professionals in the fields of aging and disabilities contribute to a stronger Wisconsin for everyone. We work to advance the shared goal of ensuring that we can all live our best lives at any age or ability. Through learning together, exploring best practices, and evolving mindsets, we stay energized for the mission ahead.

[A detailed schedule with breakout sessions and speaker bios](#) is now available on the ADILN conference website.

View the schedule: <https://bit.ly/4u4xleu>

Register for the conference: <https://bit.ly/4sMtnGp>

Sponsorship opportunities: <https://bit.ly/4oWIBsc>

Direct questions and concerns to Helen Sampson at Helen.Sampson@dhs.wisconsin.gov.



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



Advocacy

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

Need to Know

Upcoming training: Federal Medicaid Work Requirements

Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) is hosting an upcoming webinar on July 30, 2026 at 2 PM to review the implementation of the Federal Medicaid Work Requirements. You can register for the webinar [here](https://bit.ly/4vat0XB): <https://bit.ly/4vat0XB>

At this webinar, DHS staff will cover the medical frailty and caregiver exemptions to the new work requirement. To submit a question in advance, email DHSForwardHealthPartners@dhs.wisconsin.gov.

To review previous webinars in this series, visit the [ForwardHealth Policy Update Calls](https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/dms/policycalls.htm) page: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/dms/policycalls.htm> The June 18, 2026 webinar covered the initial implementation of the Federal Medicaid Work requirements.

Be Ready to Vote in 2026!

There are two very important elections coming up in 2026—make sure you have a plan to vote!

- Partisan Primary: Tuesday, August 11, 2026
- General Election: Tuesday, November 3, 2026

Check your registration status, what's on your ballot, and where your polling place is at <https://myvote.wi.gov>.

The Disability Vote Coalition has a [helpful fact sheet](https://disabilityvote.org/2025/be-ready-to-vote-in-2026/) (English and Spanish) so you can be ready to vote this year! <https://disabilityvote.org/2025/be-ready-to-vote-in-2026/>

More information about the candidates on your ballot can be found at <https://www.vote411.org>.

Need to Know

Upcoming Candidate Forum: July 25, 2026

The Small Town and Rural Seniors of Wisconsin (STARS) is hosting a Governor Candidate Town Hall on Saturday, July 25, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. at the Ho-Chunk Conference Center in Baraboo, WI. The planned discussion topics include nursing home care, transportation, housing, care workers, food security, dementia care, and more. Confirmed candidates attending include Francesca Hong, Joel Brennan, Andrew Manske, Kelda Roys, and Sara Rodriguez. For more information and to register, visit <https://www.stars-wi.org>

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>.

Elder Abuse Programs

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

Nice to Know

ADILN conference in September: Mission Possible

Please consider attending the ADILN conference in September. It will be a great opportunity to network and to learn more about reframing aging and disability in Wisconsin.

View the schedule: <https://bit.ly/4u4xleu>

Register for the conference: <https://bit.ly/4sMtnGp>

Save the date: 2027 Adult Protective Services Conference

April 12-14, 2027 | Wilderness, Wisconsin Dells

Forward Together: Advancing Partnerships to Improve Prevention & Response to Adult and Elder Abuse.

This two-day conference will bring together adult protective services staff and statewide partners to strengthen support for adults at risk of abuse, neglect or financial exploitation. It will focus on serving adults with complex needs and improving inter agency collaboration for better prevention and response.

Learn more: <https://www.uwgb.edu/adult-protective-services/2027-conference/>



Emergency Preparedness

[Evan Ewing](#), Health Promotion Program Specialist

Nice to Know

Keep safety in the spotlight this Independence Day

As communities prepare to celebrate Independence Day and commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the United States, ReadyWisconsin urges everyone to celebrate responsibly and make firework safety the star of the show.

In 2025, there were 226 emergency department visits in Wisconsin for fireworks-related injuries, with 58% of those occurring during the first week of July, according to preliminary data from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. Even novelties like sparklers can burn at roughly 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit and easily ignite clothing and cause severe burns.

For more tips and information on fireworks safety read the full release: <https://wem.wi.gov/fireworks-safety-2026/>. For more emergency preparedness resources, visit readywisconsin.wi.gov



Family Caregiver Support

[Bryn Ceman](#), Caregiver Programs Specialist

Nice to Know

📌 Reminder: 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 exhibitors/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 reservation to the contracted providers who will be performing the intake registration. **Deadline for respite applications is July 1, 2026.**

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER ONLINE

Or scan the QR code

QUESTIONS??
Contact: DANA DETWILER
ADRC Dementia Care Specialist
715-748-1491
dana.detwiler@taylorcountywi.gov

Schedule for 8/12/26
8:00-8:30 Check-in / Resource Tables / Respite Room opens
8:30-9:00 Welcome & Housekeeping
9:00-9:30 Living With Dementia
9:30-10:00 Transition
10:00-11:00 Morning Workshops
(Choose One During Registration)
11:00-11:30 Lunch
11:30-12:00 Transition
12:00-1:00 for Michelle Bruen - High Dementia Brain
1:00-1:30 Resource Break
1:30-2:15 Afternoon Workshops
(Choose One During Registration)
2:30-3:00 Agenda Update, GA - The Empowered Path
3:00 - Closing Comments

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](#)

-continued-

GWAAr SharePoint

GWAAR Partner Resources - External

GWAAR Aging - Caregiver

Data Management

Emergency Preparedness

GLTC

Health Promotion

Nutrition

Supportive Services

Transportation

The Older Americans Act of 1965 w

ACE Meetings

Fiscal Resources

Advocacy

****May-June Claim Form**** - The May-June Claim form has been posted. Current Funding Controls are still in place through June for any fully or partially state funded contracts. Just as a reminder, agencies must continue to report any funds used to pay for Aging services even if you have fully expended contract dollars or met your Match requirement. Reminder that the claim forms are due on the 5th of each month, unless otherwise notified.

Just as a reminder, transfer requests have been backed out from contract dollars but have yet to be sent to the BADR until all budgets have been submitted and reviewed. Once we have received all information, the transfer amounts will be submitted to BADR.

At this time, we believe all waivers submitted will be approved. Once GWAAR has received all budgets final approval notices will be sent out.

****IIID Match Requirement**** – During a training with ACL GWAAR was made aware, and confirmed with the BADR, that the match requirement for IIID is no longer in effect. However, continue to report Cash Match (Tax Levy/Tribal Funds) once contract dollars have been fully spent to show the true full cost of the service provided.

****AFCSP Mid-Year Report**** – The AFCSP Mid-Year Report is an additional tab on the claim form to be completed by August 5th. For those Aging Units who have the AFCSP contract through GWAAR the mid-year report will automatically populate, with some additional information needed to be completed manually. For those Aging Units whose contract is with BADR, this form will be sent out for completion also to be due on August 5. Keep watch for an upcoming webinar regarding the completion of this report.

****Major Gift Recipients**** – If you are a Major Gift fund recipient just a reminder to review the instructions and complete the Major Gift Meal Reporting tab to report actual meals served and number of clients that were removed from the waitlist or those who had expanded meals provided.

****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.

Nutrition

[Kristi Cooley](#), Nutrition Program Specialist

[Jean Lynch](#), Program Specialist Manager

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

Nice to Know

Regional Summer Nutrition Director Meeting Reminder

Thank you for those who joined us, and to Richland and St. Croix County for hosting the first two meetings in June. We have three meetings remaining. The agenda is the same, so please join the one that works best for you; they are all open to any Nutrition Director. Registered users of the GWAAR SharePoint site can view the agenda and meeting details at [Summer Nutrition Director Meetings \(https://bit.ly/4biJyVX\)](https://bit.ly/4biJyVX)

If you haven't submitted your RSVPs yet, please do so ASAP to Jean.lynch@gwaar.org. All meetings are from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

- Wausau- July 7
- Sussex- July 14
- Lac du Flambeau – July 31

Reminder: Annual Meal Cost Tool Due July 1

This is a friendly reminder that your 2025 Standardized Meal Cost Tool is due July 1.

If you've already submitted your tool, thank you! We appreciate your timely response and the effort you put into completing it.

Registered users of the GWAAR SharePoint site can locate the Meal Cost Tool form and supporting materials on our Nutrition EXT Drive in the [Meal Cost Tool Info](#) folder. (<https://bit.ly/4ez9ajC>)

If you haven't had a chance yet, please work with your fiscal staff and aging director to complete the tool and submit it by the deadline.

The information collected helps compile statewide nutrition program cost data, supports advocacy efforts, and provides valuable insight into your program's meal costs.

Need assistance? Don't hesitate to reach out to your Nutrition Team representative.

Thank you for your partnership and for all you do to support Wisconsin's older adults!

Sun, Fun, and Food Safety - Free Live Webinar!

Wednesday, July 8 at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom

Summer is a time for grilling, outdoor gatherings, and fresh local foods, but warmer temperatures can also increase the risk of foodborne illness.

Register Here: <https://bit.ly/3TbrRBq>

Free Produce Food Safety Nutrition Education Materials Available for Download

Fresh fruits and vegetables are one of the best parts of summer—and they're an important part of a healthy diet. As farmers markets and home gardens fill with colorful produce, it's also a great time to review safe produce handling practices.

While fresh produce is nutritious, it can sometimes carry harmful bacteria such as *Salmonella*, *E. coli*, and *Listeria*. Following a few simple food safety steps—like washing your hands before handling produce, rinsing fruits and vegetables under running water, keeping produce separate from raw meat, and refrigerating cut produce promptly—can help reduce the risk of foodborne illness.

Looking for educational materials to share? The Partnership for Food Safety Education offers free consumer handouts, posters, social media graphics, and other resources to help promote safe produce handling. Visit [Safe Produce Resources](#) to access these free materials.

Safe Produce Resources: <https://fightbac.org/food-safety-education/safe-produce/>

HDM Assessor Call, July 23 from 2 to 3 pm

We are delighted to have Laura Groom, former Nutrition Director from Vernon County, who is now employee with St. Croix Hospice as our featured speaker. She will provide an overview of Hospice services to help increase our awareness of additional supports available. We will also discuss how you handle No Shows/Undeliverable Meals. Please send other agenda topics you would like to discuss.

Join: <https://bit.ly/4eEdkqx>

Meeting ID: 247 159 226 123 148 | Passcode: 6Cn6tQ3g

[+1 608-338-1382](tel:+16083381382), [855651068#](tel:+16083381382) Phone conference ID: 855 651 068#

Dietitian/Diet Technician Call, July 9 from 2 to 3 pm

We have a full agenda. Please share with your RDs and Diet Techs. Nutrition Directors are also welcome to attend if you wish.

Agenda:

- Meal Pattern Discussion
- Strong Bodies Nutrition Class and upcoming free leader training discussion
- NOURISH Class Update
- Eating Disorder for middle age and older adults Workgroup Update
- Malnutrition Awareness Week Update, Sept. 14-18, 2026

Join: <https://bit.ly/4qQ4OIs>

Meeting ID: 234 136 223 685 | Passcode: Jd3WY9LN

[+1 608-338-1382](tel:+16083381382), [195045346#](tel:+195045346) Phone conference ID: 195 045 346#

Reminder: 2026 Nutrition Program Cook's Training – July 15 registration deadline

Cook Strong. Serve Smart. Feed Well.

Join us this summer for the 2026 Nutrition Program Cook's Training, a hands-on learning opportunity designed specifically for Older Americans Act nutrition program kitchen staff. Spend the day with Chef Justin Johnson and the GWAAR Nutrition Team exploring practical kitchen solutions, food safety, menu quality, purchasing strategies, waste reduction, and nutrition updates.



Training topics include:

- Real-world food safety and kitchen best practices
- Purchasing and cost-saving strategies
- Waste reduction and workflow efficiency
- Senior meal quality considerations
- Nutrition guidelines updates
- Trustwell Recipe Database resources
- Recipe sharing and networking opportunities

Choose the session that works best for your program:

- July 23, 2026 – Madison College, Madison
- August 6, 2026 – Food + Farm Exploration Center, Plover

Registration deadline: July 15, 2026

Cost: \$25 per attendee

Complete the registration form: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewfile/id/2009068> (Word download)

View the agenda: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2009067>

Additional location and parking information will be provided prior to the training.

Wisconsin Aging Operations Manual Updates

Feedback deadline is Friday, July 10

The opportunity to provide feedback on the updated [Nutrition Services chapter](#)* of the Wisconsin Aging Operations Manual is now available. Comments are being collected electronically through the [Aging Operations Manual - TIII-C Nutrition Services Chapter Survey](#)* on the [ADRC and Aging SharePoint site](#)* (*accessible to State SharePoint registered users).



**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
of HEALTH SERVICES**

Nutrition Services chapter: <https://bit.ly/4v1yCD9>

Chapter survey: <https://bit.ly/4vbhFGB>

ADRC and Aging SharePoint site: <https://bit.ly/4apEfE2>

The deadline to submit feedback is Friday, July 10, 2026.

Partners are invited to begin the review process by providing comments on one or more sections of this chapter, or by leaving a general comment.

The revised Nutrition Services chapter incorporates policy and operational changes since the last revision in 2024. It reflects updates in the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* as of January 2026 and policy changes because of the release of the OAA Final Rule (45 CFR Part 1321).

As you review, please draw your attention to the following sections where changes were made:

- Eligibility for Services
- Level of Service (particularly carryout meals, nutrition education, unmet need and waiting lists for service)
- Nutrition Standards
- Funding sources (particularly NSIP, OAA Title III-C1)
- Reporting requirements (particularly nutrition education)

Please include page numbers and section titles with feedback as appropriate.

Questions about the Nutrition Services chapter of the Aging Operations Manual can be directed to the Elder Nutrition Program Manager at SaraS.Koenig@Wisconsin.Gov.