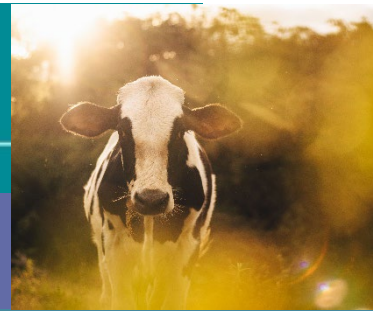




Volume 8, No. 28 July 14, 2026
608-243-5670 | info@gwaar.org | gwaar.org



Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

Need to Know

ACE Meeting Survey

Thank you to all of the county and tribal aging unit directors who attended the in-person ACE meeting in Stevens Point last week. Please take a moment to complete our short ACE Meeting survey:

July 8, 2026 ACE Meeting Survey: <https://bit.ly/4pEbNol>

We value your input as it assists us with the planning process.

Mark your calendar for the 4th Quarter virtual ACE meeting scheduled for October 14, from 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.



Advocacy

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

Need to Know

Disability Vote Coalition July 2026 Lunch and Learn: Guardianship and Voting

Tuesday, July 28 | 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Join the Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition on July 28 from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. to learn more about preserving and restoring the right to vote in a guardianship. In this webinar, you will learn how voting rights are addressed in the guardianship process and hear directly from a panel of experts and advocates. Registration is required: <https://bit.ly/DVC728>



AARP Video Voter Guide

AARP Wisconsin asked all gubernatorial candidates to create a short video answering: What will you do to ensure Wisconsinites age 50+ have the support they need, including retirement savings, so they can afford to remain in their homes and communities?

Watch the video responses from all candidates, in alphabetical order, here:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLGXD68hWEy7c>

Make sure you have a plan to vote in the August 11 primary election! Check your registration status, find your polling place, and request an absentee ballot at <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/>

Nice 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 PM 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>



Did you have an in-district event recently? Please share your pictures! We would love to use these in future WAAN presentations and Aging Advocacy Day materials.

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.

7/17 English registration: <https://bit.ly/4fgyrOu>

7/17 Spanish registration: <https://bit.ly/3TsTohV>



Elder Abuse Programs

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

Nice to Know

Reminder: Elder abuse direct service funds guidance document available

View the document here: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewfile/id/2009087>

Please contact Donna.Rosner@gwaar.org with any questions regarding allowable use of these funds.

Reminder: 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.

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



Family Caregiver Support

Bryn Ceman, Caregiver Programs Specialist

Need to Know

July 15 Wisconsin Statewide Caregiver Coordinator Meeting

Join us from 10:00–11:30 a.m. for our next Wisconsin Statewide Caregiver Coordinator Meeting!! This meeting includes:

- ✦ Advocacy & Public Policy Update from GWAAR
- ✦ DHS & GWAAR updates
- ✦ Featured Training: Youth Caregivers in Wisconsin: Identification, Screening, Resources & Supporting Families. Learn why youth caregivers matter, how Caregiver Coordinators may already be serving them, and practical strategies for identifying and connecting families with supports.
- ✦ AFCSP/NFCSP Forms Workgroup Update
- ✦ View the agenda here: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2009093>



Nice to Know



 Help Shape Age-Friendly Hospital-to-Home Transitions!

 The University of Iowa is seeking **older adults, family caregivers, healthcare professionals, administrators, and community-based service professionals** to help improve hospital-to-home transitions. Participants may complete an interview, surveys, or join a design team—and **compensation is provided**.

💜 This opportunity aligns with GWAAR's efforts to strengthen partnerships between ADRCs, Caregiver Coordinators, healthcare providers, and hospital discharge planners. We'll also be exploring this topic during the **September Statewide Caregiver Coordinator Meeting**.

 **Does your ADRC or Caregiver Coordinator program have a successful partnership with local hospitals, discharge planners, or healthcare providers?** We'd love to hear from you! Please contact **Bryn Ceman** at bryn.ceman@gwaar.org if you're willing to share your best practices or present during the September statewide meeting.

 Interested in the research? Contact **Daniel Liebrecht, PhD, RN** at daniel-liebrecht@uiowa.edu to learn more. Please consider participating or sharing this opportunity with colleagues!

View the flyer: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewfile/id/2009096>



Seeking Promising Practices: Healthcare & Caregiver Program Partnerships

Do you feel your Caregiver Coordinator Program, ADRC, or Dementia Care Specialist Program has built strong partnerships with local hospitals, healthcare systems, discharge planners, primary care clinics, or physicians' offices?

-continued-



Improving hospital-to-home transitions for adults aged 65 and older and caregivers

We are seeking participants for our research study to learn how to improve hospital-to-home transitions for adults aged 65 and older and caregivers. This study includes the opportunity to directly contribute to development of a program to improve the transition and address challenges you may have experienced.

Study Information

Who may participate?	- Adults aged 65 and older hospitalized in the last 6 months, living at home, and a care partner/caregiver - Individuals professionally, administratively, and community-based service professionals involved in their services and/or care
What does participation involve?	- A single 60-minute interview - Two < 30-minute surveys - Opportunity to participate on program design team (five 60-minute sessions, for those especially interested or passionate)
Do I need to participate? Why participate?	- No, your participation is completely voluntary and will not impact your care or job in any way - This study will directly contribute to development of a program to improve hospital-to-home transitions
Will I be compensated?	Yes, you will be compensated for each study activity with bonuses for completing multiple activities.

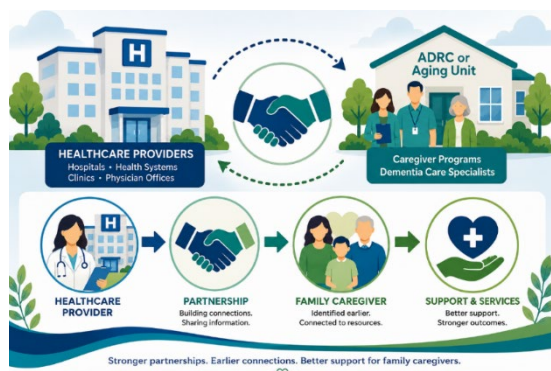
Interested?

Please reach out to Daniel LeBlond, PhD, RN
 Assistant Professor at the University of Iowa College of Nursing
 Phone: 319-467-5082
 Email: daniel.leblond@uiowa.edu

We're looking for examples of successful partnerships that help identify and connect family caregivers to supports and services earlier in their caregiving journey.

At our September Statewide Caregiver Coordinator Meeting, we'd love to highlight promising practices and learn from one another. Whether you've developed referral processes, participate in discharge planning, provide caregiver education, or have found other creative ways to partner with healthcare providers, we'd love to hear from you!

Interested in sharing? Please contact Bryn Ceman at bryn.ceman@gwaar.org.



📌 Reminder: Webinar Opportunity: Identifying & Supporting Young Carers

📅 Tuesday, July 21 | 🕒 1:00 p.m.

Did you know that many children and teens provide care for a family member, often without ever identifying as a "caregiver"?

Join nationally recognized researcher and advocate Dr. Melinda S. Kavanaugh on Tuesday, July 21, 2026, at 1:00 PM CT to learn how to identify young carers, implement the Young Carer Screener and Toolkit, strengthen referral pathways, and build more family-centered systems of care.



🎓 Ideal for Caregiver Coordinators, ADRC staff, healthcare professionals, educators, and others supporting families. Small changes in practice can make a big difference for young carers.

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

Fiscal Resources and Data Management

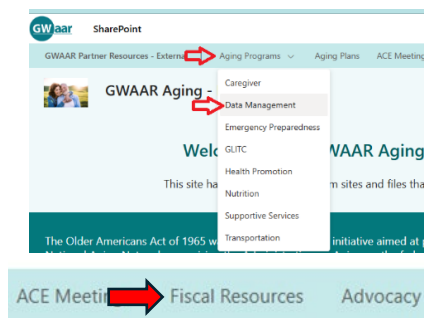
[Carrie Kroetz](#), Data Management and Technology Coordinator

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](#)



****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 5th. Keep watch for an upcoming webinar regarding the completion of this report.

-continued-

****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.

Health Promotion

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

Nice to Know

StrongBodies Leader Training: July 30 | Eau Claire

Leaders will receive instruction on how to teach the program's exercises and lead participants safely. The training covers screening, safety, leadership, scheduling, and space needs. Program leaders are required to initiate at least one community program after completing the workshop.



Eligibility Requirements for Leaders:

- Must be an employee/staff/volunteer with UW-Madison, Division of Extension, or the local area aging unit (ADRC).
- Nonprofits partnering with Extension or the local aging unit are also eligible.
- Must sign a scope of use agreement regarding the fidelity and nonprofit use of the program.
- Must be actively strength training and committed to leading a program in your community.
- CPR certified

Complete the StrongBodies Leader Training Registration Form to get signed up.

Registration: <https://bit.ly/4wFOwo7>

Additional information: <https://bit.ly/4pqxqs8>

If you have questions regarding the StrongBodies program in Wisconsin, contact the StrongBodies WI Team at strongbodies@extension.wisc.edu.

Nutrition

[Kristi Cooley](#), Nutrition Program Specialist

[Jean Lynch](#), Program Specialist Manager

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

Nice to Know

UPDATED: 2026 Nutrition Program Cook's Training – Registration Still Open

Registration is still open for the **2026 Nutrition Program Cook's Training** with Chef Justin Johnson and the GWAAR Nutrition Team.

Important update: Due to low registration, the **July 23 training at Madison College has been canceled**. The **August 6 training at the Food + Farm Exploration Center in Plover** is still scheduled. Final confirmation of the Plover training will depend on registration numbers.

-continued-

August 6, 2026 – Food + Farm Exploration Center, Plover

Registration deadline: Please submit your completed registration form and payment by July 15.

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>

Questions? Contact Kristi Cooley at Kristi.Cooley@gwaar.org.

UPDATED: 2026 Nutrition Participant Satisfaction Surveys – Survey Links Available

The survey links for the required 2026 Nutrition Participant Satisfaction Surveys are now available. These surveys should be used for the required participant satisfaction data collection for the 2026 Nutrition Program reporting year.

Community Dining Survey – 2026: <https://bit.ly/4ynkNSx>

Home-Delivered Meals Survey – 2026: <https://bit.ly/4vz7yvB>

Carryout Meal Survey – 2026: <https://bit.ly/4bBPfyn>

Please use the required survey links when collecting participant feedback.

Questions? Contact your Nutrition Program Specialist.

Food Safety Update: Serving a Highly Susceptible Population

During the July 9, 2026, Dietitian/Diet Tech Peer Sharing , we shared an important reminder for programs operating restaurant, voucher, and My Meal My Way meal models.

Because Wisconsin Senior Nutrition Programs serve a highly susceptible population, restaurant, voucher, and My Meal My Way locations may not rely on a consumer advisory in place of serving foods that comply with the Wisconsin Food Code. While restaurants often use a consumer advisory for menu items such as eggs with runny yolks or undercooked hamburgers, a consumer advisory does not allow those foods to be served as part of the Senior Nutrition Program.

Action Requested by July 31

If your program operates a restaurant, voucher, or My Meal My Way meal model, please:

- Review the menus currently in use.
- Email your Nutrition Program Specialist by July 31 to confirm one of the following:
 - Menus reviewed. No changes needed.
 - Updated menu attached and implementing at location.

If you have questions, please contact your Nutrition Program Specialist. Thank you.

Reminder: Common Good Philanthropies Major Gift Continues to Make a Difference

Since early 2026, GWAAR has been distributing funding made possible through a generous major gift from Common Good Philanthropies to strengthen home-delivered meal programs throughout our service area. These funds are helping local nutrition programs reduce home-delivered meal waitlists and restore or expand delivery routes that have been reduced due to funding or staffing challenges, ensuring more older adults can receive nutritious meals and remain independent in their homes. Applications are due to your GWAAR Nutrition Representative by the 10th of each month and are reviewed monthly as funding remains available.

Food, Fluids & Fall Prevention

Join WIHA, Pam VanKampen, RDN, CD, and Kristi Cooley, RND, CD for an engaging presentation exploring the important connection between nutrition, hydration, and falls prevention for older adults. Learn how healthy eating, proper hydration, muscle strength, medication interactions, and overall wellness can help reduce fall risk and support independence. Learn practical tips and resources to help support safe, healthy aging at home and in the community.

Registration: <https://bit.ly/4fe6jeP>

View the flyer:

<https://wihealthyaging.org/2026/05/26/webinar-july-30-2026/>

Age Well!

Food, Fluids & Fall Prevention



Join WIHA, Pam VanKampen, RDN, CD, and Kristi Cooley, RND, CD for an engaging presentation exploring the important connection between nutrition, hydration, and falls prevention for older adults. Learn how healthy eating, proper hydration, muscle strength, medication interactions, and overall wellness can help reduce fall risk and support independence. Learn practical tips and resources to help support safe, healthy aging at home and in the community.



Presenters:
Pam VanKampen, RDN, CD
Kristi Cooley, RND, CD
Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR)

July 30
10:00-11:00am

Register Here



Tribal Technical Center

[Kassy Heard](#), TTAC Program Director

Nice to Know

Introducing In The Loop

This new publication from the Tribal Aging Unit Association was developed to help streamline communication and reduce the number of emails. The newsletter was created to provide a space to keep everyone informed and connected.

Feedback and submissions for future editions is welcomed. Contact Carri Chapman at cchapman@glitc.org for more information.

Read the July 2026 issue:

<https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewfile/id/2009095>



GREAT LAKES INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL, INC.

IN THE LOOP
TAUA NEWS & EVENTS

Welcome to our new monthly newsletter. To help streamline communication and reduce the number of individual emails, we've created this space to keep everyone informed and connected.

We'd love your feedback. Please let us know what you find helpful, what you'd like to see included, and don't hesitate to share your submissions with Carri Chapman (cchapman@glitc.org) for future editions.

NEWS

This May, we were excited to host our first in-person TAUA meeting of the year, a dynamic two-day event held at the beautiful Morongo Valley Casino and Resort.

Day one featured a full and engaging agenda, including important updates from Title VI and the GLITC Elder Program, attendees enjoyed a mid-day break with a visit to scenic Keeshona Falls.

On day two, participants rolled up their sleeves for a valuable Physical and Mental Health Training, led by our partners at GWAAR, offering practical tools and meaningful collaboration.

We are truly grateful to all who attended, presented, and contributed to making this event such a success. Your participation and energy made it a great start to the year.

On June 9th, members attended the APS Round Table at the Oneida VFW to learn more about Adult Protective Services and resources available throughout the state of Wisconsin.

In recognition of June as Elder Abuse Awareness Month, much of the discussion centered on protecting elders from Medicare scams and other forms of fraud that often target this population.

While there, we had the opportunity to capture a photo with our newly elected TAUA Officers.

Congratulations to Sarah Larson, Chair, and Jess, Vice Chair, and Jean Halonen, Secretary.

Missed it? Looking for more? We'll be sure to keep you updated on all our news and events. We greatly appreciate your service and contributions.



UPCOMING EVENTS

7/22: TAUA Meeting 9a-2p (Onsite)
7/31: Tribal Summer Nutrition Director Meeting 9a-3p (LIVE)
8/25: Tribal Caregiver Conference 8a-5p (Stoddardville Museum)

SAVE THE DATE

9/2 & 9/3 GLNABA (WI Depts)
9/7: TAUA Meeting (Virtual)
9/24 WAND Fall Conference (WI Depts)
10/8 Tribal Cooks Training (Keshona)
Regional Fall Nutrition Trainings (100-100-2)

Bad River Health & Wellness Center 2026 Health Fair

Wednesday, July 22 | 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

53585 Nokomis Rd, Ashland WI 54806

View the flyer: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2009094>



Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol

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

Nice to Know

July Scam Spotlight highlights ambulance fraud

The July Scam Spotlight is now available, and highlights issues related to ambulance fraud. Medicare covers ambulance transportation only when it is medically necessary. Unfortunately, some dishonest providers bill Medicare for ambulance services that were never provided, were unnecessary, or were billed at a higher level than the care actually given. This scam spotlight provides warning signs and ways to protect yourself from this type of fraud.

View the July Scam Spotlight: <https://bit.ly/3RAICa0>

Wisconsin SMP

July 2026

SCAM SPOTLIGHT

Beware of Ambulance Fraud

Medicare covers ambulance transportation only when it is medically necessary. Unfortunately, some dishonest providers bill Medicare for ambulance services that were never provided, were unnecessary, or were billed at a higher level than the care actually given.

**WARNING SIGNS**



You are billed for an ambulance ride you never took.



You are routinely transported by ambulance when another form of transportation would have been appropriate.



You are asked to sign blank forms or paperwork you don't understand.



A provider tells you that "Medicare always covers ambulance transportation" without explaining medical necessity.



Your Medicare Summary Notice (MSN) or Explanation of Benefits (EOB) shows ambulance services you don't recognize.

**PROTECT YOURSELF**



Review your Medicare Summary Notices (MSNs) and Explanation of Benefits (EOBs) regularly.



Keep a record of your medical appointments and transportation.



Never sign blank medical forms.



Ask questions if you are unsure why an ambulance is being used or billed.



Save any paperwork related to ambulance transportation.

To report suspected Medicare Fraud, Errors, or Abuse contact Wisconsin SMP: 888-818-2611 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

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Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources, Inc. 1414 MacArthur Road, Suite A; Madison, WI 53714