



Volume 8, No. 29 July 21, 2026
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Leadership Opportunity

Openings available on our Board of Directors

✓ Applications welcome! **Learn more:** gwaar.org/join-the-gwaar-board



Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

Nice to Know

Reminder: 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

Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act

On July 14, the Senate passed the Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act ([S. 2120](#)) through unanimous consent and the bill now moves to the House for consideration.

S. 2120: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/senate-bill/2120>

The House is only in session until Thursday, July 23 before recessing until August 31, meaning they will likely not consider the reauthorization bill until September. When they are back, it will first go before the House Education and Workforce Committee, of which Representative Grothman is a member. After a final bill is negotiated out of that committee, it will go before the full House of Representatives.

Now is a great time to contact your Representative and ask them to support the OAA Reauthorization Act. The Reauthorization includes many provisions that we, and our partners, support including a national resource center for social isolation, codification of grab-and-go meals, and a recommended increase in funding levels each year for five years.

Please use and modify our action alert here: <https://bit.ly/4fMOQxp>

Reminder: 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>



Nice to Know

Upcoming Candidate Forum: July 25

Saturday, July 25 | 1:00 p.m. | Ho-Chunk Conference Center, Baraboo

The Small Town and Rural Seniors of Wisconsin (STARS) is hosting a Governor Candidate Town Hall, July 25 at 1:00 p.m. Baraboo. 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, and Kelda Roys. **For information and registration, visit** <https://www.stars-wi.org>.

In-District Events

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!

Did you know that WAAN can provide reimbursement of up to \$300 to support In-District Events? Funds can be used for facility rentals, refreshments, speaker fees, printing costs, and more. **To learn more and/or submit a request for reimbursement, review our form:** <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008991>

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.



Family Caregiver Support

[Bryn Ceman](#), Caregiver Programs Specialist

Need to Know

July Caregiver Coordinator Meeting Materials Now Available

The July Statewide Caregiver Coordinator Meeting recording, notes, agenda, presentation, and supporting documents are now available. Highlights from this month's meeting include:

-  Advocacy Update
-  Trualta Wisconsin Executive Summary (Q2 2026)
-  Youth Caregivers in Wisconsin Training
-  Meeting Notes & Recording

Access all July meeting materials here: <https://bit.ly/43792Bt>

Thank you to everyone who joined us! We look forward to seeing you at our next Statewide Caregiver Coordinator Meeting on September 9.

Wisconsin's
FamilyCaregiver
Support Programs

Nice to Know

Tribal Caregiver Conference

 Tuesday, August 25 |  8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. |  North Star Mohican Casino Resort, Bowler, WI

 The Wisconsin Tribal Dementia Care Specialists invite family caregivers, professionals, and community members to attend the ****Tribal Caregiver Conference: Finding Strength in the Journey of Caregiving****.

This **FREE** conference features **special guest speaker Martin Schreiber**, former Wisconsin Governor and author of **My Two Elaines**, along with dementia education, resources, networking, breakfast, lunch, bingo, and door prizes.

 **Register by August 15:** <https://bit.ly/4gQak75>

 A hotel room block is also available.

 Please share this opportunity with family caregivers, Tribal partners, ADRCs, Aging Units, healthcare providers, memory clinics, and other community organizations serving people living with dementia.

View the flyer: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2009108>



The flyer for the Tribal Caregiver Conference features a purple and green color scheme with floral patterns. It includes the title "Tribal Caregiver Conference" and the subtitle "Finding Strength in the Journey of Caregiving". It states that the event is free and open to the public, presented by Wisconsin's Tribal Dementia Care Specialists. The date and time are August 25, 2026, from 8:00am to 5:00pm, at the North Star Mohican Casino Resort in the Orion Event Center, W12180 County Road A, Bowler, WI 54416. It encourages attendees to join for an event that brings together caregivers and others to share stories, resources, and support. Breakfast and lunch will be provided, followed by bingo with door prizes. Registration is required to attend or to be a vendor. A QR code is provided for registration, along with a link to the registration page. A photo of Martin Schreiber, Special Guest Speaker and Former Wisconsin Governor, is included. A room block is available at the North Star Mohican Casino Resort Hotel for August 24 and 25. The room block is available on a first-come, first-serve basis. The room block expires on August 10. Booking ID: Tribal Caregiver Conference or 8309. Hotel phone: (715) 787-3110. If you have any questions or want to register over the phone, contact Briana Terrio at (715) 793-3035. Logos for various tribal organizations are shown at the bottom.

Reminder: 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**.

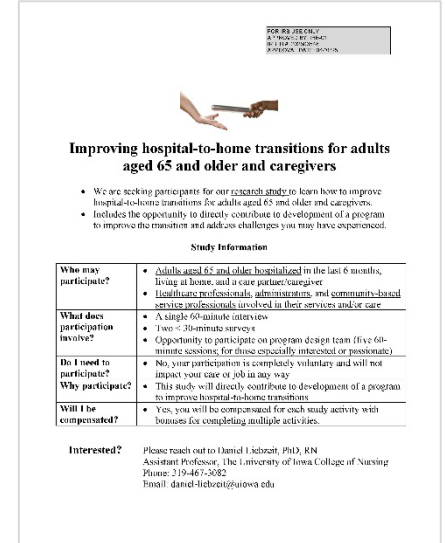
 This opportunity aligns with GWAAR's efforts to strengthen partnerships between ADRCs, Caregiver Coordinators, healthcare providers, and hospital discharge planners. We'll also be exploring this topic during the **September Statewide Caregiver Coordinator Meeting**.

 **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 Liebzeit, PhD, RN** at daniel-liebzeit@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>



The flyer for the research study "Improving hospital-to-home transitions for adults aged 65 and older and caregivers" features a white background with a blue header. It includes a QR code for registration. The title is "Improving hospital-to-home transitions for adults aged 65 and older and caregivers". It states that the study is seeking participants for a research study to learn how to improve hospital-to-home transitions for adults aged 65 and older and caregivers. It includes the opportunity to directly contribute to development of a program to improve the transition and address challenges you may have experienced. A table titled "Study Information" provides details about who may participate, what the participation involves, whether there is compensation, and how to get interested. The table is as follows:

Study Information	
Who may participate?	- Adults aged 65 and older hospitalized in the last 6 months, living at home, and a care partner/caregiver - Healthcare professionals, administrators, and community-based service professionals involved in their services and/or care
What does participation involve?	- A single 60-minute interview - Two 15-minute surveys - Opportunity to participate on program design team (five 60-minute sessions for those especially interested or passionate)
Do I need to participate?	No, your participation is completely voluntary and will not impact your care or job in any way
Why participate?	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 Liebzeit, PhD, RN, Assistant Professor, The University of Iowa College of Nursing, Phone: 319-467-2082, Email: daniel-liebzeit@uiowa.edu

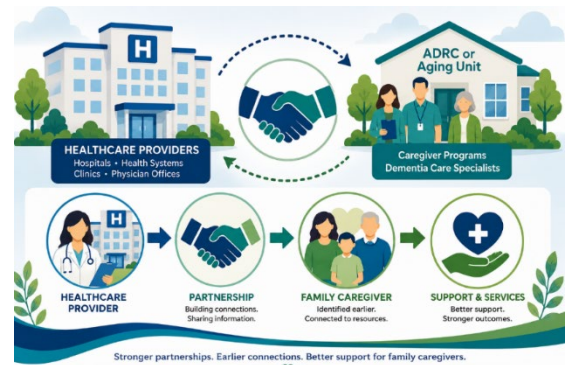
Reminder: Seeking Promising Practices: Healthcare & Caregiver Program Partnerships

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?

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.



Fiscal Resources and Data Management

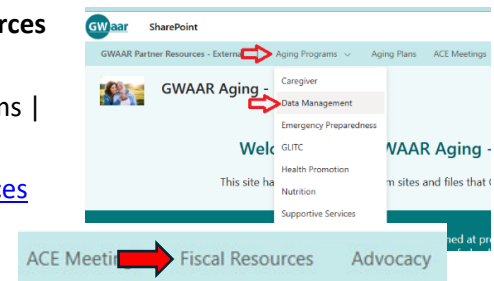
[Carrie Kroetz](#), Data Management and Technology Coordinator

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

We would like to invite you to a GWAAR-hosted webinar on Monday, July 27 from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Presenters will include Lynn Gall from BADR, Bryn Ceman and Carrie Kroetz from GWAAR.

This webinar will cover how to complete the AFCSP Mid-Year Fiscal report (January-June 2026) for both BADR and GWAAR contracted providers. This report is due to fiscal@gwaar.org for all providers by August 5th, 2026 for review by BADR and GWAAR. This webinar will be recorded and posted on the GWAAR SharePoint site under the Fiscal Resource library if you are unable to attend or wish to rewatch it later.

As a reminder, all AFCSP service data is required to be entered into PeerPlace, along with the assessment, initial evaluation and post evaluation.

We will be primarily reviewing how to complete the fiscal report but can address some PeerPlace questions as they arise. [AFCSP Mid-Year Fiscal Webinar Registration: https://bit.ly/4pFmNSk](https://bit.ly/4pFmNSk)

Report Forms

For GWAAR-contracted AFCSP providers, the AFCSP Mid-Year Report is a tab on the May/June Claim.

For BADR-contracted AFCSP providers, the form will be sent out by Lynn Gall, Family Caregiver Manager, BADR and posted on the GWAAR SharePoint site under the Fiscal Resources-library within the Claims section.

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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.

Health Promotion

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

Nice to Know

Wisconsin Institute for Health Aging (WIHA) Updates:

Falls Prevention Awareness Month Resources Now Available:

This year's theme is Stay Steady, Stay Connected, highlighting the importance of social connection to prevent falls and increase resiliency as we age. As you plan your resource distribution for September, check out this short video to help get started. <https://youtu.be/BU6vnogAfF0>

You can find all the promotional resources for September's Falls Prevention Awareness Month here: <https://bit.ly/4pCUaoU>

Save the Date: Healthy Aging Summit on April 28-29, 2027 This event will be held at the Jefferson St Inn in Wausau, WI. For more information, visit: <https://wihealthyaging.org/healthy-aging-summit/>



Research Participants Needed: Older Adults with COPD

The UW–Madison School of Nursing is recruiting participants for a research study exploring how older adults living with COPD experience social isolation and loneliness in their daily lives.

Researchers are seeking individuals who:

- Are 65 years of age or older
- Have been diagnosed with COPD for at least 6 months
- Have experienced social isolation or loneliness within the past month
- Speak and understand English

Participants will complete a one-hour interview by Zoom, phone, or in person at the UW–Madison School of Nursing and will receive \$50 (cash or an Amazon e-gift card) for their time.

If you work with older adults who may be eligible, please consider sharing this opportunity with them.

View the flyer: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2009107>

Questions or interested participants may contact: Jingxi Li |  (608) 338-9721 |  jl2497@wisc.edu

School of Nursing
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

PARTICIPANTS NEEDED FOR A RESEARCH STUDY!
Social Isolation and Loneliness in Older Adults with COPD

We want to better support people with COPD. We are interested in learning about your experience of:

- Social isolation (the lack of social contact) and/or
- Loneliness (the perception of being alone)

You're eligible if you:

- Are age 65 years or older
- Have been diagnosed with COPD for at least 6 months
- Have experienced social isolation and/or loneliness in the past month

What to expect:

- If eligible, you will participate in a 1-hour interview to share your experience
- Interviews can be done in-person, on the phone, or over Zoom

Compensation:

- For your time, you will receive \$50. Payment will be in cash for in-person interviews or an Amazon e-gift card for virtual interviews

Confidentiality

- Participation is voluntary, will not affect your care, and all information you provide will be kept confidential

Interested? Contact us for more information!

Researcher: Jingxi Li
 jl2497@wisc.edu
 608 338 9721

** Please note that email is generally not as secure as other methods of communication. For sensitive information, please use the phone or in-person meeting. You will not receive any sensitive information via email.

Nutrition

[Kristi Cooley](#), Nutrition Program Specialist

[Jean Lynch](#), Program Specialist Manager

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

Nice to Know

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.

Reminder: 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/>



The flyer is for a webinar titled "Food, Fluids & Fall Prevention" presented by Age Well. It features a photo of Pam VanKampen, RDN, CD, holding a water bottle. Below the title, it lists the presenters: Pam VanKampen, RDN, CD and Kristi Cooley, RND, CD. The flyer describes the webinar content: exploring the connection between nutrition, hydration, and falls prevention for older adults, learning practical tips and resources to help support safe, healthy aging at home and in the community. The date and time are listed as July 30, 10:00-11:00am. A "Register Here" button is at the bottom.

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](#)

WIHA
Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources
414.224.8100
www.wihealthyaging.org

Tribal Technical Center

[Kassy Heard](#), TTAC Program Director

Nice to Know

Featured news from the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council (GLITC)

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 Menominee 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 Keshena Falls.



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On day two, participants rolled up their sleeves for a valuable Fiscal and Peer Place 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, several of us 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 Tourdot, Chair; Jodi Tess, Vice Chair; and Jean Hahn-Thomas, Secretary.



Read this and other articles in the July issue of The Loop newsletter:

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

Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol

[Ingrid A. Kunding](#), 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



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