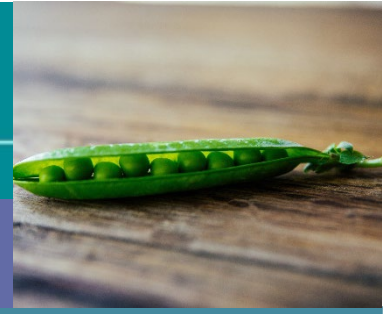




Volume 8, No. 30 July 28, 2026
608-243-5670 | info@gwaar.org | gwaar.org



Leadership Opportunity

Openings available on our Board of Directors

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



Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) News

Nice to Know

2026 Wisconsin Aging, Disability and Independent Living Network (ADILN) Conference

September 21-23 | 1305 Kalahari Drive, Wisconsin Dells | <https://www.uwgb.edu/adiln/>

Mission: Possible | Strengthening our role as agents of change through innovation and collaboration.

Calling all Aging, Disability, Independent Living, and Health Professionals!

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.

If you are working with older adults, people with disabilities or caregivers, you do not want to miss this conference with incredible keynote presenters (Alison Barkoff, Tracey Gendron, Theo Braddy, Allison Gilbert, Graham Nash, and Deborah Biddle) and a wide array of interesting, valuable sessions!

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

Registration (Early bird deadline August 21): <https://bit.ly/4sMtnGp>

Every successful mission requires a team. Do you know a business or organization that wants to join our mission? Encourage them to become a conference sponsor or exhibitor. A variety of sponsorship and vendor opportunities are available to help organizations increase visibility and connect directly with attendees.

Learn more about sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities: <https://bit.ly/4oWIBsc>

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



Reminder: ACE Meeting Survey

If you attended the July 8 ACE meeting, please take a moment to complete our short ACE Meeting survey: <https://bit.ly/4pEbNol>

Your input is valuable and 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>

Nice to Know

Share Feedback on Protection & Advocacy Organizations

The Administration for Community Living (ACL) is seeking feedback from the public on Protection & Advocacy (P&A) organization across the country. Protection & Advocacy organizations are federally mandated independent advocacy organizations for individuals with disabilities. They provide legal services and can pursue litigation under federal, state, and local law, provide information and referral services regarding services and legal rights, advocate for inclusive education and independent living, and much more. In Wisconsin, the Protection & Advocacy organization is Disability Rights Wisconsin (DRW).

ACL is encouraging individuals to complete [this short survey](#) to learn more about public awareness of P&As, how to improve service delivery, and to strengthen the P&A network. The survey is anonymous and should take no more than 15-20 minutes to complete. You do not need to be an expert on P&A organizations to take this survey! All feedback is valuable to enhancing the network and ensuring P&A organizations are supported.

Take the Protection & Advocacy survey: <https://bit.ly/4fokpf9>

Federal Work Requirements Webinar

Thursday, July 30 | 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) is hosting a webinar about the new Medicaid Federal Work Requirements. This webinar will cover exemptions to the work requirements and how members may qualify for an exemption. To register, go [here](#): <https://bit.ly/4vat0XB>. To send a question in advance of the webinar, please email DHSForwardHealthPartners@dhs.wisconsin.gov.

DHS has compiled a webpage with frequently asked questions, details on exemptions, and a screening tool so members can see if work requirements may apply to them.

For more information, visit [Medicaid: New Federal Work Requirement | Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#): <https://bit.ly/4bbx5Ub>

-continued-

Please continue to share feedback with DHS about the work requirements and how you may be impacted, either as an enrollee, service provider, caregiver, or other affected individual. This feedback shapes how DHS will implement the requirements and communicate with members. Your advocacy is crucial to ensuring as many individuals as possible retain healthcare coverage! Send feedback to DHSForwardHealthPartners@dhs.wisconsin.gov.

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 here:** <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.



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.

7/31 English registration: <https://bit.ly/4fj043h> | **7/31 Spanish registration:** <https://bit.ly/3RBnYFH>



Elder Abuse Programs

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

Nice to Know

Domestic Violence in Later Life (DVinLL) Conference: Registration now open

Thursday, November 12 | 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Domestic Violence in Later Life Conference 2026: Sexual Abuse, Sexual Safety and Tech (0.4 CEU's/4 CEH's)

This virtual training explores domestic violence in later life with a focus on sexual abuse, sexual safety, and the role of technology in both harm and prevention. Participants will gain practical strategies and trauma-informed approaches to better support and protect older adults experiencing abuse.

This free training is presented and made possible by the Dane County Department of Human Services in partnership with UW-Green Bay Continuing Education & Workforce Training and the Bridge to HOPE team.

View the flyer: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2009111>

Registration and information: <https://bit.ly/4brdAqz>



Emergency Preparedness

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

Nice to Know

Operation Emergency Prepare

Operation Emergency Prepare is a do-it-yourself project designed so that organizations and community groups can be prepared for an emergency or natural disaster, but could easily be adapted to help individuals and families prepare as well.

Disasters are notable for their scale, unpredictability or both. A hurricane, house fire, earthquake or tornado can leave devastation in its wake. The impact of such an event is often most severe for people who failed to plan ahead for emergencies. You probably have friends, family and neighbors who have no plans for how to act when a disaster is imminent, or how to respond after one has struck. "Operation Emergency Prepare" allows you to help others in your neighborhood who need to get ready.

You can help a neighbor with one of these activities in about an hour. If you choose to plan and implement a community activity, it may take up to a couple of hours per week for several weeks.

View the volunteer guide: <https://bit.ly/4x7ptur>



[Create the Good](#)

Operation Emergency
Prepare

Family Caregiver Support

[Bryn Ceman](#), Caregiver Programs Specialist

Need to Know

Reminder: 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

Reminder: 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>



Fiscal Resources and Data Management

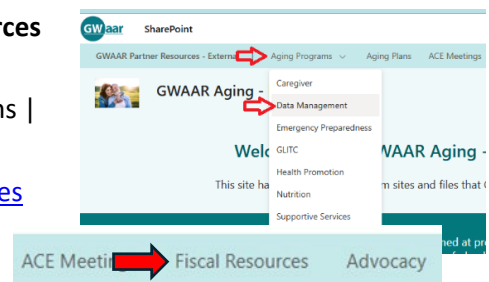
[Carrie Kroetz](#), Data Management and Technology Coordinator

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

GWAAR hosted a webinar on July 27 from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Presenters included Lynn Gall from BADR, Bryn Ceman and Carrie Kroetz from GWAAR.

This webinar covered 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 staff.

This webinar was recorded and is posted on the GWAAR SharePoint site under the Fiscal Resource library within the AFCSP Reporting section.

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

-continued-

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.

PeerPlace Review and Cleanup

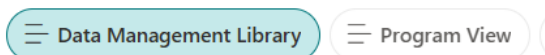
GWAAR will conduct another round of data review focusing on the Caregiver Program over the next few weeks and will reach out to Aging Units regarding noticed errors. Thank you all for being so prompt in addressing these! Just as a reminder, error Reports/View Builders should be run monthly to ensure accuracy in data and fiscal reporting. Please refer to the associated webinars for your program.

Updated Training Materials

GWAAR Fiscal is in the final stages of updating their fiscal instructions regarding completing the claim form. There is a summary version document focusing on quick to follow steps, and a more comprehensive document describing each contract in detail, along with screenshots and written examples. Both will be posted under the Fiscal Resources library within the Instructions section.

GWAAR Data Management has been posting new training guides referred to as Quick Notes to assist with PeerPlace data entry. These are supplemental guides to BADR instructions. These will be posted under the Aging Programs-Data Management library within the Instructions section.

As a reminder, providers can also change the view layout from the default Data Management Library to the Program View which displays posted information by 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/>



Reminder: 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
 (608) 338-9721
 jl2497@wisc.edu

* Please note that email is general and a secure way to communicate email and health-related information, as there are many ways for unauthorized users to access email. You may wish to consider the detailed personal information to email.

Nutrition

[Kristi Cooley](#), Nutrition Program Specialist

[Jean Lynch](#), Program Specialist Manager

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

Nice to Know

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/>



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

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.

Wisconsin Senior Medicare Patrol

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

Nice to Know

Reminder: 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	PROTECT YOURSELF
You are billed for an ambulance ride you never took.	Review your Medicare Summary Notices (MSNs) and Explanation of Benefits (EOBs) regularly.
You are routinely transported by ambulance when another form of transportation would have been appropriate.	Keep a record of your medical appointments and transportation.
You are asked to sign blank forms or paperwork you don't understand.	Never sign blank medical forms.
A provider tells you that "Medicare always covers ambulance transportation" without explaining medical necessity.	Ask questions if you are unsure why an ambulance is being used or billed.
Your Medicare Summary Notice (MSN) or Explanation of Benefits (EOB) shows ambulance services you don't recognize.	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

SMP Senior Medicare Patrol
Preventing Medicare Fraud

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