

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Name of Governmental Body: Council for Children with Long-Term Support Needs (CLTS)			Attending: Wendy Heyn, Council Chair; Danielle Bauer, Parent; Patti Becker, Parent; Savannah Bertrand, Parent; Kelly Blaschko, Parent; Anouvong “Toto” Chanthavixay Milwaukee Co. Children Youth & Family Services; Christina Courtney, Brown Co. LTC PAC Representative; Lisa Hanks, WI Department of Children & Families; Pamela Hencke, Parent; Jill Jacklitz, Councils and Organizations, Disability Rights Wisconsin; Angela Milne, Provider, Encompass Family Solutions; Katy Morgan-Davies, Parent; Jenny Price, Councils and Organizations, WI Board for People with Developmental Disabilities; Angela Radloff, Dane Co. Human Services; Walt Schalick, Provider, UW Hospital; Lisa Stephan, Manitowoc Co.; Sandra Tierney, Parent; Danielle Tolzmann, Councils and Organization, Family Voices of Wisconsin; Elizabeth Williams, Parent Excused: Kerry Blondheim, Provider, Genesee Community Services; Cherie Purdy, Parent, David McGinley, Parent; Jessica Seawright, Parent State and Presenting Members: Deb Rathermel, BCS; Becky Granger, BCS; Rebecca Muenster, BCPP; Michelle Lund, CYSHCN; Tara Sommersberger, BCS; Beth Gullickson, BCS; Rachel Lettner, BCS; Chris Bonds, BCS; Tiffany Schanno, BCS; David Sorenson, BCS; Bob Kiel, BCS; Sarah Ybarra, BCS; Nancy Bills, BCS; Soktheap “Tip” Pom, BCS; Zach Bauer, BCS; Susan Siebert, DHS, Nicole Schnieder, DHS Public Members: Autumn Jalinski, Portage Co.; Melissa Havermann, ABC for Health; Erin Bong; Kevin Robb; Lana Moyer, Gainwell; Lisa Reindl; Lynisha Duboise; Tessa Randolph; Vicky Gunderson, Acumen; Kristine Serwe, Fond du Lac Co.; Paul Mross; Sally Flaschberger; Tessa Randolph; Vivian Grair
Date: 8/5/2026	Time Started: 9:00 AM	Time Ended: 2:36 PM	
Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting			Presiding Officer: Wendy Heyn, Chair
Minutes			

Welcome

- Council Attendance
- Council Member Announcements
- Members: CLTS Council: Members | Wisconsin Department of Health Services: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/cltscouncil/members.htm>

Public Comments

Melissa Havermann from ABC for Health explained the services her organization provides and praised the addition of the ombuds to the CLTS Waiver. She also suggested the state focus on identifying root causes to improve the program. She said there is need for better guidance and scope documents for families navigating fair hearings.

General Business

Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 6, 2026: [May 6, 2026, Governor's CLTS Council Minutes](#)

MOTION TO APPROVE: Katy Morgan-Davies; SECONDED: Pamela Hencke at 9:10 AM

New Council Member Introductions

Danielle Bauer, Parent Member

Savannah Bertrand, Parent member

Jenny Price, Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities (BPDD) Executive Director

Council Chair Position Planning

Deb Rathernel discussed planning for the 2027 Council Chair position. Nominations for the 2027 CLTS Council Chair position will take place at the November meeting. council members interested in the role can reach out to Wendy or Deb for additional information.

Interoperability Project, presenter Rebecca Muenster, Bureau of Clinical Policy and Pharmacy (BCPP)

- Rebecca provided updates on fee-for-service prior authorizations (PA) protocol and how the recently implemented Interoperability Project will serve to increase response timeliness for fee-for-service (FFS) PA.
- She also highlighted efforts to streamline automated PA submissions and bridge care gaps to ensure continuity of services.

Waiver Renewal, present Becky Granger, Deputy Director, Bureau of Children's Services (BCS)

- Becky provided an overview of the CLTS waiver application and submission to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).
- The 2027-31 CLTS Waiver application was submitted to CMS on July 24, 2026. DHS is anticipating CMS approval and effective date of January 2027.
- BCS is initiating implementation planning with program partners to assure reasonable readiness for January 2027.

Children and Youth with Special Healthcare Needs (CYSHN) Program Updates, presenter Michelle Lund, Program Director, CYSHCN

- Michelle gave updates on the CYSHCN program.
- The program is supported by the Title V Maternal and Child Health Block Grant in coordination with the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).
- Michelle discussed how regional centers operate and how they help families navigate diagnoses, special education connections, and resource groups.
- She also discussed the campaign for the Wisconsin Wayfinder program. The initial campaign ran until March 2025. The second phase of advertising ran from June 2026 to September 2026.
- She discussed using Google Analytics and direct surveys to collect data on guardians, identify gaps, and ensure the messaging strategy is properly targeted.

CLTS Quarter 2 Data, present Becky Granger, Deputy Director, BCS (standing in for Kaycee Kienast)

- **Enrollment & Disenrollment:** As of May 29, 2027, the program enrolled around 30,000 children in CLTS.
- **Appeals:** Becky reviewed program appeals, discussed milestones, and explained how many appeals were dismissed or remanded.

Discussion:

- Danielle Tolzmann asked a question regarding NFE data between 2025 and 2026. BCS will review and update for the next council meeting.

Implementation Discussion Topics Overview: Deb presented an overview of the topics the council will discuss in the breakout rooms, the Ombuds and the CLTS Professional Development.

Discussion of CLTS Professional Development System Implementation Plan before council moved to breakout rooms.

Implementation Discussion (2 Groups)

The council split into two groups, spending 25 minutes in each room.

- Ombuds group led by Tara Sommersberger: Discussions centered on the scope, legal jurisdiction, and barrier resolution strategies for the new ombuds role.
- Support and Service Coordinator (SSC) group led by Beth Gullickson: Discussions focused on building robust training modules, addressing trauma, and collaborating with UW systems.

Support and Service Coordinator (SSC) Professional Development:

Project Status Updates and Situational Awareness Topics

- **CLTS Provider Handbook, presenter Chris Bonds and Tiffany Schanno** - They discussed incorporating feedback to address provider integrity and clarify billing protocols. Anticipate mid-September release date for the web-based handbook

- **CLTS Enrollment Queue, presenters David Sorenson and Bob Kiel**
 - DHS is sunsetting the Program Participation System (PPS) database that houses CLTS enrollable (waiting) participants.
 - Using our Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS), DHS will initiate the CLTS enrollment of all functionally and financially eligible individuals that choose to enroll on the first of the preceding month. This change is scheduled for January 2027.
- **Children's Community Options Program (CCOP) Updates and Annual Plans, presenter Beth Gullickson**
 - Update on the CCOP annual plans. County waiver agencies (CWAS) will be submitting their CCOP plans this fall. BCS will review all plans for approval in advance of the 2027 allocation.
- **Discussion:**
 - Savannah Bertrand asked a question regarding the CCOP advisory committee and strategies for recruiting parent participants.
 - Christina Courtney requested clarification on oversight regarding county-level compliance.

Council Member Sharing

Jenny Price shared information on the 2026 SDC (Wisconsin Self-Determination Conference).

Lisa Stephan shared a link for the Family Voices of Wisconsin Transition Workshop, saying their first event was a success.

Patti Becker shared a link from the Survival Coalition regarding Special Education experiences in Wisconsin.

Council members shared experiences.

Wrap-Up & Action Items (Next Meeting)

Future 2026 Meeting Dates: November 4, 2026 – Council to vote on the 2027 chair.

- **MOTION TO ADJOURN:** Katy Morgan-Davies; **SECONDED:** Pamela Hencke at 2:36 PM.

Prepared by: Sarah Ybarra on 8/5/2026.