

INCOME MAINTENANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (IMAC)

Thursday, August 21, 2025

1:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Zoom: <https://dhswi.zoomgov.com/j/1601074465>

Minutes

Invitees

Attendees (X = Attended)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Katie Sepnieski – DHS BEOT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tarah Richardson – DHS BEOT
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Alicia Grulke – DHS BEOT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	LaTanya Taylor – DHS BEOT
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ashley Schabel – DHS BEOT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Paul Michael - DHS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jody Noble – DHS BEOT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Autumn Arnold – DHS BEEP
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pungnou Her – DHS BEOT	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brookelynn Slamka – DHS BEEP
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Valerie Hayes -DHS BEOT	<input type="checkbox"/>	Valeri Kazakhetsyan – DHS BEEP
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Angela Stanford – DHS BEOT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Laurie Teubert – DHS BEEP
<input type="checkbox"/>	Alexia Hamilton – DHS BEOT	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nicole Huffman – DHS BEEP
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nick Kwaw – DHS BEOT	<input type="checkbox"/>	True Lor – DHS BEEP
<input type="checkbox"/>	Linsey Donaldson – DHS BEOT	<input type="checkbox"/>	Laura Hanson – DHS BEEP
<input type="checkbox"/>	Victoria Conley – DHS BEEP	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rebecca David – DHS BEEP
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bay Lake – Chelsey Groessl	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Moraine Lakes – Mia Anderson-Inman
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bay Lake – Becky Hetfield-Salentine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Moraine Lakes – Heather Merten
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Capital – Shawn Tessmann	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Northern – Steve Budnik
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Capital – Adam Chorlton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Northern – Jeanine Spuhler
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Central – Nicole Rolain	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Southern – Kate Chambers
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Central – Amanda Brooks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Southern – Laci Bainbridge
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	East Central – Ann Kriegel	<input type="checkbox"/>	Western – Lorie Graff (co-chair)
<input type="checkbox"/>	East Central – Annett Mooney	<input type="checkbox"/>	Western – Tricia Wavra
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Great Rivers – Kathy Welke (co-chair)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WKRP – Kimm Peters
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Great Rivers – Ronda Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kevin Wetherbee
<input type="checkbox"/>	Stephanie Krieger – DHS BEEP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tami Berg - OIG
<input type="checkbox"/>	WKRP – Katie Kasprzak	<input type="checkbox"/>	John Ewing – DHS BEOT
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Thor Neng - DCF	<input type="checkbox"/>	Crystal L. Malone
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cheryl Kawlewski – Portage County	<input type="checkbox"/>	Traci Cahill
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gage Winkelmann – DCF	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nicole Koch - OIG

<input type="checkbox"/>	Barbara Honsa - DCF	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lauren Heitman – DHS Area Admin
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kent Ellis - DCF	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shine Baby– DHS BSM
<input type="checkbox"/>	Annie Griggs – DCF	<input type="checkbox"/>	Suzanne Cone – DHS BSM
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jessica Schultze – Jefferson County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Darin Petesch – DHS BSM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Darsell Johns – Ozaukee	<input type="checkbox"/>	Christina Tuenge -Great Rivers
<input type="checkbox"/>	Michael Poma - MilES	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shauna Grossman - DHS
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tim McGuire - MilES	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shelli Essmann DHS Area Admin
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mac Strawder - MilES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Carol Waulet – Door County
<input type="checkbox"/>	Brenda Belanger-Red Cliff	<input type="checkbox"/>	Amber Taylor – Adams County
<input type="checkbox"/>	Wendy Corbine - Bad River	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kris Weden – Marathon County
<input type="checkbox"/>	Renee Lyman – Dodge County	<input type="checkbox"/>	Raelle Allen - Lac du Flambeau Tribe
<input type="checkbox"/>	Carol Sjoblom – Columbia County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Maria Delagado – Southern
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rebecca Luebke – Area Admin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Roxann Binkowski – Waushara County
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Heidrun Kovach – Dane County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	April Ferstl – DCF
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mitch Birkey – Calumet County	<input type="checkbox"/>	Deb Bohlman – Fond du Lac County
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kesha Cole – Ozaukee County	<input type="checkbox"/>	Amy Beranek – Dodge County
<input type="checkbox"/>	Michele Chiuchiolo – Dane County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Melissa Todd – DHS BEEP
<input type="checkbox"/>	Deb Williquette – Manitowoc County	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rob Klingforth – Moraine Lakes
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ron Redell – Dane County	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cortney Hebel – Dane County
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kara Ponti – Dane County	<input type="checkbox"/>	Charlie Morgan – WI Legislature
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chris Gokey – Lac Courte Oreilles	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nasbah Hill – Oneida
<input type="checkbox"/>	Linda Sallerud – Forest County Potawatomi	<input type="checkbox"/>	Michele Shawano – Sokaogon
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Maggie Calhoun – Forest County Potawatomi	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ashley McGeshick – Sokaogon
<input type="checkbox"/>	Wendy Corbine – Bad River	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jaime Jameson –Sokaogon
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gloria Cobb – Lac du Flambeau	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tina Weiterman –Stockbridge Munsee
<input type="checkbox"/>	Raelle Allen - Lac du Flambeau	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dylana Kinewayg –Menominee
<input type="checkbox"/>	Taryn Williams – Lac du Flambeau	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jessica VandeKamp – Oneida
<input type="checkbox"/>	Shannon Drake-Buhr-DHS BEEP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kristin Latus – WKRP
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jolyne Wallace – OIG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jenny Hoffman (co-Chair)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dustin Feeney		

AGENDA

Welcome (Katie Sepnieski & Lorie Graff)

- Report attendance by replying to the email from DHSBEOTAdmin@dhs.wisconsin.gov.

Approval of June 19, 2025, Meeting Minutes (Katie Sepnieski)

- Motions made to approve the minutes by Adam Chorlton and Ann Kriegel, then approved by consensus.

Policy Updates (Department of Health Services)

Federal Budget Changes

- The Department continues planning regarding changes that are required by the federal budget reconciliation act. Discussions continue with federal partners about several of the provisions of the act, and in some cases, awaiting more detailed guidance before timelines can be set for changes that are being made.
- As the Department continues to work through the planning and analysis process, the message to members is that changes are coming, but nothing has happened yet.
- The Department will notify members affected before changes take place. It is important that members open and read mail from the State of Wisconsin that will describe changes and keep contact information up to date.
- The Department is actively working to develop plans and timelines for the changes required by the act, and more details about what members can expect and when.

FoodShare

Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents

- There is a FoodShare policy that provides the ability to suspend the time limit on benefits for Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs), subject to a work requirement, if the member lives in areas where the unemployment rate is higher than the national average.
 - Currently, Wisconsin has this waiver, which is referred to as the geo waiver or geographic waiver, in place for the City of Racine; Adams, Bayfield, Douglas, Florence, Forest, Iron, Marquette, and Menominee counties; and most Tribal reservation areas. As the waiver expires at the end of September 2025, and waiver request was submitted for the areas expected to qualify starting October 1, 2025, based on updated unemployment rates, which are Adams, Iron, Menominee, and Burnett counties and the same Tribal reservation areas that qualify currently. However, the changes in the federal budget reconciliation act are that geographic ABAWD waivers are only permissible if an area has an unemployment rate above 10%.
 - It is unclear whether Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) will apply the new rule or the old rule when evaluating the waiver request, but the assumption is that the new rule will be applied, and the waiver request will be denied in its entirety. This would mean that Wisconsin would no longer have any areas under a geographic waiver.
 - The federal budget reconciliation act did include a new ABAWD exemption for individuals who are Indians, Urban Indians, or California Indians, so assuming that the waiver is denied,

- the Department is working to implement this exemption so that members living on Tribal lands will not experience a change.
- Assuming that the waiver is denied, communication will begin with members who do have a change in status in mid-to-late September:
 - Individuals who lose waiver coverage will receive an updated notice of work requirements communicating that a work requirement will have to be met beginning October 1, 2025. Corresponding text and email may also be received if that contact information is on file.
 - The FoodShare Employment and Training (FSET) policy team will be working with FSET agencies to ensure preparedness to respond to the temporary influx of referrals.
 - The Department is planning on issuing standard policy updates, such as an Operations Memo, updates to the FoodShare news page and work requirement webpages, a partner email, and talking points for income maintenance agencies.

Replacement Benefits

- Many households in the southeastern and eastern parts of the state were impacted by the severe rainstorms and flooding this month. A state of emergency was issued for the entire state of Wisconsin due to severe flooding.
- The Department's federal partners approved a waiver to extend the amount of time FoodShare members must report losses due to the storm.
- With the waiver, FoodShare members in Milwaukee, Waukesha, Waupaca, Brown, and Door counties have until Monday September 8th to report their loss of food due to the storms.
- The waiver only applies to FoodShare benefits. If a household wants to request replacement benefits for FoodShare and Summer EBT benefits, action must be taken within 10 days of the loss of food to request Summer EBT replacement benefits.
- Because of the State of Emergency, members are not required to provide verification of the misfortune to get replacement benefits, if food was lost due to the storm or flooding that happened this month.

Healthcare

- The Department continues to work on the implementation of systems enhancements that will be released in late October 2025 to make it easier to pay Medicaid Purchase Plan (MAPP) premiums and to give people more time to pay premiums before losing coverage for non-payment.
- Income Maintenance agencies and community partners will receive more detailed information starting in September. In October 2025, more information will be shared with members about the changes that will affect them.

Subcommittee Updates (Income Maintenance Agency Subcommittee Co-Chairs)

- Income Maintenance Operational Analysis (IMOA) subcommittee met July 18 and August 1, 2025. Lorie Graff shared key discussion points (see attachment). Next meeting is September 12, 2025.
- Call Center Technical subcommittee met on June 30, July 28, and August 11, 2025. Cindy Drury shared key discussion points (see attachment). The next meeting is August 25, 2025.

- Performance Monitoring subcommittee met on July 16, 2025. Ann Kriegel shared key discussion points (see attachment). Next meeting is September 17, 2025.
- The Training subcommittee met on July 28, 2025. Shelby Jenson shared key discussion points (see attachment). Next meeting is October 27, 2025.
- The Elderly, Blind, Disabled/Long Term Care Subcommittee met on July 15, 2025. Kara Ponti shared key discussion points (see attachment). Next meeting is October 21, 2025.

Quality Control Annual Data (LaTanya Taylor)

- LaTanya Taylor presented on information for the Quality Control Annual Data. The Department would like to thank the agencies for the hard work in ensuring members in Wisconsin are receiving correct and timely benefits. See attachment for additional details.

Income Maintenance (IM) Funding and Contract Updates (Alicia Grulke & Lorie Graff)

- 2026 IM Contract negotiations are continuing over the next few months.

Consortia Feedback (Lorie Graff)

- None

Administrative Memos (Alicia Grulke & Lorie Graff)

- None

Regional Enrollment Network (Lorie Graff)

- Reminder that the week of August 18, 2025, is the last week to register for the Fall Enrollment Conference.

Public Comment

- None

Announcements

- For upcoming meetings in 2025, send agenda items to the WHCSA Tri Chairs or Bureau of Eligibility Operations and Training operations associate at DHSBEOTAdmin@dhs.wisconsin.gov.