

INCOME MAINTENANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (IMAC)

Thursday, September 18, 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ashley Schabel – DHS BEOT	<input type="checkbox"/>	Paul Michael - DHS
<input 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 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	Tami Berg - OIG
<input type="checkbox"/>	WKRP – Katie Kasprzak	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	John Ewing – DHS BEOT
<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	Darin Petesch – DHS BSM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Darsell Johns – Ozaukee	<input type="checkbox"/>	Christina Tuenge -Great Rivers
<input checked="" 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 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 checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mitch Birkey – Calumet County	<input type="checkbox"/>	Deb Bohlman – Fond du Lac County
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Deb Williquette – Manitowoc County	<input checked="" 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 Kinepowayg –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 & Kathy Welke)

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

Approval of August 21, 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)

FoodShare updates

- If Congress does not pass legislation to fund the government past September 30, 2025, there is a possibility of a shutdown. The Department does not expect that Medicaid and BadgerCare Plus coverage will be affected.
- The Department expects there will not be impacts to October 2025 FoodShare allotment. If the government shutdown continues far enough into October 2025, there may be an impact to the November 2025 allotment.
- Messaging is prepared in the event there is a government shutdown, and the Department will continue to share a detailed plan.

Able Bodied Adults without Dependents (ABAWD)

- ABAWDs subject to a work requirement as part of FoodShare eligibility will have time-limited benefits if the work requirement is not met or are exempt.
- In the federal budget Reconciliation Act, H.R.1, geographic waivers of the work requirement time limit for ABAWDs are only permissible if an area has an unemployment rate above 10%. As a result, Wisconsin will no longer have any geographic waiver coverage beginning October 1, 2025.
 - This affects City of Racine; Adams, Bayfield, Douglas, Florence, Forest, Iron, Marquette, and Menominee counties; and most Tribal reservation areas.
- The Department will implement an exemption that was included H.R.1 for Tribal members. As of October 1, 2025, Tribal members living on Tribal reservation areas are eligible for the new exemption.
 - Beginning October 1, 2025, Wisconsin is using discretionary exemptions to exempt Tribal members living beyond reservation areas until the Department can implement system changes related to the new exemption.
 - Household members living with Tribal members will also receive discretionary exemptions, as most are also living with a Tribal member on a Tribal reservation area with high unemployment or a lack of sufficient jobs.
- Communication has started to the members that will have a change in status due to the loss of the geographic waiver through letters, text and emails.
- FoodShare Employment Training (FSET) agencies are aware and prepared to respond to a temporary influx of referrals for these members.
- Operations Memo 25-14 was published on September 16, 2025, with additional policy details. The Department will update the FoodShare news webpage and work requirement webpage, notify partners through email, send a CARES Coordinator Notice to income maintenance (IM), and have prepared talking points for IM.

- The update includes other changes in H.R.1 related to ABAWD members, specifically that;
 - the upper age limit for ABAWD members has increased from 54 to 64,
 - parents are considered ABAWD members if they don't have a child under age 14 living in their household,
 - and that there will not be exemptions from work requirements for people experiencing homelessness, veterans, and people that aged out of foster care.
- The Department's plans to implement the changes at the end of February 2026. Changes will be applied to these on a rolling basis at members' application or renewal.
- Exact timelines will be shared later, but the end of February 2026 would be the *earliest* that any FoodShare member between the ages of 54 and 64, or a parent who doesn't have a child under age 14 in the home, would be subject to the work requirement. It would also be the earliest that members would lose an exemption from the work requirement due to the change in law.

Healthcare Updates

- The Department is finalizing timeframes for the Medicaid eligibility provisions in H.R. 1.
 - The most significant change is a requirement that childless adults enrolled in BadgerCare Plus will be subject to "community engagement" requirements as part of their enrollment. For these changes, the Department is working towards the federally required implementation date of January 1, 2027.
 - January 1, 2027, is the date the Department plans to implement the required change in retroactive coverage from a maximum of three months to a maximum of two months prior to the month of application.
 - There is a change that makes certain non-citizens ineligible for non-Emergency Services Medicaid unless they are a child or a pregnant person. The required implementation date is October 1, 2026. This includes persons with a status of refugee, parolee, asylee, conditional entrant, battered non-citizen, trafficking victim, Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrant (SIV), or deportation (or removal) is withheld.
- Communication to Medicaid Purchase Plan Members (MAPP) members will begin in October 2025, changes will be implemented for the MAPP premium payment over the course of November, December 2025, and January 2026. December 2025 will be the first premium month for which members will get extra time to pay, and the first terminations based on non-payment of premiums will begin at the end of January 2026.

Quality Control Updates

- During the Public Health Emergency, the USDA Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) provided flexibility to state agencies to conduct required FoodShare face-to-face quality control (QC) interviews by telephone.
- In June, state agencies were informed that the blanket telephone waiver for QC will expire September 30, 2025. There is not a waiver option available for state agencies to continue waiving the face-to-face QC interview requirement. Effective October 1, 2025, FoodShare QC will resume conducting face to face interviews.
- Members will have the option to conduct the interview by video in lieu of the face-to-face interview. The Department is working with agencies on available technology within the local office to support members that may not have video capability and would like to conduct the interview using that platform.

Subcommittee Updates (Income Maintenance Agency Subcommittee Co-Chairs)

- Income Maintenance Operational Analysis (IMOA) subcommittee met September 12, 2025. Kathy Welke shared key discussion points (see attachment). Next meeting is October 3, 2025.
- Call Center Technical subcommittee met on August 25 and September 8, 2025. Cindy Drury shared key discussion points (see attachment). The next meeting is September 29, 2025.
- Fraud & Program Integrity subcommittee met on August 12, 2025. Robert Klingforth shared key discussion points (see attachment). Next meeting is November 4, 2025.

Income Maintenance (IM) Funding and Contract Updates (Alicia Grulke & Kathy Welke)

- The Department is continuing to meet and finalize the 2026 IM Contract with the negotiation team.

Consortia Feedback (Kathy Welke)

- None

Administrative Memos (Alicia Grulke & Kathy Welke)

- Administrator Memo 25-03 was published. This is the estate recovery incentive allocations for April 1, 2024 – June 30, 2024, and July 1, 2024 – September 30, 2024.

Regional Enrollment Network (Lorie Graff)

- None

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.