

INCOME MAINTENANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (IMAC)

Thursday, September 17, 2026

1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Zoom: <https://dhswi.zoomgov.com/j/1616714667>

Minutes

Invitees (X=Attended)

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

☒	Gage Winkelmann – DCF	☐	Nicole Koch - OIG
☐	Barbara Honsa - DCF	☐	Lauren Heitman – DHS Area Admin
☐	Kent Ellis - DCF	☒	Aftin Locks – DHS BEOT
☐	Annie Griggs – DCF	☐	Suzanne Cone – DHS BSM
☐	Jessica Lange – Jefferson County	☐	Darin Petesch – DHS BSM
☒	Darsell Johns – Ozaukee	☐	Christina Tuenge -Great Rivers
☒	Michael Poma - MilES	☐	Shauna Grossman - DHS
☐	Tim McGuire - MilES	☒	Shelli Essmann DHS Area Admin
☐	Jennifer Searfoss - WHCSA Executive Director	☐	Carol Waulet – Door County
☐	Brenda Belanger-Red Cliff	☐	Amber Taylor – Adams County
☐	Wendy Corbine - Bad River	☒	Melissa Benner – DHS BEEP
☒	Renee Lyman – Dodge County	☐	Raelle Allen - Lac du Flambeau Tribe
☒	Carol Sjoblom – Columbia County	☒	Maria Delagado – Southern
☐	Amy Bell Ferries – Area Admin	☐	Roxann Binkowski – Waushara County
☒	Heidrun Kovach – Dane County	☐	April Ferstl – DCF
☐	Mitch Birkey – Calumet County	☐	Deb Bohlman – Fond du Lac County
☐	Kesha Cole – Ozaukee County	☐	Amy Beranek – Dodge County
☐	Michele Chiuchiolo – Dane County	☐	Melissa Todd – DHS BEEP
☐	Deb Williquette – Manitowoc County	☐	Rob Klingforth – Moraine Lakes
☐	Ron Redell – Dane County	☐	Cortney Hebel – Dane County
☐	Kara Ponti – Dane County	☐	Charlie Morgan – WI Legislature
☐	Chris Gokey – Lac Courte Oreilles	☐	Nasbah Hill – Oneida
☐	Linda Sallerud – Forest County Potawatomi	☐	Michele Shawano – Sokaogon
☐	Maggie Calhoun – Forest County Potawatomi	☐	Ashley McGeshick – Sokaogon
☐	Wendy Corbine – Bad River	☐	Jaime Jameson –Sokaogon
☐	Gloria Cobb – Lac du Flambeau	☒	Krystal Ellis -WKRP
☐	Raelle Allen - Lac du Flambeau	☐	Dylana Kaquatosh –Menominee
☐	Taryn Williams – Lac du Flambeau	☐	Jessica VandeKamp – Oneida
☐	Shannon Drake-Buhr-DHS BEEP	☐	Kristin Latus – WKRP
☐	Jolyne Wallace – OIG	☒	Jenny Hoffman (co-Chair)
☒	Dustin Feeney -WKRP	☒	Heather Ondik – Bay Lake
☐	Deba Hagamon – Lac du Flambeau	☒	Kristine Bovee – DHS BEOT
☒	Mary Augustine – DHS BEEP	☒	Megan Boiteau - DHS BEOT

AGENDA

Welcome (Katie Sepnieski & Kathy Welke)

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

Approval of August 20, 2026, Meeting Minutes (Katie Sepnieski)

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

Policy Updates (Department of Health Services)

Public Charge Determinations

- Public charge is a ground of inadmissibility, which are reasons a person could be denied a green card, visa, or admission into the United States.
- Whether the public charge test applies depends on a person's immigration status and the particular application.
- Public charge may apply to:
 - People applying for adjustment of status to become a lawful permanent resident (i.e., receive a green card) through family and employment-based petitions,
 - Certain people seeking admission to the United States, and
 - Lawful permanent residents that leave the United States for more than 180 days, when returning to the United States.
- In deciding whether to grant some applicants a green card or visa, an immigration officer must decide whether that person is likely to depend on the government to meet their basic needs in the future.
- A 2022 rule allowed only the following benefits to be considered:
 - Cash assistance for income maintenance, and
 - Long-term institutionalization at government expense.
- New guidance issued August 18, 2026, directs U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) officers to consider the use of any means-tested public benefits funded by the government for applications submitted on or after September 18, 2026.
- This means immigration officers will consider using BadgerCare Plus, Medicaid, and FoodShare programs as part of their decisions.
- The rule does not change any eligibility rules for these programs.
- Wisconsin joined a lawsuit contesting the lawfulness of the federal changes. Updates will be shared as known.

Health Care Eligibility for Non-Citizens

- Operations Memo 26-29, published in August 2026, announces health care eligibility changes for non-citizens as required by the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, effective October 1, 2026.
- People with newly non-qualifying statuses will no longer be able to get BadgerCare Plus or Medicaid benefits unless they are:
 - Under age 19,
 - Under age 21 and in an IMD, or
 - Pregnant

- There are no changes to Emergency Services or BadgerCare Plus Prenatal
 - Non-qualifying or undocumented immigrants with a life-threatening emergency may qualify for Emergency Services, and
 - Undocumented pregnant persons may qualify for the BadgerCare Prenatal Program.
- Participants' immigration status is being reverified as needed, and some members are now in a reasonable opportunity period while verifying their status.
- Participants that no longer qualify and are not in a reasonable opportunity period, eligibility will end October 1, 2026.

FoodShare

- Operations Memo 26-32 announces the annual FoodShare cost of living adjustment, which makes modest adjustments to income limits for eligibility, maximum allotments, deduction amounts, minimum household benefit, standard utility allowances and self-employed childcare provider meal deductions.
 - The threshold for needing to report an unearned income change as part of a six-month report form also increased from \$125 to \$150.
 - Those changes are effective October 1 of this year.
- Operations Memo 26-31 announces the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 27 Time Limit Suspension for High Unemployment Areas, also known as our geographic waiver, effective October 1.
 - This year's geographic waiver is much smaller in scale due to changes in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act.
 - The federal legislation put much higher thresholds on the unemployment rates needed to qualify for a time limit suspension, so there are no longer cities or counties in Wisconsin that qualify.
 - There are some Tribal lands that do still qualify, but the legislation also created an able bodied adults without dependents (ABAWD) exemption for Tribal members, so the time limit suspension through the geographic waiver now applies just to non-Tribal members who live on qualifying tribal lands.

Subcommittee Updates (Income Maintenance Agency Subcommittee Co-Chairs)

- Income Maintenance Operational Analysis (IMOA) subcommittee met on September 11, 2026. See key discussion points (see attachment). Next meeting is October 2, 2026.
- Call Center Technical subcommittee met on September 14, 2026. See key discussion points (see attachment). The next meeting is October 12, 2026.

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

- None

Consortia Feedback (Kathy Welke)

- Economic Support Policy Advisory Committee (ESPAC) requests a designated meeting for consortia staff to discuss how the Precertification Review Tool (PCR) tool is being used and operationalized across consortia, share questions and experiences, and receive guidance from DHS.
- ESPAC requests that the PCR tool become a standing topic at Income Maintenance Operational Analysis (IMOA). Regular updates will help consortia stay informed about known system issues, security provisioning delays, the status of potential fixes and anticipated

timelines. This would provide a consistent forum for sharing information and help consortia understand what is being addressed and what changes are coming.

Administrative Memos (Alicia Grulke & Kathy Welke)

- None

Regional Enrollment Network (Lorie Graff)

- The annual Enrollment Conference is scheduled virtually for September 16 through September 18, 2026, from 8:30am-12:00 pm.
- Covering Wisconsin is preparing for open enrollment and is developing promotional materials to be shared in October 2026 prior to open enrollment, which begins November 1, 2026 through January 15, 2027.
- Covering Wisconsin has resources available on the website with questions related to the changes in Public Charge effective September 18, 2026.
- The next meeting is October 13, 2026.

Public Comment

- None

Announcements

- For upcoming meetings in 2026, send agenda items to the WHCSA Tri Chairs or Bureau of Eligibility Operations and Training operations associate at DHSBEOTAdmin@dhs.wisconsin.gov.