

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Name of Governmental Body: IRIS Advisory Committee			Attending: Andy Thain, Cindy Bentley, Kathy Meisner, Ramsey Lee, Stacy Ellingen, Debra Morris, Holly Long, Alison Allen, Sue Urban, Jason Glozier, Amy Morris, Fil Clissa, Gabby Leachmon, Mackenzie Wann, Kayla Smith
Date: 1/27/2026	Time Started: 9:30 a.m.	Time Ended: 12:05 p.m.	
Location: Zoom Webinar			Presiding Officer: Alicia Boehme, DHS, Director, Bureau of Quality and Oversight

Minutes

Members absent: Martha Chambers

DHS staff present: Alicia Boehme, Jessica Roum, Lisa Galvan, Shelly Glenn, Tiffany Schanno, Amy Chartier, John Galetka, Dana Raue, Ashely Kollross, Nicole Schneider

Presenters: Alicia Boehme, Amy Chartier, Chris Ma, John Galetka, Olivia Snell

Meeting Call to Order – Alicia Boehme, DHS, Director, Bureau of Quality and Oversight

- Meeting called to order at 9:30am.
- Motion to approve minutes by Sue Urban.
- Motion to approve minutes seconded by Ramsey Lee. All in favor. Motion approved.
- Review of agenda

Introduction of Members – Alicia Boehme, DHS, Director, Bureau of Quality and Oversight

- Welcome to new members Cindy Bentley, Debra Morris, Mackenzie Wann, and Stacy Ellingen.
 - Round robin introduction of all members, beginning with the new members.
 - Each person gave a brief introduction of themselves.
 - Introduced DHS employees involved in the IRIS Advisory Committee (IAC).

Department Updates – Alicia Boehme, DHS, Director, Bureau of Quality and Oversight

- The Department of Health Services (DHS) is planning for a discussion at the March 24 meeting regarding transitioning the IAC to a participant-based committee.
 - Other involved parties have other venues to communicate with DHS, such as the Long Term Care Advisory Council, Long Term Care Advocates and Provider Association meetings.
 - Ramsey Lee and Stacy Ellingen are in favor of this change.
- FEA RFP results should be communicated soon and will be shared with the IAC at that time.
 - Question on how long the term for that would be. Initial contract term of 5 years with option for (5) one-year renewals.
 - Question asked if the FEA RFP gave preference to vendors with a local presence. Answer provided after the meeting.
 - *No. The only preference listed within the RFP is a 5% price preference for Wisconsin certified Minority-Owned Business Enterprises (MBE) or Disabled Veteran-Owned Businesses (DVBs).*
- Waiver Provider Enrollment
 - Reminders have been sent to providers that have not yet enrolled.
 - Expected enrollment around 10,000 providers. 127 applications in process and 616 applications waiting for providers to supply additional information.
 - Week of 1/12/26 DHS sent letters to all unenrolled providers.
 - All participants and guardians who have providers that have not completed the application process were sent a letter to encourage their providers to enroll. Communication toolkit was updated 1/9 which is communication information for participants and their guardians to understand the process for getting providers enrolled. Located on the DHS website at <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/iris/participant-ltcpm-toolkit.htm>
 - Have been working to minimize participant impact.

- MAPP Premiums
 - Individuals that did not pay premiums in December 2025 will be disenrolled as of 1/31/26. That was 79 members as of last week and ICAs have been reaching out to these individuals to help them figure out how to pay so they do not lose eligibility.
 - If participants lose eligibility they will need to reapply, and DHS will not be backdating eligibility.
 - Some ICAs are seeing that if a participant pays after adverse action, it is not being flagged as high priority.
 - Alicia will reach out to see if there is something that can be done to mark these as high priority.
 - Question on if this can be set up as an automatic payment instead of mailing a payment.
 - Some areas of Milwaukee are experiencing issues with receiving mail.
 - IRIS Consultants can help look at payment options and getting recurring payments set up.
- The Director of the Bureau of Programs and Policy left DHS last spring and DHS is currently in the hiring process for the replacement.
- Accessibility assessments are currently provided by independent assessors and will be transitioning to the Department of Public Health's Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources as of April 1, 2026. BADR will manage the accessibility assessment process with state and contracted staff. This should see benefits to the process including:
 - Web based referral process
 - Reduce delay for completing assessments
 - Standardized reporting
 - Coordination with loan and demo program

Update of Waiver Implementation – Amy Chartier, DHS, IRIS Policy Manager

- Waiver approved by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and took affect 1/1/26.
- Division of Medicaid Services is focusing on 3 key areas to ensure alignment with the new waiver language. Groups have been formed to review changes and manage implementation.
 - Addition of training for PHW – supplemental training that is specific to supportive home care routine, companion, and respite. Finalizing language on total number of PHW training hours allowable in a year.
 - Allowing transportation network company providers to be used for community transportation, such as Uber and Lyft. Reviewing how to operationalize this service and methods other states are using. May take longer to implement.
 - Update to service codes impacted by waiver renewal. Reviewing all service codes for alignment with ForwardHealth provider and enrollment.
- Also looking at other areas that need implementation and training.
- The Waiver is available on the IRIS website and linked from the agenda for those interested in viewing.

ISP Policy and Plan Development & Prioritization of Services

Chris Ma, DHS, Program & Policy Analyst

John Galetka, DHS, Quality Assurance Program Specialist

- Presentation was requested at a prior meeting.
- Presentation will be made available after the meeting.
- Question on if reprioritization could cut off necessary services.
 - Essential services that are already on a plan have been justified already and should be approved. There is also an expedited review process for health and safety reasons. Expedited reviews are usually less than 2 weeks.

NCI-IDD Results – Olivia Snell, DHS, National Core Indicators Coordinator

- Presentation will be made available after the meeting.
 - Resources linked for prior years within the presentation.
 - NCI recently overhauled their questions, and this is only the second year with this data. Due to this DHS is not showing trends over prior years at this time.

Public Comment:

- Comment regarding being opposed to the move to one FEA and that it removes the participants ability to choose an FEA.
- Comment regarding prioritization of services and feels the participant is the one that should choose how things are prioritized. Once a service is part of a budget amendment, there is no flexibility in how the funds are used.

Committee Business – Alicia Boehme, DHS, Director, Bureau of Quality and Oversight

- Agenda items for March meeting:
 - IAC redesign
 - Update on March 19th Advocacy Day
- Fil asked for a discussion around back-up plans and use of technology at a future meeting.
- Ramsey asked if there could be a discussion in the future about simplifying the application process for PHWs.

Adjourn:

- Motion to adjourn by Andy Thain
- Motion to adjourn seconded by Ramsey Lee. All in favor. Motion approved.
- Meeting adjourned at 12:05pm.

These minutes are in draft form. They will be presented for approval by the IRIS Advisory Committee on 3/24/2026