

## OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Name of Governmental Body: IRIS Advisory Committee (IAC)			Attending: Andy Thain, Danielle Smith, Fil Clissa, Gabriella Leachmon, James Valona, Jason Glozier, Jonathan Claflin, Julie Strenn, Kathy Meisner, Kevin Fech, Lynnea White, Martha Chambers, Melanie Cairns, Ramsey Lee, Rosie Bartel, Tarah McVey
Date: 5/20/2025	Time Started: 9:30 AM	Time Ended: 2:25	
Location: Zoom			Presiding Officer: Alicia Boehme, DHS, Director of Quality and Oversight Christian Moran, DHS, Director of Programs and Policy

### Minutes

#### Members absent:

N/A

#### DHS Staff present:

Lisa Galvan, Rebecca Frank

#### Presenters:

Ann Lamberg, Athena Luxem, Casey Dilley, Chris See, Dave Varana, Justin Heller, Kayla Smith, Leslie Stewart, Olivia Snell, RaeAnn Fahey

#### Meeting Call to Order 9:30 am

9:30 AM

#### Meeting Call to Order

*Alicia Boehme – Director, Bureau of Quality and Oversight*

*Christian Moran – Director, Bureau of Programs and Policy*

- Meeting overview
- Approval of minutes – March minutes were rejected, edited during the meeting, and approved as edited.

#### Committee feedback/discussion

- None

9:45 AM

#### Department Updates (BPP/BQO)

*Alicia Boehme – Director, Bureau of Quality and Oversight*

*Christian Moran – Director, Bureau of Programs and Policy*

- Honoring IAC member Thomas Gierke
- Feedback surrounding the background check policy is being reviewed and is under consideration.
- Disenrollment forms are being updated and drafts will be circulated in the coming weeks for feedback.
- There will be a system change mid-July that will allow the system to disenroll members within 24 hours of incarceration.
- Feedback about the federal Medicaid budget should be shared with your federal legislators.
- The state is also drafting the state budget. It is currently with the Joint Finance Committee (JFC). It will then need to be passed by the Wisconsin State Senate, State Assembly, and Governor Evers.

#### Committee feedback/discussion

- Member states that the mental health council should be communicated with regarding the disenrollment of incarcerated participants.
- Member states that there could be participants disenrolled in error if incarcerated and asks how quickly people are reenrolled when released. DHS: people are ineligible for Medicaid while

incarcerated, so they have their Medicaid suspended. Upon release, they are quickly reinstated.

- Member asks about the administrative cost to enforce the federally proposed employment requirements. DHS: this cannot be estimated until more details are made public.

10:30 AM

### **811 Rental Assistance Program**

*Casey Dilley – WHEDA Program Manager, Section 811 Supportive Housing*

*Christian Moran – Director, Bureau of Programs and Policy*

- Covered the material shared ahead of the meeting.

### **Committee feedback/discussion**

- Do people need to apply for this waiting list in addition to other housing waiting lists? Yes, this is a separate list.
- Do the units utilize universal design? Yes, the contracts allow for a mix of units and many overlap with supportive housing programs.
- Are there 3-bedroom units? Yes, however they are difficult to fill so the focus is on smaller units.
- Are there issues with things like criminal background being a barrier to placement? The developers do have their own rules but there has been effort to ensure a goal is to reduce barriers.
- Are there plans to add units in rural areas? WHEDA is currently looking at La Crosse County and open to suggestions about other areas.
- What are the criteria for the properties to qualify? Developers planning to create supportive housing reach out to WHEDA as a funding source. WHEDA looks at if they have experience with HUD-funded properties, how they are working with community providers, and other aspects about how they plan to serve the intended population.
- What are the criteria for applicants on the waiting list? This depends on the area and property.
- How long are the waiting lists? Typically, under a year.
- Developers must sign a 30-year use agreement. Most applicants have been for new development but existing properties can also qualify.

11:15 AM

### **Break**

11:25 AM

### **Annual Ombudsman Report**

*Kayla Smith - IRIS Lead Ombudsman*

*Leslie Stewart - Managing Attorney, Family Care and IRIS Ombudsman Program, Disability Rights Wisconsin*

- Covered material sent ahead of the meeting.

### **Committee feedback/discussion**

- BPDD reported funding cuts in their newsletter; how does this impact the ombuds program? The newsletter was referencing federal funding, but the ombud program is funded by the state so it has not been impacted by federal funding changes.
- What are the qualifications for ombudsmen? There is a federal requirement for the ombudsmen program and applicants must have a four-year degree or relevant experience, pass a rigorous hiring process, and then pass certification.
- How does the annual call total compare to previous years? Calls have been up significantly.

11:55 AM

### **Public Comment**

Public comment will be limited to three (3) minutes per person. If you require additional time for an accommodation, please notify the committee prior to making your comment. *Please do not disclose any HIPAA-protected information in your comments (family member names, medical conditions, etc.). Your microphone will be muted after three (3) minutes. If you would like to offer a comment during this period, please raise your hand with the icon on the bottom of your screen or by dialing \*9 from your phone.*

- There were no public comments.

### **Committee feedback/discussion**

- Committee confirms that written testimony can be submitted to [rebecca.frank@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:rebecca.frank@dhs.wisconsin.gov)

12:10 PM

### **Lunch**

12:40 PM

### **Self-Direction NCI Data**

*Olivia Snell - National Core Indicators Coordinator*

*Dave Varana - Director, Bureau of Fiscal Accountability and Management*

- Covered materials sent ahead of the meeting.

### **Committee feedback/discussion**

- How is this sampled? This is formulated to be in line with the National Core Indicators methodology. The sample is selected to represent the target sample goals broken down by cohort and program with randomly selected recipients.
- What percentage of respondents were participants vs guardians? This is information that is not prepared with us today but is available.
- What is a proxy for purpose of this survey? Anyone the participant authorizes to answer for them.
- What is the purpose of the survey? To compare trends over time, satisfy federal reporting requirements, and to inform future policy changes.

1:10 PM

### **Participant Survey**

*Athena Luxem – ISBA Specialist*

*Justin Heller – Program and Policy Analyst, Advanced*

- Covered materials sent ahead of the meeting

### **Committee feedback/discussion**

- What does “unknown” represent for the question asking who filled out the survey? The respondents counted as “unknown” skipped the question that asked their role.
- How far back does data go? At least back to 2018 for older questions, but some questions were added more recently. The question trend data do list the covered years.

1:40 PM

### **Update on Provider Management**

*RaeAnn Fahey - Program Participation Oversight Manager, Bureau of Quality*

- Review of materials and data provided in the previous meeting.

### **Committee feedback/discussion**

- How many providers need to complete this still? 8,000-9,000
- How is DHS doing outreach? FEAs will be doing outreach. ICAs also have the information.
- Will participants be able to continue to receive reimbursement for advertising? This is still being explored.

1:55 PM

### **HCBS Modification Form**

*Ann Lamberg – Deputy Director, Bureau of Quality and Oversight*

*Chris See – Program and Policy Analyst, Advanced*

- Covered material shared ahead of the meeting.

### **Committee feedback/discussion**

- Will ICs assist participants in submitting the requests to their providers? Since IRIS is a self-directed program, the intent and legal responsibility is for the participant or their guardian to submit the request directly.
- Will the form be provided in plain language? The form will likely not change significantly, but there will be two training videos hosted on the DHS website and they are in plain language.
- Is this also used for non-residential settings? No, this is exclusive to the residential settings.
- Will training be shared with all ICs or only those with participants enrolled in residential settings? Training will be available to all ICs.

2:25 PM

### **Committee Business**

*Alicia Boehme – Director, Bureau of Quality and Oversight*

*Christian Moran – Director, Bureau of Programs and Policy*

### **Committee feedback/discussion**

- None

2:30 PM

### **Adjourn**

Prepared by: Rebecca Frank on 7/1/2025.

These minutes are in draft form. They will be presented for approval by the governmental body on: 7/22/2025