

## OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Name of Governmental Body: IRIS Advisory Committee (IAC)			Attending: Andy Thain, Gabriella Leachmon, Fil Clissa, Kayla Smith, Kathy Meisner, Martha Chambers, Ramsey Lee, Rosie Bartel, Sue Urban, Kevin Fech, Victoria Gunderson
Date: 7/22/2025	Time Started: 9:30 AM	Time Ended: 2:05 PM	
Location: Zoom			Presiding Officer: Alicia Boehme, DHS, Director of Quality and Oversight
<b>Minutes</b>			

### Members absent:

Lynnea White, Melanie Cairns, Jason Glozier, James Valona

### DHS Staff present:

Rebecca Frank, Lisa Galvan, Kim Schindler, Amy Chartier, Nicole Schneider

### Presenters:

Kyle Novak, Jennifer Ruid, Autumn Arnold, Nicholas Hayward, Sheldon Kroning, William Hanna

9:30 AM

### Meeting Call to Order

- Meeting Call to Order
- Minutes approved

9:35 AM

### Department Updates

- Changes from the published agenda – Wisconsin Medicaid Director William Hanna will discuss the federal and state budget and Kayla Smith will provide the ombudsman update.
- As IAC members were notified through email, Christian Moran will no longer be a part of the IAC meetings as he has left to take on a new position.
- Thank you for feedback regarding disenrollment notices.
- A request for procurement (RFP) is open for Fiscal Employer Agencies (FEAs).
  - DHS cannot discuss details as it is an open procurement.
  - A member requests that the FEA be based in Wisconsin.
  - Applications are due in September 2025 for implementation in 2026-27.
  - A member asks that participants be included in discussions.
- Competitive integrated employment (CIE) information and reports are now available online ([dhs.wisconsin.gov/employment-skills/index.htm](https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/employment-skills/index.htm)).
- Provider management overall enrollment tracker is now available ([forwardhealth.wi.gov/WIPortal/cms/public/ltc/provider\\_enrollment.htm](https://forwardhealth.wi.gov/WIPortal/cms/public/ltc/provider_enrollment.htm)), and there are updated materials in the handbook. As of July 14, 2025, more than 2,000 home and community-based services (HCBS) are enrolled.
  - Guidance for providers can be found at [dhs.wisconsin.gov/iris/participant-ltcpm-toolkit.htm](https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/iris/participant-ltcpm-toolkit.htm).
  - Questions can be emailed to [LTCProviderEnrollment@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:LTCProviderEnrollment@dhs.wisconsin.gov).
  - Members request clarification about what entities or people are referenced when using the term “providers.”
- iLIFE corrective action plan (CAP) was lifted in June.

10:05 AM

## Background Check Policy - Appeals Process Update

Jennifer Ruid - Program and Policy Analyst, IRIS Policy and Operations

- Reviewed materials that were sent ahead of the meeting.

### Feedback

- If there is an item on a background check that the applicant has forgotten, the DHS is still required to follow the background check policy. However, the findings that are prohibitive are ones that an applicant is unlikely to have forgotten.
- Will this be designed in such a way that information can be submitted or received through email? It is still under consideration.
- FEAs are the contact point for participant questions
- How many appeals will be reviewed each month? DHS: We will have a better idea after we begin.
- There should be some written confirmation for people to acknowledge that they received the information. DHS: This would add additional time and delay in the hiring process, but applicants and participants will be given the relevant information.
- What happens if an established and active participant-hired worker fails a background check? The FEA notifies the IRIS Consultant Agency (ICA), and the IRIS Consultant (IC) contacts the participant and the worker to inform them that the worker is no longer eligible for Medicaid reimbursement. The IC also ensures that there are other established care staff so the participant's needs will be met.

10:30 AM

## Federal Policy Update

William Hanna - Medicaid Director, Wisconsin Department of Health Services

- Effective January 1, 2027, Medicaid waiver recipients between the ages 19-64 will need to submit proof of school, work, or volunteering.
- States can request extensions for additional time to update the technical components in the computer and eligibility system.
- This does not apply to people enrolled in IRIS or Family Care; however, there are likely people enrolled in BadgerCare Plus who would qualify for IRIS or Family Care.
- Retroactive eligibility will reduce from three months to two months.
- The State budget allocates 1.4 billion dollars to Medicaid for the next two years.

### Feedback

- The MAPP program has less restrictive work requirements: will this change? It is not expected to change.
- FoodShare already has a work requirement and a program that helps people prepare for employment, like providing resume assistance or work attire. The DMS is considering a funding request for a similar program.
- Medicaid recipients should make sure that their contact information is updated in ACCESS.

11:00 AM

## Break

11:20 AM

## 372 Report

Sheldon R. Kroning - DHS Section Manager, Contract and Quality Compliance

- Covered materials that were sent ahead of the meeting.

### Feedback

- The measure of 86% is set by the federal government. Any results below that amount requires remediation for the federal requirements.

11:40 AM

**Medicaid Purchase Plan (MAPP)**

Autumn Arnold - Director, DHS Bureau of Eligibility and Enrollment Policy

Nicholas Hayward - Policy Analyst, DHS Bureau of Eligibility and Enrollment Policy

- Covered materials sent ahead of the meeting

Feedback

- None

**Ombudsman update**

Kayla Smith – IRIS Lead Ombudsman, Board on Aging & Long Term Care

- Premier electronic timesheets are prompting concerns which are being worked through.

Feedback

- None

12:10 PM

Lunch

12:40 PM

**IRIS Waiver Changes**

Kyle Novak - Program and Policy Analyst, DHS Bureau of Programs and Policy

- Covered material that was shared ahead of the meeting.

Feedback

- Concern raised about training new personal care workers for higher-needs participants. DHS: This will be addressed within policy or other IRIS resources.
- Are camps a respite resource? Yes, they have always been available in IRIS and are still available.
- Family Care self-directed support is different because the ICs already provide the service.
- A one-pager for participants would be beneficial. DHS: There will be information disseminated, including new codes, before rollout, and a one-pager could be included.
- How do IRIS participants fit into the plan for dual-enrollment requirements? This is something that will be evaluated further but is not directly impacting the waiver.
- Provider-managed is different than participant-hired per CMS rules. This is co-employment. Participants who choose to utilize an agency agree to employ the workers managed by the agency.
- How will training code under EVV? One member reports that they use one personal care and one home care while another member states they have not been permitted to have two providers at one time. DHS: This will be clarified in future materials.

1:25 PM

**Public Comment**

- Caller 1
  - Support broker services should be protected.
  - There should be a service code addressing community integration.
- Caller 2
  - Caller is concerned about the FEA options being reduced.
  - Having a support broker might assist in getting needs met.
  - There is technical error risk using electronic visit verification (EVV).
- Caller 3
  - Caller is concerned that fewer FEAs means that participants are not being given choice.

1:40 PM

### **Acumen Transition**

Sheldon R. Kroning - Section Manager, DHS Bureau of Quality and Oversight

- Acumen notified the DHS that they will be ending their contract as an FEA.
- Last week, a letter communicating this change was sent to participants.
- Around 1,800 people will be transitioning out of Acumen.
- Premier will not be part of the transition process, so Premier will not take in Acumen transfers. They will remain an option for standard transfers and new participants.
- iLIFE cannot take participants who utilize First Person Care Consultants due to a conflict of interest, so those participants will be automatically changed to GT Independence. This means a small subset of people currently enrolled with Acumen will not have a choice in FEA. After the transition, the participant can transfer to iLIFE if they change their ICA.
- Participants enrolled in Acumen who do not utilize First Person Care Consultants have until August 15 to choose their new FEA.

Feedback

- What will happen to the staff who work for Acumen? Acumen remains a fiscal agent but not contracted with IRIS, so no staff will lose their employment.

1:50 PM

### **ISP Policy Rollout**

Sheldon R. Kroning - Section Manager, DHS Bureau of Quality and Oversight

- Contractors will have a training/walk through of the ISP rollout on Friday, July 25, 2025.

Feedback

- Has there been consideration for IRIS participants to be included on the trainings? This is specific to the contractor process, but the policy is public and can be viewed by participants independently ([dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p00708d.pdf](https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p00708d.pdf)). Additionally, the IAC provided input on this policy.

2:00 PM

### **Committee business**

Alicia Boehme - Director, DHS Bureau of Quality and Oversight

- There may be activity around dual eligibility in the future and, if so, space will be given for discussion.

2:05 PM

### **Adjourn**

Prepared by: Rebecca Frank on 7/25/2025.

These minutes are in final form. They were approved by the governmental body on 9/23/2025