

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Name of Governmental Body: Wisconsin Long Term Care Advisory Council (WLTCAC)		Attending: Chris Witt, Cindy Bentley, Shanna Jensen, Stacy Ellingen, Beth Swedeen, Elsa Diaz Bautista, LaVerne Jaros, Jason Glozier, Jessica Trudell, Eric Kostrzak, Joel Gouker, Mackenzie Wann, John Schnabl, Sara Muhlbauer, Jennifer Jako, LaWanda Calhoun, Linda Bova, Jill Jacklitz, Don Wigington, Mike Pochowski, Lisa Davidson, Karina Chelsky, Allison Cramer, Tina Anderson, Martha Cranley	
Date: 7/8/2025	Time Started: 9:32am	Time Ended: 12:30pm	
Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting		Presiding Officer: Jill Jacklitz	
Minutes			

Members absent: Cindy Bentley, Karina Chelsky, Martha Cranley, Sara Muhlbauer

DHS Staff present: Brenda Bauer, Alicia Boehme, Kevin Coughlin, John Grothjan, Carrie Molke, Nicole Schneider, Helen Sampson, Joyce Vue

Meeting Call to Order – Jill Jacklitz

- The meeting was called to order at 9:31am
- Review agenda
- Minutes from May meeting reviewed
 - Motion to approve by Linda B. Seconded by Tina A.
 - Jill J. abstain.
 - Minutes approved.
- Introductions of members
- Special recognition to Cindy Bentley
 - Received honorary doctorate from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
 - Congratulations to Cindy
 - Encourage everyone to click on the link and watch video: <https://www.tmj4.com/news/milwaukee-county/disability-rights-advocate-receives-honorary-doctorate-from-uwm>

General Updates – Carrie Molke, Nicole Schneider

- Federal Budget
 - Working through federal language for DMS
 - What does this mean means for us?
 - Mostly effect BadgerCare; more information to come
 - Paying attention to some of the budget cuts identified for public health
- State Budget
 - Budget has been signed by Governor Evers
 - Did not include sedation dentistry
 - Minimum fee also passed
 - Most of our cost to continue is funded
 - Programs that impact aging and disability resource center received 3.8 million increase; independent living center received increase as well
- Dental Benefits Update
 - In 2023, DHS created the Virtual Dental Team, an internal cross functional team to address issues within our dental benefit.

- This team works to address the challenges within the benefit; identify opportunities for improving the benefit and increase access to dental care for Medicaid members; and make recommendations to DHS leadership to address concerns brought forth by providers or members.
- The team is continuing to work on numerous projects.
- As changes and/or updates are made to our dental policy, communications will be sent out which may include one or more of the following:
 - Hot Topics section on the ForwardHealth Portal: <https://www.forwardhealth.wi.gov/WIPortal/>
 - Banner Message on the ForwardHealth Portal
 - A ForwardHealth Portal message
 - A ForwardHealth Update, which will include an industry review
- No Wrong Door Grant
 - Excited to receive this grant
 - Allows us to focus on enhancing collaboration
 - Able to hire two (2) dedicated staff; used to enhance communication protocols for ADRC and crisis; great news; believe this is a 2-year funding
- **Council Feedback**
 - Jason G. – Is the falls prevention funded?
 - This was not included.
 - Chris W. – Is it possible to check on something? Have been hearing from IRIS participants that have premier as their FEA, that premier is switching over to electronic timesheets; folks have not been getting the help they need around this; they cannot reach anyone at premier
 - Alicia B. will take this back and will look into this
 - LaVerne J. – Does the No Wrong Door Grant include falls referrals? We are working on providing resources for ADRCs; technology is out there to prevent falls

Medicaid Long-Term Care Charge: IRIS Waiver Renewal Update – Kyle Novak, Amy Chartier

- Presentation shared with council
- Walking through a summary of the changes
- Today's presentation is informational only
- Topics include:
 - IRIS Waiver background
 - Waiver renewal timeline
 - IRIS feedback themes
 - Key changes in proposed waiver
 - Discussion
 - Next steps
- Public and tribal comment period begins July 9 through August 8, 2025
- Submit comments to DHS by:
 - Email: dhsdmsirisrenewal@dhs.wisconsin.gov
 - Mail:
 - Wisconsin Department of Health Services
 - Division of Medicaid Services
 - Bureau of Programs and Policy
 - Attn: IRIS 1915(c) Waiver Renewal
 - PO Box 309
 - Madison, WI 53701-0309
- For more information, go to: www.dhs.wi.gov/iris/waiver-renewal.htm
- **Council Feedback**
 - Beth S. – Very helpful; aligning with CMS and other states; Can you give examples of where you think alignment needs to happen? Does it mean language alignments or substantial changes to program?
 - Kyle – Feedback received from CMS and also follow a technical guide; public input sessions
 - Beth S. – Are certain service codes being deleted?

- Kyle – Do not know at this time; will need to determine which codes still align with which services; there will be some service code changes; but will be working on a definition manual to make sure all service definitions and codes are up to date; will also be working on a roll out plan; more information to come
- Chris W. – Regarding IRIS consulting agencies and competency levels; are there certain things that need to change? Could this mean that some people would not qualify to be on IRIS?
 - Kyle – Self-directed and person setting planning; Want to make sure our waiver is consistent to participants as assistance for self-direction; not assessing people for self-direct;
- Beth S. – hard to provide complete comments in the comment period if we’re not given codes; what is in the drafted waiver is what is allowable; no extreme removals of anything; don’t fully know impacts yet; at the beginning of the waiver includes major changes section; start at this section of the waiver in more detail

Medicaid Purchase Plan (MAPP) Update – Autumn Arnold, Nicholas Hayward

- Presentation shared with the council
- Working on a number of changes and enhancements
- You may be eager to hear more about the planned communications to members; there are no details to share yet; we are actively working on a communication plan once we get closer to the implementation date in October 2025
- DHS is making four key changes to how MAPP members will pay premiums:
 - Allowing an additional month to pay
 - Aligning initial and ongoing premium payment methods
 - Allowing recurring payments to be managed online
 - Preventing duplicate payments
- Around 86% of MAPP members are paying premiums.
- Moving forward we will continue to keep updating on these changes.
- **Council Feedback**
 - Chris W. – Does person still have to make payment to income maintenance?
 - Will keep the premium schedule consistent
 - Beth S. – Concern with people who in MAPP who use long-term care who don’t apply to be on MAPP; they are deemed on MAPP when they do functional screen; is there extra help from care managers to understand this? MAPP piece is very confusing in long-term care
 - Autumn A. – We also saw that as a concern; in many ways this was a situation specific to health emergency; went above the Medicaid income or asset limit we were able to get into MAPP because of emergency health; developed communication materials how long term care and MAPP work together; not paying premiums will impact long-term care services; making sure we’re in communications with long-term care partners;
 - Beth S. – Are IRIS consultants and care managers aware of this premium process?
 - Nicole S. – We do have list generated each month; expectation is our partners connect with individuals; asked for feedback from organizations as well; trying to collect feedback
 - Chris W. – Are ICAs getting the lists for those not paying premiums?
 - Nicole S. – Yes
 - Alicia B. – The functional screen and MAPP are not connected
 - Jessica T. – For those who are not paying premiums for months, do they owe those premiums back?
 - Nick H. – We will only be looking forward after these changes have been made
 - Jill J. – Are we referring to this as something, if it’s not a grace period? What then is it?
 - Autumn A. – One of the very first pieces of feedback we heard is that grace month is not understandable; instead, we’re calling it “more time to pay”

Long Path Charge – Helen Sampson

- Presentation shared with council
- Reviewed short-term goals for this charge
- Would like feedback and determine next steps
- Multi-Sector Plan for Aging and Disability (MPAD)
 - This is a 10-year blueprint that protects the futures of aging Americans by creating a coordinated system for restructuring state and local policies to address their unique needs.
- Age-Friendly or Disability-Friendly Approach
 - We've already got some stuff going on in WI:
 - Age friendly community (AARP)
 - Age friendly health systems
 - Age friendly public health
 - Age friendly university
 - Dementia and caregiver friendly work places
 - Ecosystem developed by the John A. Hartford Foundation
 - Another model from World Health Organization
- What works best in Wisconsin?
- **Council Feedback**
 - Jason G. – What is the difference in resource capacity? We also have to think about future resources. Can they be transitioned? Do they exist?
 - Helen S. – While we plan for the future; we know what we have in the moment; based on research on MPAs those are resource heavy initiatives; the plan is resource heavy to carry out; convening and coordinating is a more doable task; it just grounds us in where we can start most realistically
 - Jason G. – Resource capacity is more about comfort and current capacity?
 - Helen – Where do we want to start?
 - Carrie – What is the very first thing we can do? When we talk to other states about MPA, they had a whole bureau of people that are working on this; possibly a budget opportunity for the future; super excited that we found all these age-friendly designations that already exists in WI; we can take learn from them; where do we start and how do we keep building over time
 - Jill J. – Concern is that all age friendly model are specific to aging; it's hard to imagine really putting energy outside of the private/individual sector models; would like to see equal attention to aging and disability
 - Carrie M. – We're committed to integrating disability into this; what is a disability friendly initiative in WI? Opportunity to think about how to do this; we shouldn't limit ourselves to just having one of these efforts
 - Jill J. – The ADA requirements add a different oversight/implication for systems; how do we navigate this and make sure we're moving forward
 - Chris W. – Would like to add disability too; how do we bring aging and disability together?
 - LaVerne J. – Important to recognize our political climate; can call on partners to help with research; we've done well with a WI approach
 - Jason G. – Like putting this as a framework; want to see work towards an MPA, primarily because we're into advising government; can go back to governor's committee; how do we coordinate the collective work
 - Carrie M. – We started our own process of thinking through our own resources; need think about long path and how to operationalize this charge

Workforce Charge – Kevin Coughlin

- Presentation shared with council
- How do we improve workforce in our state
- Looking at our short-term goals
 - LTCAC will support the Governor’s 2025-27 biennial budget, which includes critical funding for all direct care workforce initiatives.
- DMS working with students (high school and college) and refugees/immigrants
- How can LTCAC move this Workforce charge forward?
- What is some of your advice to help DHS?
- Here are the links for more information:
 - DHS Website: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/arpa/hcbs-directcareworkforce.htm>
 - Student/Provider recruitment website: <https://www.wiscaregivercdcp.com/>
 - Spanish webpage: <https://wiscaregivercdcp.com/es>
 - WisCaregiver Connections: <https://www.uwgb.edu/certified-direct-care-professional/resources/>
 - CDCP Registry Search: <https://www.uwgb.edu/certified-direct-care-professional/registry-search/>
 - IRIS and Self-Directed Resources: <https://www.uwgb.edu/certified-direct-care-professional/find-a-job/>
 - Microcredential website: <https://www.uwgb.edu/certified-direct-care-professional/microcredential/>
 - Video: Rewards of a career in health care: <https://www.wiscaregivercdcp.com/rewards-of-a-career-in-healthcare/>
 - Video: Introducing WisCaregiver CDCP: <https://www.wiscaregivercdcp.com/introducing-wiscaregiver-cdcp/>
 - Combo flyer: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p03667.pdf>
 - Program fact sheet: [English\(PDF\)](#) | [Hmong\(PDF\)](#) | [Spanish\(PDF\)](#)
- **Council Feedback**
 - Joel G. – Like the idea of reaching out and creating pipelines; this seems focused to the health care industry; a lot of struggles is with homes and dealing with their own personal services
 - Kevin C. – This is also for caregivers and self-direct individuals; unpaid caregivers can access training as well; did outreach with direct care workers; feedback that they didn’t feel validated; didn’t feel they are appreciated with their hard work; the Certified Direct Care Professional title came from them
 - Joel G. – What is the connecting factor with those living at home and those who are self-directing through family care?
 - Kevin C. – Do have this available through the Wiscaregiver website; can have jobs from self-directing care
 - Joel G. – Need efforts to advertise and extend to creating awareness for people with disabilities that this program is in existence, and they can be receiving applicants through this channel; a lot of people in homes would not be aware of this
 - LaVerne J. – There are a number of ways we can help on a local level to get the word out; one concern is going back to presentation from a demographer about the future of our population; looking at low birth rates and restrictions on immigration; won’t have enough people in these careers; as a long-term goal we may need to look at technology and to help with the tasks that need to be done to care for those who are aging and have disability
 - Kevin C. – Those are in our medium and long-term goals for this charge; we are committing to a fair amount of money in marketing and recruitment

Council Business – Jill Jacklitz

- Requested topics for September
 - Joel G. – MCO
 - Linda B. – OIG auditing regarding PIR has continued to be delayed so please keep it on the radar

- Beth S. – Data on competitive integrated data on working was released; Can we get a quick overview of what’s going on? Any trends? Regarding the managed care piece, this council used to get data from the MCOs
- Chris W. – CIE data; reserve the right to come back after public comment
- Stacy E. – A general federal Medicaid update would probably be timely
- LaWanda C. – Discuss some of the challenges providers may face with obtaining Medicaid numbers
 - Nicole S. – What provider types? Please email Nicole Schneider.
- Jill J. – Like to see updates on changes/implications for WI regarding budget; suggest inviting Bill Hanna to the September meeting?

Public Comment – Jill Jacklitz

- Julie B. – Regarding IRIS renewal waiver, around service codes being taken away; use of directed goods and services; CMS directs that code be used to increase community integration; service code is really hard to use and is scrutinized very hard; concerned with people only utilizing disability providers; subjecting people to settings rule; like to see emphasis put on expanded and robust community
- Ramsey L. – I am writing this as a private citizen and don't want it to affect my services. I recently heard that the department of Health Services put out a RFP for one FEA fiscal employment agency to do all the work for the whole State. In my opinion, this would be dangerous and may lead to errors for people on IRIS. I have the following question about the proposal. Is the New FEA going to have the ability to use paper time sheets in addition to EVV? Because that helps reduce errors. I am concerned because of the lack of public input. Having one FEA may lead to more paperwork and reduce consumer choice. I would kindly ask the department to put a pause on the one FEA idea. In addition, the direct service provider network has received a grant called the independent project. This is designed to help people in IRIS hire their own works and recruits, for more information, the sessions will be held July 10, 17, 24th, and 31st, all from 2 to 4 pm. If anyone has any questions they can email or call Kathy Meisner. I'm just trying to help get the word out about this training.
- Lawrence B. – IRIS participant; having difficulty with service line items and authorizations; whether to add from last year; mistake was not; hard to get in contact with people at Connections; curious of what’s coming in the new waiver; the most streamlined role; transit plus tickets; Alicia – someone connected to you
- Michelle C. – Complaint on ILSP program; paying taxes; trying to get resolved
 - Please email Joyce Vue at joyce.vue@dhs.wisconsin.gov
- Kristy K. – IRIS Program; from what Beth S. spoke to earlier; there were complaints regarding competency of IRIS consultants as part of the input sessions; why was there nothing specific to that identified in the renewal?
- Ryan C. - I was listening to the webinar, and someone brought up a question about people having difficulty getting Medicaid numbers. Is there someone I can talk to about that? My situation is that I built a new adult family home, and I plan on moving our residents from our old house to the new house. All of the residents are on Community Care. Community Care won't let us move our residents until we get a Medicaid number for the new house. The new house has been empty for over a month and have no end in sight. I don't know what to tell my residents. This is our 8th house that we opened, and this one has been by far the most challenging house we had to open.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Chris W.; seconded by LaVerne J.

Meeting adjourned at 12:31 pm

Prepared by: Joyce Vue on 7/8/2025.

These minutes are in final form. They were presented for approval by the governmental body on: 9/9/2025