

## OPEN MEETING MINUTES

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|---|-------------------------|--|--|
| 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, Tina Anderson |  |
| Date: 11/11/2025  | Time Started:<br>9:31am | Time Ended:<br>12:00pm   |  |
| Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting  |                         | Presiding Officer: Jason Glozier   |  |

### Minutes

**Members absent:** Tina Anderson, LaWanda Calhoun, Karina Chelsky

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

### Meeting Call to Order – Jason Glozier

- The meeting was called to order at 9:31am
- Introductions of members
- Review agenda
- Minutes from September meeting reviewed
  - Motion to approve by Chris Witt. Seconded by Mackenzie Wann. Minutes approved.
  - None Abstain.

### General Updates for the Long Term Care Advisory Council – Carrie Molke, Nicole Schneider

- Speaker's Task Force on Elder Services
  - New taskforce.
  - Focusing on four (4) issues:
    - Maintaining independence
    - Combating loneliness and isolation
    - Promoting physical health and financial security
    - Preventing abuse; strengthening safeguards against physical and financial elder abuse
  - First meeting happened on 10/30/25; focused on financial exploitation; invitees only
  - Plan is to have three (3) other hearings throughout the state; possibly La Crosse, Wausau, Green Bay
  - <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2025/committees/assembly/3035>
- Wisconsin's Older Americans Act (OAA) Meal Programs
  - If we do not receive funding by 2026, we will start seeing an impact on this program
  - Since loss of ARPA funding, the counties have been having a hard time meeting the needs
  - Watching closely to make plans if we don't receive our funding
  - If you are experiencing waiting lists, it's starting to emerge in this program; other counties are also creating prioritization criteria
  - Congregate dining is operating normally; but you may encounter waiting lists or prioritization criteria
- **Council Feedback**
  - Chris W. – Is taskforce going south of La Crosse?
    - Carrie M. – The 10/30/25 meeting was in Madison, WI

### Social Isolation and Loneliness and Livable Communities Grant – Helen Sampson, Carrie Molke

- Presentation shared with council
- Definitions of Social Connection and Livable Communities
- Social connections matter; individuals and communities impacted
- DHS experience:
  - Wisconsin Coalition for Social Connection; established in 2020
  - 2023 State Health Improvement Plan
  - ARPA Grants
- Sharing two (2) videos about two of the projects:
  - The Men’s Shed, Juneau County – a community-based space where men gather to learn, work on projects, share skills, and socialize in a safe environment
    - Link to video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=diVLsyphD10>
  - The Repair Café, Bayfield County – a free, community-based setting where people bring broken household items to be fixed with the help of older adult volunteer experts
    - Link to video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YPWXxnOvwYM>
- A summary report listing all the grantees, coalitions, and projects is located on the DHS American Rescue Plan Act: Social Connection webpage: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/arpa/hcbs-socialconnection.htm>
- Lessons Learned:
  - Passion for the work and the willingness to walk the talk
  - “If you choose not to find joy in the snow, you will have less joy in your life but still the same amount of snow.”
  - Transportation is really connected into social connection
  - Social connection can be significantly improved with a relatively small amount of funding and time
  - Local coalitions supported by a statewide network ensure ongoing resources and sustainability
  - There is no way to build social connection. Communities that offer consistent opportunities for connection and have a sense of ownership appears to be the most successful
- **Council Feedback**
  - Jennifer J. – Personally thank Helen for her leadership and support; this has been a successful project because of Helen
  - Jennifer J. – WCA had a nice article about both Men's Sheds in Wisconsin in May; refer to link <https://www.wicounties.org/magazine/may-2025/>

### Long Path Charge: Updates and Input – Helen Sampson

- Convening the age-friendly ecosystem that exists in Wisconsin
- Includes age-friendly universities – UW Superior, UW La Crosse, and UW Green Bay
  - Helen attended launch ceremony in Green Bay
- Age-friendly public health – will need to talk at the State level
- Age-friendly health systems – Marquette University and Wisconsin Geriatrics Education Center are the hub for all age-friendly health systems; all have different models; work to compare models and to get some cohesion together
  - The four (4) M’s Framework:
    - What Matters
    - Medication
    - Mentation
    - Mobility
  - 80% is concerned about social connections
- Excited to move forward
- In previous meetings, shared about the Age-Friendly ecosystem
- We don’t have a standard/expectation across our system for age and disability-friendly organizations
- What does this mean? What could this look like?

- Part of a national movement as well
- Have two (2) more introductory session for Reframing Aging and Disability in Wisconsin
  - All are welcome to attend
  - Refer to flyer in the attachments
  - January 15, 2026, 12-1pm
  - February 11, 2026, 9-10am

### **Workforce Charge: Updates and Input – Kevin Coughlin, Carrie Molke**

- Presentations shared with council
- The Governor’s Task Force on Caregiving created lots of workforce proposals
- Is this group interested in elevating some of these ideas again?
- The task force met one year from 2019 to 2020
- Six taskforce charges focused on family caregiving and the direct care workforce
- Recommendations:
  - 5 recommendations for family caregiving
  - 11 recommendations for direct care workforce
- Link to report: <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/gtfc/gtfc-report.pdf>
- What do we do now with this information?
- Another small group was assigned to look at all of the Governor’s initiatives that were included in the 2025-2027 biennial budget
- The group who worked on the homework assignment included Kevin C., Chris W., and Stacy E.
- Shared information about which workforce initiatives were funded for DHS, DWD and DPI.
- Next steps?
  - Suggest having a small group of members meet between now and the January 2026 meeting to brainstorm ideas for areas this council can focus on for 2026
  - The group will bring back to the council for review/discussion at the January meeting
  - Those interested in being in this group?
    - Mike P., Elsa D., Beth S., LaVerne J., Chris W., Stacy E., Linda B., Joel G.
  - What is the specific goal of this homework assignment?
    - The group is to come up with two (2) focus areas each for paid and unpaid workforce
- **Council Feedback**
  - Beth S. – Here is a link to the full report: <https://wi-bpdd.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/WI-Task-Force-on-Caregiving-Report-2020.pdf>
  - Lisa D. – There has been progress on reimbursement but there is still a lot of work to be done in Family Care (HCBS) programs to more align with costs and annual inflation and we need all options on the table to grow the workforce
  - Mike P. – Lots of great things that were proposed; makes sense to work from a state budget standpoint; look at the upcoming budget; What could we propose in the budget proposal to the governor to help the workforce crisis?
  - Shanna J. – Thinking about the partial funding; Where do you feel the biggest gap is? Are those the most important points to focus on?
    - Kevin C. – WisCareGiver did get funded but only funded 23%; look into federal funding to fill the gap; our year one is fully funded; worried about year two
  - Carrie M. – Put together our thoughts and recommendations to the Secretary?

### **Medicaid Long-Term Care Charge: Updates and Input – Nicole Schneider**

- One thing to mention; Jill has been Chair for a couple years now. Who would be interested in being the next chair?
- Jill and Jason brought on at the same time.
- Composition of the council did change slightly with the updated charter.

- Please email Nicole if you are interested within the next 6 months.
- Update regarding Supplemental Nutrition Assistant Program (SNAP)
  - Full November FoodShare benefits are now available on QUEST cards\
  - FoodShare members will get full benefits instead of partial benefits because of lawsuits brought against the federal government by Wisconsin and other states, municipalities, and nonprofits.
- In terms of December, will get information out as soon as we can. It's possible the government might re-open.
- Strongly recommend members check webpage: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/foodshare/news.htm>
- Waiver submitted in November; as soon as waiver is approved, we'll send waiver to everyone and will be posted
- Talk about clearer definition of Network Adequacy; did not get feedback at this time
- Talk about innovations that could help the program; possible item for the January meeting; how do we use technology right now? Maybe come up with suggestions or thoughts on the use of technology?
- Other areas that we can concentrate on?
- Other goals from this charge included making the program more sustainable
- Focus on Medicaid could be workforce related
- What is the general conversations about all the charges and what direction do we want to go as a council?
- What is the protocol for meetings outside of this council?
  - Homework assignments are focused on more research and summarizing for the bigger council
  - Cannot be a regularly standing meeting
  - Cannot be the same people every time
  - Need to limit the number of members participating; 4-5 members only
- **Council Feedback**
  - Jason G. – Can we see the questions CMS had for us?
  - Chris W. – Once you submit, will it be long before they approve?
    - Nicole – Usually not; hopeful it won't be long to approve
  - Beth S. – There is a technology workgroup already; suggest including them; Steph Baumgart from Inclusa is the contact.
  - Linda B. – Please consider telehealth for PCA RN Sup visits in the conversation. WPSA did propose variations to this requirement in the last budget

### **Council Business – Jason Glozier**

- This is the last meeting for 2025. A big thank you to all members for being on the council; a great year of work.
- Some of the things we worked on in 2025 were:
  - Revising charter
  - Reviewed charges and came up with some goals for each
  - Having members volunteer to work on homework assignments
- **Council Feedback**
  - Elsa D. – This meeting gives opportunity for members to do some level-set brainstorming
  - Cindy B. – Lots accomplished in 2025; would love to hear more stories about what people are going through; do they have the same or different situations; need to reach more people; work on getting stories out in the media
  - Stacy E. – Not necessarily council related but I feel like the disability community has really banded together to create a United front
  - Jill J. – Accomplishment that we're trying to put energy into how to be an effective council and make recommendations; we've struggled to understand what we're allowed to do; as we move into 2026, we can actually be more productive; it's hard to have momentum in our council
  - Chris W. – Council has evolved over the years; this is the most productive where we can advise and try to move things along
  - Carrie M. – Look at where we're at; we've had clarity with our charges; figuring our work to be more efficient; come 2026, hopefully we'll hit the ground running
  - Elsa D. – Brainstorming for 2026; would like to define a way to educate the general public of what the council is and what are charges are; in the interest of having public comments related to our work; maybe intentional education for the public

- Mike P. – When was the last time the Secretary came to speak to us? Invite her to come and speak to the council?
- Eric K. – Thank you for letting me be part of this council
- Cindy B. – Nice to have more guests join the meetings to present; informed about the state of Wisconsin; invite people in the community to speak?
- Nicole – Conversations with MCOs? Still working on that. The real charge of this council is to advise to the Secretary
- Shanna J. – Thank you for the opportunity to be a member of this council for the last 5 years. I'll watch this space to see the great work you continue to do in the future.

#### **Public Comment – Jason Glozier**

- Vicky G. – Regarding caregivers; something to keep in mind; for years talked at the IRIS Advisory Council about aligning background checks; did re-write background checks to be more in line with family care; people with CNA certification really are challenged when doing self-direction and providing everything acceptable for their certification renewal; there is an 8 hour requirement for supervision to sign off; limiting and challenging to keep CNA certification; something to look into and have further conversation; have spoken to the state; really do believe stories tell a lot; help understand the value of their stories

#### **Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn by Jill J.; seconded by Mackenzie W.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm

Prepared by: Joyce Vue on 11/11/2025.

These minutes are in final form. They were approved by the governmental body on: 1/13/2026