

## OPEN MEETING MINUTES

|   |                         |                        |   |
|---|-------------------------|------------------------|---|
| Name of Governmental Body: Wisconsin Long Term Care Advisory Council (WLTCAC) |                         |                        | Attending: Alyce Knowlton-Jablonski, Beth Swedeen, Christine Witt, Don Wigington, Elsa Diaz Bautista, Jason Glozier, Jennifer Jako, Jessica Trudell, Jill Jacklitz, Joel Gouker, Julie Strenn, Karina Chelsky, Kevin Fech, Kristy Baum, LaVerne Jaros, Linda Rodriguez, Lonette Campbell, Mike Pochowski, Raj Shukla, Tina Anderson |
| Date: 1/13/2026   | Time Started:<br>9:31am | Time Ended:<br>12:00pm |   |
| Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting  |                         |                        | Presiding Officer: Jill Jacklitz  |
| <b>Minutes</b>  |                         |                        |   |

**Members absent:** Elsa Diaz Bautista

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

### Meeting Call to Order – Jill Jacklitz

- The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am
- Introduced members
- Reviewed agenda
- Minutes from November meeting
  - Motion to approve by Don W. Seconded by Chris W.
  - Twelve (12) members Approve.
  - Seven (7) members Abstain.
  - Minutes approved.

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

- DMS Updates – Nicole S.
  - Seen a slowness in notice of awards (NOAs) from CMS.
  - The results of the Request for Proposal (RFP) for a single Fiscal Employer Agency (FEA) is expected to be announced in the next couple of weeks.
    - An FEA helps IRIS participants fulfill their employer authority. It is an administrative service that processes timesheets and withholds taxes, etc.
    - There is period of time where those who did not win could protest in court. If that would happen, it could extend the timeline for awarding a contract and transitioning members.
    - DMS will come to this group with the transition plans, prior to members being transitioned.
  - Current 2026 MCO contract is online on our website:
    - <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/famylcare/mcos/contract.htm>
  - Discussion about Medicaid Purchase Plan (MAPP) program
    - Type of Medicaid that requires a premium from members.
    - As we turn back on consequences for members who do not pay, we continue to have concerns with members who are not paying premiums.
    - Maintaining Medicaid eligibility is very important, particularly for members enrolled in LTC.
    - We still have about 600 members that are not paying premiums. We continue to reach out to Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) and IRIS Consultant Agencies (ICAs) with lists of those not paying premiums.
    - As this gets turned back on, we expect to see members losing care in February.
    - Members will be tested for other forms of Medicaid before being disenrolled.
  - Our general email for comments/complaints/inquiries/concerns is: [Dhsdmsltc@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Dhsdmsltc@dhs.wisconsin.gov)
  - Jill is stepping out of the Chair role; if anyone is interested in the Chair role, please contact Nicole or Carrie.

- **Council Feedback**

- Kevin F. – What is the timeframe for new contractors?
  - Nicole S. – Giving contractors a year to establish; the Bureau of Quality & Oversight (BQO) will be heavily involved in those transitions; strengthening our internal process around transitions/transfers; will come back with transfer protocols once determined
- Beth S. – 600 people at risk? What is the procedure with IRIS? Tracking daily/weekly? Working with ADRCs? Are they eligible in another IRIS program? What are the other strategies for reaching out to the 600 people at risk?
  - Nicole S. – Yes, have been tracking every month; contacting members directly; will check with MAPP group to see if other strategies are being worked on
- Chris W. – I know the department has asked for funding from the legislator for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to add staff. Is there an update on that?
  - Nicole S. – Yes, will share more next time

### **Wisconsin Owns Wellbeing (WOW) Collaborative – Carrie Molke**

- Encourage folks to sign up for Reframing Aging webinars
- Get updates on training opportunities and other resources:
  - <https://wiha.wufoo.com/forms/w152jg3f0s6pwd6/>
- Training
  - Thursday, January 15, 2026 from 12 – 1 pm (tailored to healthcare professionals, all are welcome)
    - [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_FzVArKUXSISUw0LZUn0HHw](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_FzVArKUXSISUw0LZUn0HHw)
  - Wednesday, February 11, 2026 from 9 – 10 am
    - [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_TFO4fZzFSIO81sEKhjRaeQ](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_TFO4fZzFSIO81sEKhjRaeQ)
- Shared PowerPoint presentation
- The WOW Collaborative aims to reclaim agency in setting our own proactive vision for the future and building collaborative actions we can take today to make that vision more probable.
- The vision was developed on 12/2/2025 by a group of Wisconsin health/social care leaders.
- There will be five (5) regional learning exchanges:
  - January 27 in Chippewa Falls
  - February 17 in Lac du Flambeau
  - March 4 in De Pere
  - March 19 in Baraboo
  - April 15 in Pewaukee
  - Register at: [www.rwhc.com/Wisconsin\\_Owns\\_Wellbeing](http://www.rwhc.com/Wisconsin_Owns_Wellbeing)

### **Secretary Johnson – Kirsten Johnson**

- Want to thank everyone for serving on the Long Term Care Advisory Council
- 2025 was a challenging year for all of us
- Have seen successes over the last year around the state budget
- Biggest win is related to full funding of the minimum fee schedule; introduced in 2024
- Another funding win is the Rural Health Transformation (RHT) Program through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
  - Received a first-year award for \$203 Million to invest in rural capacity, sustainability, and innovation
  - DHS will receive federal funding for five years to implement the initiatives of the program
  - CMS has not yet announced award amounts for the subsequent four years of the program
- Thinking about our long path around Medicaid long term care and how do we assure long term care workforce; these are challenges we want to address in the years to come
- Also thinking about future generations to strengthen long term care
- As we look forward, things will continue to change, and we need to find ways to make our long term care programs better.

- Lastly, thinking about our direct care workforce; promote respect for these roles and how to support
- Encourage bringing ideas forward
- Special thanks to council chairs Jill Jacklitz and Jason Glozier
- Open for questions from members
- **Council Feedback**
  - Beth S. – Advocates talking about rising number of requests for specialized housing for disabilities; a lot to learn around assisted living in the aging community; Could there be more integration in the department? Also, a question around Medicaid shortfall and department's response around that; Are there continued ways we can work together to make sure we can keep benefit packages?
    - Kirsten J. – Having robust conversations to maintain the people we cover and the services we cover and how much we pay for them; we have opportunity to save dollars; acknowledge that shortfall do fluctuate quite a bit over the course of the year; looking at what can we change to save money
  - Karina C. – Pharmacy viewpoint; CVS and Walgreens closing in rural areas; difficulty to reach independent senior living populations
    - Kirsten J. – Looking at how to engage local pharmacies better; DMS team is also working on this
  - Chris W. – Thoughts about \$203 million? Where would the funds go?
    - Kirsten J. – Met with CMS recently; some funding will go into workforce development
  - Alyce K. – Live in independent living; problems in both senior housing systems and independent living; seniors needing assistance but can't get it; are there barriers that are keeping our family care organizations from hiring them?
    - Kirsten J. – Challenges around maintaining workforce; don't know specific barriers with Inlusa; there seems to be a clear issue around just having people to do the work; implemented the base pay
  - Lonette C. – How will workforce development outcomes be measured? Who will have the oversight, and are there established benchmarks?
    - Kirsten J. – Yes, will have established benchmarks; hiring staff on rural health transformation specifically

### **Long Path Charge: Updates and Input & Age-Friendly Health Systems – Helen Sampson, Stacy Barnes**

- Shared PowerPoint presentation
- Depth around Reframing Aging & Disability Initiative in Wisconsin
- Mission:
  - We are committed to ending ageism and ableism in Wisconsin. Our mission is to advance a fair and complete story about aging and disability: one that values every person, at every stage of life, and every ability. Through reframing our communication and expanding our mindsets, we improve quality of life for all of us.
- Defining Agesim and Ableism
- These often subtle “isms” have created long-term unhealthy social influences on policy development, funding and people.
- Shifting our mindset can impact our health:
  - Positive age beliefs:
    - Reduces stress
    - Increases quality of life
    - Increases longevity (by 7.5 years!)
- One thing leads to another:
  - Changing our communications through intentional framing strategies
  - Changes the way we talk about aging and disability
  - Which changes our thinking
  - Which can lead to beneficial policy and systems change
- Simply being aware of our implicit bias reduces the “ism”.
- Small steps = Big Change

- Us vs. Them (We vs. They)
- Flip the script. Instead of introducing fatalism/scary stats, begin with opportunity.
- Be thoughtful about the images we use.
- Introduced Stacy Barnes, from Marquette University to give a deeper dive into Age-Friendly Health Systems
- Shared PowerPoint presentation
- Aim is to build a movement so all care with older adults is age-friendly care:
  - Guided by an essential set of evidence-based practices;
  - Causes no harms; and
  - Is consistent with What Matters to the older adult and their family.
- The 4Ms of Age-Friendly Health Care:
  - What Matters
  - Medication
  - Mentation
  - Mobility
- Any next steps for our council around this Long Path Charge?
- Two things as homework for council member:
  - Attend one of the reframing online sessions
  - Find out if your healthcare provider is age-friendly
- **Council Feedback**
  - Raj S. – Age-friendly communities designation; hoping WI will adopt; overlaps where we can work together to see state-wide designation
    - Carrie M. – This entire initiative is looking at all of those; there are 7 systems; we are definitely aligned to spread across all systems
    - Stacy B. – Nationally it's known as the age-friendly eco-system; encompasses all of those
  - Beth S. – Help from disability perspective; need to intentionally invite disability leadership and lived experience individuals into these groups early on; they have to be at the table at the beginning; suggest asking the Department of Transportation Taskforce
  - Julie S. – This is exciting movement. If there are additional support that is needed in smaller workgroups I would be very interested
  - LaVerne J. – In addition to providers and advocates, we're not going to make progress unless we reach out to consumers; suggest having opinion pieces in the radio/newspaper to reach the general public as well
  - Linda R. – I would love to be involved in the disability work

#### **Workforce Charge: Updates and Input – Carrie Molke**

- At the November meeting, talked about having an ad hoc group come together; this group will meet in February and will bring back notes to the March meeting.
- This group will be looking at workforce initiatives that has been proposed and get more specifics into what this group would like to tackle for this charge.
- If you are interested in joining the ad hoc group, contact Carrie or Joyce
- Members to add are:
  - Lonette Campbell
  - Kristy Baum
  - Alyce Knowlton
  - Linda Rodriguez

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

- Shared PowerPoint presentation
- Technology currently used in Long-Term Care:
  - Assistive Technology (AT)

- Adaptive Aids
- Communication Aids
- Personal Emergency Response System (PERS)
- Remote Supports
- Working on pulling and analyzing long-term care data from 2024 and 2025
  - Type of technology being used
  - Spend by MCO and ICA
  - Percent of individuals using technology
- Individuals interested in joining an ad hoc group for technology:
  - Julie S.
  - Kevin F.
  - Jessica T.
  - Beth S.
  - Jill J.
  - Alyce K.
  - Raj S.
  - Karina C.
  - Tina A.
- **Council Feedback**
  - Beth S. – Start thinking about ways that conversation can be added to every service plan; CLTS as well; part of barrier is that people don't know what's out there; need to incorporate into general conversations with clients
  - Chris W. – New FEAs; first new members will enroll and then transition folks?
  - Julie S. – Thank you for sharing; really great timing; encouraged and really excited; really hope this can be an opportunity for individuals

### **Council Business – Jill Jacklitz**

- Bring forward topics for future meetings
- Chris W. – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Don W. – Noticed this year, for those that are dual Medicaid eligible; in the past, used a card to pay for groceries and utility bills; this is the first year, before he can use it, he had to prove his disability; wasn't too bad of a process but it held up the bills for a little bit; just wanted to share
  - Jill J. – This could be an insurance plan dependent; there might be something around dual eligibility
  - Nicole S. – It's not a requirement; based on provider; there are things happening in the dual eligible space that will be happening
- LaVerne J. – Regarding the Speaker's Taskforce on Elder Services, is this by invitation only? Is there a way to get minutes or lists of attendees? Would like to get an idea of where the comments are going.
  - Will share with Carrie.
- Raj S. – Happy to get information to LaVerne; Wisconsin Eye was publicizing
  - Topic for future; a little over a million who serve as family caregivers; people are not offered formal trainings; What resources exist for those family caregivers and what gaps have been identified?

### **Public Comment – Jill Jacklitz**

- Julie B. – Appreciate conversation around long path; one thing to suggest is make it from cradle to grave; CLTS all the way through; future planning is an important part of all of this; ableism and ageism; is the department applying this criteria to policy work, waivers, etc.?; have read through the IRIS waiver and it seems to be moving toward an area that is ableist; great concern; like to see more work done on how do we support people to be self-directed
- Ramsey L. – Appreciate all presentations; in Carrie's presentation she gave dates of January; wondering to get more information about that; get more involved in long term care conversation

- Heidi S. – Like to hear about 365; track people where they're at; a good tool to use too; see what people thought about this
- Michelle C. – When a complaint regarding the management of a long term care program in Wisconsin is left unanswered, what are the options for the complainant to receive a response? Where must an individual go when those who hold oversight choose not to provide a resolution or a response? After many months of waiting for a resolution, this significant delay is now affecting SSI income, as well as the ability to obtain a safe and stable environment due to the mistakes made regarding the program. How can there be a resolution when there hasn't been a response? I would appreciate a follow in a timely manner regarding these questions.

**Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn by Don W.; seconded by Alyce K.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 pm

Prepared by: Joyce Vue on 1/13/2026.

These minutes are in draft form. They will be presented for approval by the governmental body on: 3/10/2026