

INCOME MAINTENANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (IMAC)

Thursday, September 16th, 2021

1:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Zoom: <https://dhs.wi.zoom.us/j/84617648540?pwd=MIZLd2tMc2xuWFAXTIVwbnZjNm1PQT09>

Minutes

Non-State Attendees:

Roxann Binkowski	Waushara County
Kate Chambers	Iowa County
Maria Delgado	Rock County
Kathryn Gonzalez-Martin	Portage County
Lorie Graff	La Crosse County
Chelsey Groessl	Brown County
Robert Klingforth	Waukesha County
Ann Kriegel	Winnebago County
Doreen Lang	Wood County
Nikia Morton	Dane County
Mark Nelson	Green County
Kimm Peters	Kenosha County
Tony Sis	Dane County
Alyson Wagoner	Forest County Potawatomi Nation
Carol Ann Wautlet	Door County
Kris Weden	Marathon County
Kathy Welke	Eau Claire County
Amberlyn Yohn	Racine County

State and Federal Attendees:

Abby Abernathy	DHS
Julie Anstett	DHS
Autumn Arnold	DHS
LaTanya Baldwin	DHS
Tami Berg	DHS
Kris DeBlare	DHS
Elizabeth Dehling	DHS
Amy Bell-Ferries	DHS
April Ferstl	DCF
Alicia Grulke	DHS
True Lor	DHS
Timothy McGuire	DHS
Wendy Metcalf	DHS

Paul Michael	DHS
Jori Mundy	DHS
Michael Poma	DHS
Stevey Poppe	DHS
Jessica Rutstein	DHS
Katie Sepnieski	DHS
Angela Stanford	DHS
Pang Xiong	DHS

AGENDA

- 1. Administrative Issues (Katie Sepnieski & Doreen Lang)**
 - Report attendance by e-mailing to this mailbox DHSBEOTAdmin@dhs.wisconsin.gov
 - Amberlyn Yohn is the Economic support lead for Racine County and Primary operational lead for WKRP.
- 2. Approval of August 19th, 2021 Meeting Minutes (Katie Sepnieski)**
 - Motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded and approved by consensus.
- 3. Policy Updates/COVID-19 Policy updates (Jori Mundy, Stevey Poppe, Jessica Rutstein, Autumn Arnold)**

ARPA Funding

- FNS has approved the fiscal year 2021 plan. Fiscal year 2022 plan is pending approval from FNS.
- IM Funding:
- Funding for infrastructure/Technology and member experience.
 - One of the tools included in the funding is a scheduling tool that will integrate with CARES.

Outreach and Communication:

- COLA benefits.
- COVID policy changes and navigation
- Immigrant household outreach to ensure that members are aware of benefits.
- Tribal outreach
- Additional educational materials available for print in Spanish

Other Focal Areas:

- Technology upgrades and equipment for internal DHS
- Modernizing technology and infrastructure
- Quality Control to reduce SNAP error rates

Healthcare Updates:

- There are no new Healthcare updates to share at this time.

FoodShare Updates:

- Emergency Allotments Pertinent Dates
 - September EA has been approved: Will issue 09/25 (benefits available 09/26)
 - September EA catch-up: 11/13 (benefits available 11/14)
- Annual COLA Numbers have been updated systematically for 10/1. Reminder the 15% maximum allotment increase that was authorized through COIVD legislation expires 09/30/21, however the new COLA amounts effective 10/1 will result in an increase in benefits for members.
 - The Thrifty Food Plan (TFP) is used to determine annual COLA changes.
 - Historically the TFP has been updated annually based on rates of food cost inflation.
 - For federal fiscal year 2022, new criteria was added to how the TFP numbers are derived, per requirements found in the 2018 Farm Bill. The resulting cost adjustment is the first time the purchasing power of the plan has changed since it was first introduced in 1975, reflecting notable shifts in the food marketplace and consumers' circumstances over the past 45 years.
 - TFP for federal fiscal year 2022 was revised to take into account a number of different factors: current food prices, what Americans typically eat, dietary guidance, and the nutrients in food items.
 - As a result of the revised TFP, FoodShare recipients will see a modest increase from FY21 to FY22.
 - For example in FY22 a family of four will receive an additional \$4.79 per day to support a healthy diet.
 - COLA changes include changes to a number of financial eligibility determinants: Federal Poverty limits, asset limits, changes to various deductions such as shelter costs and the FoodShare maximum allotment amounts.
 - Annually Wisconsin evaluates the cost of various utilities such as the cost of heat, electricity, water, cooking fuel and a number of others. A standard deduction is created for each utility upon receiving Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) approval. These standard deductions are used when determining FoodShare eligibility and benefit amounts. These values are updated and applied at the same time as the other COLA adjustments (October 1 each year).
 - Members were notified earlier this month through individual notices of their new FS amount.
 - Important to note, these increases are not tied to any COVID legislation.
- Afghan Refugees
 - 2 new special immigrant visa (SIV) codes were created for Afghan Refugees that would make them eligible for FS and HC if they meet all other criteria. Not all Afghan Refugees will receive these codes.

- Federal waiver of the ABAWD time limit approved for FY22. This means that no members will be subject to the 3 month time limit through 09/30/22. WI had this waiver for this fiscal year also, so members are currently exempt and this will not result in a change. “Impacted” members (those who would be subject to the 3 month time limit without the waiver) will be receiving a 1 time letter later this month.
 - As always, the FSET program is still available to all FS members.
 - Policy is reviewing additional tools that will be helpful for IM workers when communicating these changes other than the Operation Memo that is currently circulating internally at DHS.
- 2 COVID policies will be rolled back in October.
 - FS interview requirement returns 10/1. Applicants/members must complete an interview as a part of the application and renewal process.
 - SMRFs will return for some members starting in October.

PEBT Updates:

- Closing Out the 2020-2021 School Year
 - In an effort to close out our P-EBT efforts from last year and prepare for the 2021-2022 school year, I wanted to announce that after 10/8, we will not be taking any new inquiries regarding P-EBT benefits for the 2020-2021 school year.
 - As a reminder and as has been the case, between now and then, if you have questions about P-EBT benefits from the 2020-2021 school year, please contact our P-EBT Support Team.
- Next Summer P-EBT Issuance
 - A secondary Summer P-EBT systematic issuance will occur on October 23rd. This issuance will capture any children who were not yet known to be eligible in time for inclusion in the previous 8/21 issuance.
 - Benefits will be made available to families with an existing QUEST or P-EBT card as early as Sunday 10/24. For those who needed to receive a new P-EBT card, it may have taken some time to arrive but will come with the benefits already loaded onto it.
 - As a reminder, this was a one-time lump sum issuance of \$375 to any children known to be eligible. Unlike our other P-EBT programs, no partial benefits will be given (a child is either eligible for the whole amount or not).
- 2020-2021 P-EBT Issuance Totals To Date:
 - Pre-6 P-EBT: over \$62 million issued to more than 100k individual children
 - School P-EBT: over \$210 million issued to over 292k individual students (as of 9/13)
 - Summer P-EBT: over \$156 million issued to over 417k individual children (as of 9/13)
- P-EBT in the 2021-2022 School Year
 - States received guidance recently from USDA as to how School P-EBT and Pre-6 P-EBT will look in this new school year.
 - DHS is in the process of reviewing/interpreting the guidance and will share more about Wisconsin’s implementation plan in the coming weeks.

4. Subcommittee Updates

- IMOA subcommittee met on September 10th, 2021. Doreen Lang shared key discussion points from that meeting (see attachment). Next meeting is October 1st, 2021.

- Performance Monitoring Subcommittee met on September 15th, 2021. Ann Kriegel shared key discussion points from that meeting (see attachment). Next Meeting is November 17th, 2021.
- Program Coordination Subcommittee met on August 18th, 2021. Lorie Graff shared key discussion points from that meeting (see attachment). Next meeting is October 20th, 2021.
- Call Center Operational/Technical subcommittee met on August 30th, 2021. Kris Weden shared key discussion points (see attachment). Next meeting is September 13th, 2021.

5. Regional Enrollment Network (Lorie Graff)

- The Regional Enrollment Network meeting was cancelled.

6. Income Maintenance (IM) Funding and Contract Updates (Katie Sepnieski & Doreen Lang)

- The next contract negotiation meeting for 2022 is September 22nd, 2021.
- The contract amendments for the ARPA funds is currently being approved. This will be shared out once the final approval is given.

7. Consortia Feedback (Doreen Lang)

- Clarification from DHS if a waiver was submitted for the FoodShare Supplemental Benefits for October. DHS submitted a waiver submitted and awaiting FNS approval.
- Request that consortia receive an updated COVID-19 Policy End date document.
- Official communication that FS interviews are starting Oct 1.
- Can the FS script be updated and remove references to the ABAWD/TLB 3 month time period now that the waiver is approved through 9/22

8. Administrative Memos (Katie Sepnieski)

- FPIP draft administrative memo is being reviewed by consortia.
- Enhanced Medicaid Funding/RMS Supplement draft administrative memo is being reviewed by consortia.
- PII draft administrative memo is expected to be completed by end of September 2021.

9. Gap Case Monthly Update

- GAP Case Numbers – See “GAP Case Report” – August 2021. Numbers continue to look different this year due to COVID-19 policies. Normal end-of-year termination policy did not apply due to COVID, so active GAP participants at end of year have been carried over to 2021.

10. Public Comments

None.

12. Tentative Future Agenda Topics