

INCOME MAINTENANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (IMAC)

Thursday, October 21st, 2021

1:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Zoom: <https://dhs.wi.zoomgov.com/j/16175504471>

Minutes

Non-State Attendees:

Amy J. Beranek	Dodge County
Roxann Binkowski	Waushara County
Kate Chambers	Iowa County
Michele Chiuchiolo	Dane County
Maria Delgado	Rock County
Cindi Flynn	Adams County
Lorie Graff	La Crosse County
Chelsey Groessl	Brown County
Mia Anderson-Inman	Walworth County
Darsell Johns	Ozaukee County
Robert Klingforth	Waukesha County
Heidrun Kovach	Dane County
Doreen Lang	Wood County
Annett Mooney	Marquette County
Kimm Peters	Kenosha County
John Rathman	Outagamie County
Nicole Rolain	Marathon County
Anthony Sis	Dane County
Ryan Smith	Veyo
Alyson Wagoner	Citizen Potawatomi Nation
Carol Wautlet	Door County
Kathy Welke	Eau Claire County
Amberlyn Yohn	Racine County

State and Federal Attendees:

Julie Anstett	DHS
Autumn Arnold	DHS
LaTanya Baldwin	DHS
Candice Canales	DHS
Elizabeth Dehling	DHS
Alicia Grulke	DHS

Becky Luebke	DHS
Tim McGuire	DHS
Wendy Metcalf	DHS
Gigi Miller	DHS
Jody Noble	DHS
Michael Poma	DHS
Katie Sepnieski	DHS
Shena Smith	DHS
Angela Stanford	DHS
Molly Thomas	DHS
Pang Xiong	DHS

AGENDA Administrative Updates (Katie Sepnieski & Kathy Welke)

- Report attendance by e-mailing to this mailbox DHSBEOTAdmin@dhs.wisconsin.gov
- Christian Moran, Deputy Director from the Bureau of Systems Management shared an update on the 10/30/2021 CARES Release. ACCESS Modernization/HMO Release implementation is being delayed at this time. More information will be coming regarding the new release date.
- Changes to the CWW Document viewer upgrade release will also be communicated as there are potential changes of timing due to the delay in the other release items.

Approval of September 16th, 2021 Meeting Minutes (Katie Sepnieski)

- Motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded and approved by consensus.

NEMT Transportation Provider Update VEYO

- Adam Thomas shared a PowerPoint regarding the update in NEMT provider. See the slide deck titled *“VEYO NEMT Transportation”* for additional information.

Policy Updates/COVID-19 Policy updates (Autumn Arnold)

- The Secretary of Health and Human Services did extend the Public Health Emergency (PHE) by another 90 days, it is now slated to end on January 16, 2022.
- This was an expected extension and at this time DHS is not interpreting it as a change to the federal intention to end the PHE on 12/31.
 - The extension has to be extended for a full 90 days and then it can be scaled back if it's determined the PHE can end early.
- The current Public Health Emergency was set to expire on 12/31/2021. DHS is developing contingency plans based on the changes with the PHE. There will be a 60 day notice given before the PHE ends, 10/31/2021 and 11/16/2021 are the “go/no go” dates for unwinding activities.
- The two main contingencies that DHS is reviewing is that the PHE ends, January 16, 2022, or the other is that it is extended by another 90 days.

For new applicants after the end of the PHE:

- Pre-pandemic policies, such as needing to pay premiums, would go back into effect.

- New eligible applicants would no longer maintain continuous benefits coverage. DHS expects the change to the COVID-19 continuous coverage policy to take place the month following the end of the PHE. Anything considered a more restrictive policy than what was in place pre-pandemic would not start until the following quarter.
 - If the PHE ends 1/16, DHS would expect that normal coverage rules take effect for applicants who apply on or after 2/1, and premiums would start again on or after 4/1.
 - If the PHE ends later than that, the same general timing would apply.
 - If the end of the PHE falls at the end of a quarter, the timeline would remain consistent – if it does not end at the end of a quarter, DHS would expect a delay on the premiums restart.

For existing members:

- DHS plans to restart renewals and terminations for existing members in 2022, based on CMS guidance that any adverse action cannot be taken without completing a full renewal.
 - This would mean for any given member, their continuous coverage will last until the next renewal.
 - Premiums also cannot be imposed, for example, until the next renewal.
- , DHS is looking at the timing of renewals for the two different populations:
 1. The population of approximately 72,000 individuals with full-benefit eligibility only which has been manually extended in iC. These members do not have cases in CARES. For these members, DHS plans to send them a letter and application instructions to reapply through an IM Agency.
 - DHS intends to contact these individuals first, with a mailing in mid-December and then closing eligibility at the end of January.
 2. The Members with their eligibility determination in CARES
 - As discussed previously, DHS plans to distribute health care renewals evenly throughout 2022.
 - DHS will align health care renewals with FoodShare renewals when applicable.
 - Otherwise, DHS will seek to minimize the amount of time someone has gone without a renewal.
 - The intent is to have renewals due starting in February 2022 and distributed over 12 months until January 2023.
 - The last continuous coverage and the last “COVID” renewals would end at the end of January 2023.
 - In late November, DHS expects to be able to share a redistribution list based on production data, and 12/18 would be the date that the renewal dates are updated through a mass change.
- For existing members – a shift in PHE end date to 1/16 would move everything later by at least a month. DHS would expect to contact the iC-only population after the first of the year, have their eligibility end as applicable at the end of February, and have first renewals due at the end of March.

- A shift in PHE end date to 3/31 would move everything later by 3 months, so DHS would expect to contact the iC-only population prior to a 4/30 eligibility end date and then have first renewals due at the end of May.

AFGHAN GUESTS

- DHS has been working with CMS and FNS to clarify eligibility policies for the Afghan guests at Fort McCoy, both pre- and post-resettlement.
- This has been an extremely fluid situation with changing guidance from the federal agencies, final clarification on both the policies and the processes related to verifying information and processing applications should be forthcoming.
- DHS expects to issue a CCN with detailed instructions very shortly.
- Federal legislation that was passed late last month which included humanitarian parolees in the group that is to be considered like refugees for eligibility purposes for FoodShare, Medicaid and BadgerCare Plus, assuming they meet all other eligibility criteria, and would not be subject to a 5-year bar. Previously, this refugee-like status was limited to people with Special Immigrant Parole status and Special Immigrant Visas.

FOODSHARE

- EA approved for November.
 - Benefits will be issued to open households on 11/20, available for members on 11/21.
 - Catch-up run for eligible members that were confirmed open after 11/20 will occur on 01/08/22, available for members on 01/09

P-EBT

- Reminder that this Saturday, 10/23, a secondary Summer P-EBT issuance will occur. This issuance will capture any children who were not yet known to be eligible in time to be included in the previous 8/21 issuance.

3. Subcommittee Updates

- IMOA subcommittee met on October 1st, 2021. John Rathman shared key discussion points from that meeting (see attachment). Next meeting is November 5th, 2021.
- EBD/LTC Subcommittee met on October 19th, 2021. Ron Redell shared key discussion points from that meeting (see attachment). Next Meeting will occur January 11th, 2022.
- Call Center Operational/Technical subcommittee met on September 13th and September 27th, 2021. Kris Weden shared key discussion points (see attachment). Next meeting is scheduled for October 11th, 2021.

4. Regional Enrollment Network (Lorie Graff)

- Covering Wisconsin discussed how they will expand assister services and partnerships across the State using the increased federal grant funding they have been awarded.
- Over 300 people attended the September Enrollment conference.
- Extended enrollment is November 1st-January 15th, 2022
- Additional materials will be created on the marketplace to share with members.

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

- The next 2022 contract negotiation meeting is scheduled for is October 21st, 2021.

6. **Consortia Feedback (Kathy Welke)**

- November SWICA Drop:
 - Will there be new or revised instructions for how consortia should process these?
 - Having just completed the last round of SWICAs, many of the upcoming SWICA will be duplicate.
 - Is it necessary to do these again or is there a way to only pass through cases that weren't included in the most recent SWICA Drop?
- SMRF Automation:
 - Comparing SMRFS automation to the automation that comes with BC Administrative renewals, could an automatic case comment be added like what occurs with BC administrative renewals?
 - Could the SMRF be confirmed automatically w/o worker intervention?
- Consortia would like a status update on the Security Manual and wondered if this could be expedited as this will be very helpful to the consortias in getting security requests completed accurately and avoiding delays.

7. **Administrative Memos (Katie Sepnieski)**

- FPIP draft administrative memo is awaiting publishing.
- Enhanced Medicaid Funding/RMS Supplement draft administrative memo is being reviewed by IM Agencies.
- PII draft administrative memo is expected to be completed by end of 2021.
- The draft overpayment administrative memo is being reviewed by consortia.
- ARPA Administrative Memo is currently being reviewed.

8. **Gap Case Monthly Update**

- GAP Case Numbers – See “GAP Case Report” – September 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.

9. **Public Comments**

None.

10. **Tentative Future Agenda Topics**

October CARES Release