

INCOME MAINTENANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (IMAC)

Thursday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022

1:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Zoom: <https://dhs.wi.zoomgov.com/j/1619409056>

**Minutes**

**Non-State Attendees:**

Mia Anderson-Inman	Walworth County
Roxann Binkowski	Waushara County
Michele Chiuchiolo	Dane County
Maria Delgado	Rock County
Lorie Graff	La Crosse County
Chelsey Groessl	Brown County
Darsell Johns	Ozaukee County
Robert Klingforth	Waukesha County
Ann Kriegel	Winnebago County
Doreen Lang	Wood County
John Rathman	Outagamie County
Nicole Rolain	Marathon County
Carol Sjoblom	Columbia County
Tony Sis	Dane County
Carol Wautlet	Door County
Kris Weden	Marathon County
Kathy Welke	Eau Claire County

**State and Federal Attendees:**

Autumn Arnold	DHS
Lars Brown	DHS
Suzanne Cone	DHS
April Ferstl	DCF
Pam Kiern	DHS
Becky Luebke	DHS
Alicia Grulke	DHS
Gretchen Miller	DHS
Steve Poppe	DHS
Renee Kurka	DHS
Katie Sepnieski	DHS
Shena Smith	DHS
Beth Stiner	DHS

**AGENDA**

**Administrative Updates (Katie Sepnieski & Doreen Lang)**

- Report attendance by e-mailing to this mailbox [DHSBEOTAdmin@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:DHSBEOTAdmin@dhs.wisconsin.gov).

- Gretchen Miller, the Operations Office Associate for the Bureau of Eligibility Operations and Training will be transitioning to a new position. Beth Stiner is the new Operations Office Associate effective August 15, 2022.
- Shawn Tessmann is the new Operational Lead for Capital Consortium.

#### **Approval of June 16, 2022, Meeting Minutes (Katie Sepnieski)**

- Motion to approve the minutes made by Tony Sis and John Rathman and approved by consensus.

#### **Policy Updates/COVID-19 Policy updates (Stevey Poppe & Autumn Arnold)**

#### **FoodShare Updates**

- **Emergency Allotments**
  - Emergency Allotments have been approved for August 2022. Benefits will be issued to open FoodShare households on August 27, 2022 and be available to members on Sunday August 28, 2022.
  - The August 2022 catch-up run (for any FoodShare households eligible for FoodShare benefits for August that were confirmed eligible for benefits after August 27, 2022) is scheduled for October 8, 2022, with benefits available to members on October 9, 2022.
  - September Emergency Allotments has been approved. Benefits will be issued to open FoodShare households on September 17, 2022 (available for members on September 18, 2022). The catch-up run is tentatively scheduled for November 12, 2022 (available for members on November 13, 2022).
  - Reminder of upcoming dates:
    - August 2022 Emergency Allotments will be issued on August 27, available to members on Sunday August 28, 2022.
    - July 2022 catch up run is scheduled for September 10, available to members on Sunday September 11, 2022.
    - September Emergency Allotments will be issued September 17, available to members on Sunday September 18, 2022.
    - August 2022 catch up run is scheduled for October 8, available to members on Sunday October 9, 2022.
    - September catch up run is scheduled for November 12, available to members on Sunday November 13, 2022.
- **Cost of Living Adjustments**
  - The Department of Health Services (DHS) will be implementing Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for FoodShare. This happens annually at the start of the federal fiscal year, October 1, 2022.
    - COLA changes include changes to several 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 several 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).
- FFY23 COLA highlights

- Both the federal poverty limits and the allotments increased. For example, the maximum allotment for a household of one increased by \$31 bring it up to \$281. The minimum allotment increased by \$3 bringing it up to \$23.
- The shelter deduction maximum increased by \$27 bring it up to \$624.
- All deductions have either remained the same or increased.
- System changes will be implemented on August 26, 2022, to ensure all open and new FoodShare cases have the new COLA amounts applied to their eligibility determinations for October 2022.
- The Operations memo will plan to be published on August 25, 2022.

### **Healthcare Updates**

- Public Health Emergency Update (PHE)
  - The federal Public Health Emergency declaration was set to end on October 13, 2022 but notification wasn't received. States will receive 60-day notice of when the PHE is ending.
  - The current assumption is that the PHE will be extended again through at least mid-January, 2023.
  - If the PHE ends in January, DHS expects that the end of February would be the earliest any member would have a change in BadgerCare Plus or Medicaid coverage.
- Health Care Overpayments
  - The Department of Health Services (DHS) is planning to stop using the Health Care Voluntary Acknowledgement of Intentional Program Violation form, and handbook updates and an amended Ops memo to remove references to it are being drafted, and the form will be removed from the Forms library.
  - Consortia staff inquired to this update if the MA IPV Waiver form being pulled back affects counties that are processing MA Overpayments prior to the PHE starting. DHS will discuss this with internal department staff and will provide follow up communication.

### **CARES Releases (Pam Kiern & Suzanne Cone)**

- Pam Kiern presented information on the October 2022 release for the Vital Records Phase 2. See the attachment for additional details.
- Suzanne Cone presented information on the October 2022 release for Migration to Mainframe–FoodShare Override. See the attachment for additional details.

### **BRITS Phase 2 (April Ferstl)**

- April Ferstl presented information on BRITS Phase 2 development. The BRITS release scheduled for November 2022, will be pushed to July of 2023 due to the loss of developers at DCF. See the attachment for additional details.

### **Subcommittee Updates (Income Maintenance Agency Subcommittee Co-Chairs)**

- Income Maintenance Operational Analysis (IMOA) subcommittee met on August 5, 2022. Kathy Welke shared key discussion points (see attachment). Next meeting is September 9, 2022.
- Performance Monitoring met on July 20, 2022. Nicole Rolain shared key discussion points (see attachment). Next meeting is September 14, 2022.
- Training Subcommittee met on July 25, 2022. Renee Kurka shared key discussion points (see attachment). Next meeting is October 24, 2022.
- Call Center Operational/Technical subcommittee met on June 27, July 5, July 28, and August 8, 2022. Kris Weden shared key discussion points (see attachment). Next meeting is August 29, 2022.

### **Income Maintenance (IM) Funding and Contract Updates (Alicia Grulke)**

- The Public Health Emergency Unwinding ARPA Contract has been drafted. The draft language was shared with ESPAC to provide feedback. The Department of Health Services (DHS) intends to release the contracts as close to the 60-day notification as possible once the notification is received that the PHE is ending.
- The negotiations for the 2023 IM Contract are actively occurring. The goal is to have contract negotiations completed by end of August 2022.

### **Consortia Feedback (Doreen Lang)**

- The consortia would like to receive the list of Notices that are being prioritized to remove specific worker information. The consortia would also like to receive the list of Notices in which the Consortia have the ability to remove the workers names from as this continues to be a concern for Consortiums.

### **Administrative Memos (Alicia Grulke)**

- Administrative Memo 17-07 Income Maintenance Training Roles and Responsibilities is currently being reviewed and updated and will be sent to consortia for 45-day review.
- Administrative Memo 22-04 Estate Recovery Incentive Funds is currently being reviewed by Consortiums. Consortiums have 45 days to review this administrative memo to provide feedback, with a September 23, 2022, due date.
- PII Administrative Memo continues to be reviewed by Office of Legal Counsel.

### **Regional Enrollment Network (John Rathman)**

- The Department of Health Services staff is working with local Income Maintenance agencies and helping re-energize the Regional Enrollment Networks (REN) across the State. There is very broad participation with many advocacy agencies attending the initial meetings. There is great interest from those involved to help clients determine the appropriate healthcare coverage.
- Agencies are also reminded that registration is currently open for the fall REN conference. Registration fees are donation based and we hope to see a lot of participation in this year's conference.

### **Gap Case Monthly Update**

- GAP Case Numbers – See attachment “*GAP Case Report*” – June & July 2022

### **Public Comments**

- None

### **Announcements**

- As a part of the Public Health Emergency unwinding efforts there will be two staff beginning in Bureau of Eligibility Operations and Training as unwinding coordinators.
- There are two additional training staff starting in the Bureau of Eligibility Operations and Training to assist with unwinding efforts.
- CARES Security Access continues to be monitored as this is an area that the consortiums and DHS have ongoing discussions and communications. The department understands the concerns shared with the ESPAC Tri Chair's. The Administrator's office continues to be made aware of the concerns.