

**OPEN MEETING MINUTES**

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, Allison Cramer, Tina Anderson, Martha Cranley	
Date: 5/13/2025	Time Started: 9:30am	Time Ended: 12:24pm	
Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting		Presiding Officer: Jason Glozier	
<b>Minutes</b>			

**Members absent:** Jill Jacklitz, John Schnabl, Allison Cramer, Elsa Diaz Bautista

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

**Meeting Call to Order – Jason Glozier**

- The meeting was called to order at 9:30am
- Reviewed agenda
- Minutes from March meeting reviewed
  - Motion to approve by Sara M. Seconded by Linda B. Minutes approved.
  - None Abstain.
- Introductions of members

**General Updates – Carrie Molke, Nicole Schneider**

- New process for written updates; please check out the updates document on our website at <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/wltcac/meetings.htm> under Meetings
- Link to the Wisconsin Coalition for Social Connection: <https://connectwi.org>
- ADR state-wide phone number is 1-844-WIS-ADRC; 1-844-947-2372
- Link to the State Aging Plan: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/aging/index.htm>
- Talk about the environment we're all working in right now; we're continuing to monitor the federal landscape and state budget process
- In addition to Medicaid programs, we are also watching on how this will impact other programs.
- Finding hope in dark times; it is a measure of our strength; the road is long, and we have faced trial and turbulations before
- **Council Feedback**
  - LaVerne J. – Speak up to those in power even if your voice shakes – quote from Maggie
  - Jessica T. – Coming from a national conference; unique collaborations happening in this state; advocates working together
  - Beth S. – Thanks to DHS for being a part of educating the state about what is happening on the federal level; there's a hearing at 12pm today; there's also another meeting at 6:30pm about SNAP, etc.; BPDD has put out a national alert; it's a day of action today
  - Chris W. – Thank you to BPDD for all their work

## Recommendations from Ad Hoc Gatherings – Jason Glozier, Kevin Coughlin, Shanna Jensen, Sara Muhlbauer

- Presentation shared with council
- Thank you to everyone who joined the Ad Hoc Groups and attended the meetings
- Thank you to those who stepped up to lead the effort and DHS staff who helped
- #1 Charge – Long Path
  - Identify resources and existing information; how do we gather that and to whom do we send that information to as we move forward?
  - This charge is more of a process
  - More clarity may be discussed at our next meeting
  - The council selects to move forward with all of these new recommendations
- #2 Charge – Medicaid Long-Term Care
  - Which of these recommendations do we want to choose?
  - This is a broad topic
  - Think about this as what we can do first; where’s the best place to start for this next year?
  - Short-term Goals selected are:
    - Under Program Authority and Contracts: Review and recommend updates to waiver and contract language.
    - Under Program Transparency and Education: Creating a connection with the newly established Medicaid Member Experience Committee to align and maximize efforts.
    - Under Program Sustainability: Advise on any decisions/impacts related to Medicaid funding reductions or changes to eligibility requirements.
  - Mid-term Goals selected are:
    - All recommendations under Program Sustainability
    - All recommendations under Program Transparency and Education
    - Under Long Term Care Functional Screen: Explore and consider options for a new/improved functional eligibility tool that accurately aligns level of care and needed support.
  - Long-term Goals selected are:
    - Continues from the mid-term goals
    - Under Program Authority and Contracts: Transition to one plan for all aspects of an individual’s care, regardless of setting or services received. Would need to consider regulatory requirements for various services, but would make it simpler for people to manage everything in one place.
    - Under Transparency and Education: Continue improvement of transitions between children and adult services.
    - All recommendations under Program Sustainability
- #3 Charge – Workforce
  - Some of the short-term goals are already happening; feel the short-term goals are attainable
  - Will select all recommendations under the Short-Term Goals
  - Mid-Term goals
    - Under Policy, Infrastructure and Advocacy: Align wages with regional living wages to improve retention and attract new workers.
      - Is the intent to have a reimbursement system? Do we need to use another word than “align” to put a solution into the next budget request?
      - Should we do a wage analysis? Broken down by region? There is a tool available – mentioned by Lisa Davidson
  - Long-term goals
    - Select all recommendations under the long-term goals
- Group discussion and next steps
  - Great work everyone
  - Are folks comfortable with the new charges?
  - What are the next steps?
  - We will present these priorities to the Secretary and determine next steps. Nicole will reach out to the Secretary.

- The Ad Hoc Groups may need to meet again after we share these with the Secretary
- It will be up to DHS to prioritize
- What is the strategic planning of what we're trying to accomplish here?
- **Council Feedback**
  - Joel G. – Ad hoc groups were tasked to look at what's most important for each charge; do we need to re-evaluate the ad hoc groups? Jason G. – We really wanted the ad hoc groups to brainstorm some priority areas for each charge; there may be a need for further prioritization.
  - Carrie M. – The ad hoc groups are bringing recommendations to the larger LTCAC group. Important that we're getting feedback from the full group, even those who were not included in the ad hoc groups. Can we actually do all of these recommendations?
  - Chris W. – There should be points from the Program Transparency & Education section to pull out to work on earlier if possible.
  - Jessica T. – Access to records; ease to access their own records; importance of education and availability of people to maneuver and access these programs; aging demographic is not set up to meet the needs of the aging demographics
    - Carrie M. – This may be connected to the Long Path charge
  - LaVerne J. – Addressing an aging demographic is related to the Long Path charge as well
    - Carrie M. – Might add this language into the Long Path charge
  - Cindy B. – Do not think it's beneficial to have a functional screening twice a year; waste of money and time; speaking on the AB163?

#### **Provider Enrollment Update – RaeAnn Fahey**

- Presentation shared with council
- The new system will allow home and community-based services (HCBS) providers to complete an enrollment application and become certified with Wisconsin Medicaid through the ForwardHealth Portal.
- After becoming certified with Wisconsin Medicaid, HCBS providers will be able to onboard with IRIS FEAs, be authorized for services with IACs, and contract with MCOs.
- How can you help?
  - Spread the word to HCBS providers
  - Remind providers to complete the application as soon as possible
  - Share enrollment resources available to HCBS providers
- **Council Feedback**
  - Cindy B. – Not understanding information presented
    - RaeAnn – Vendors must go to forwardhealth to be a provider
  - Chris W. – This was extremely easy to do
  - Karina C. – Group homes have to go through this too?
    - RaeAnn – Yes, all providers who get funding from IRIS or family care MCOs.
  - Karina C. – Is this in a project phase? See lots of pharmacies struggling or maybe due to miscommunication; Can you look into pharmacies and the process of switching medications? RaeAnn will take questions back.

#### **LTCAC Charter Updates – Kevin Coughlin, Carrie Molke**

- Presentation shared with council
- Over the last year, this has been a reset period for us.
- Have been looking at our charter and hasn't been updated recently.
- Purpose of a charter establishes the purpose, structure and rights of the Council.
- Decision was made to create a new charter.
- Highlight some of the changes.
- This is a Secretary-appointed group.

- The 16 appointed individuals will be appointed for 4-year terms now. One of the reasons is that the charges we work on take a long time and more continuity is more effective. They could serve two consecutive periods.
- Current charges will be posted on the website and will be shared with the council.
- **Council Feedback**
  - LaVerne J. – Regarding membership, is there language about striving for ethnic diversity? Should this be added? Please try to add this if possible.
    - Kevin C. – There wasn't anything in the previous charter; will take this back for consideration.
  - Jason G. – Within membership; do we want to specify a tribal membership?
    - Carrie M. – Will take it back for consideration.
  - Kevin C. – One change in membership is that we have about 27 members now but this will be reduced to 16 members; done through attrition; this will be a change in the charter.
  - Linda B. – Any reference to attendance? Is there ever a discussion for a face-to-face meeting?
    - Carrie M. – Yes, kept the same attendance process as before. Not sure about the face-to-face meeting. We will take this back for consideration.

### AARP Age-Friendly States – Amber Miller

- Presentation shared with council
- AARP was founded by Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus.
- Working with communities to commit to working with AARP for 5 years to be as livable as they can.
- **Council Feedback**
  - Helen S. – Question about the age-friendly health systems; some initiatives started in WI? Don't see AARP as part of that list? This will be exciting with the Long Path charge.
    - Amber – Doesn't ring a bell; Amber will reach out to them.
    - Link to health systems list: <https://www.wgec.org/age-friendly-health-systems>
  - Carrie M. – Went to Advancing States Conference; there's so many opportunities to use existing framework;
    - Amber will send some additional links; feel free to do an internet search on AARP livable communities; each community and state should start moving the needle to be age-friendly

### Council Business – Jason Glozier

- Any requested topics for July?
- Any general updates to share at the next meeting?
- **Council Feedback**
  - Linda B. – Agencies personal perspective – PIR on the radar; was halted; can we get an update on this? Was supposed to be re-initiated in early spring? What is the status? Changes in overall requirements?
  - Mike P. – Budget update?
  - Lisa D. – Hopefully we will have a budget by then so an update on funding for long term care programs for the next biennium; any concrete actions about Medicaid?
  - Shanna J. – IRIS Waiver timeline? Summary?
  - Joel G. – Brought this topic up last month. Is there an opportunity to meet with other MCOs? Invite MCOs to next meeting for an update? How things are working from their perspective?
  - Cindy B. – Invite the Secretary to attend a future meeting?
  - Chris W. – Need for dental care and anesthesia

**Public Comment – Jason Glozier**

- Michelle C. – What do I need to do about a complaint not being addressed; Please email Joyce Vue at [joyce.vue@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:joyce.vue@dhs.wisconsin.gov)
- Deb – Speak to four things; first, the Ad hoc committees discussion; does this fall under public meeting laws? Suggest seeking legal council; secondly, agree with Mr. Goulker talking about MCOs, appreciating everyone working on this; somebody has to be keeping the pulse of what's happening and pushing for these things; need help in the health and wellness category; there are no providers listed as of now. CRW – one of the standing agencies of this council; encourage to ask about themes raised around the state; council should hear about these themes; lastly, the caregiving fact sheet; did communicate with DHS requires a special need of professionalism; no source data points; no dates; etc. DHS needs to update and re-send out?
- Joseph W. – Hearing about issues in transportation; Are providers responsible? Is there any updates on this? What is the funding for transportation? Can this be a future agenda item? And for the ad hoc committees determined by the bigger group, are providers able to join?

**Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn by Cindy B.; seconded by Lisa D.

Meeting adjourned at 12:24 pm

Prepared by: Joyce Vue on 5/13/2025.

These minutes are in draft form. They will be presented for approval by the governmental body on: 7/8/2025