

Council on Health and Human Services

Meeting Minutes
April 28, 2026

COUNCIL MEMBERS	EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS
Chair, Rebecca Peterson	Senator Sarah Trone Garriott
✓ Andrew Allen	Senator Mike Klimesh
Kay Fisk	Representative Heather Matson
✓ Dr. Monika Jindal	Representative Carter F. Nordman
✓ Dr. Donald Macfarlane	
✓ Sandra McGrath	
✓ Samantha Rozeboom, DNP	
Jack Willey	
✓ Tom Brown	

1. **Call to Order**
Andrew Allen presided over the meeting in Chair Rebecca Peterson’s absence and called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m.
2. **Roll Call**
The secretary conducted roll call as indicated above; a quorum was present.
3. **Approval of Minutes**
Tom Brown moved to approve the minutes from February 27, 2026, HHS Council meeting; seconded by Dr. Monika Jindal. Motion carried by voice vote.
4. **Public Comment**
No public comments were received.
5. **Proposed State Plan for Weatherization Assistance Program – Christine Taylor, Weatherization Program Manager**

Christine Taylor gave an overview of the proposed 2026 Weatherization Assistance Program State Plan. The plan was based after last year’s plan due to delayed federal guidance, and the Department of Energy’s indication that no major changes are expected. The Weatherization Assistance Program year begins July 1. This plan explains how federal funds will be used, and it is submitted to the U.S. Department of Energy for approval. Once approved, Iowa becomes eligible to receive the funding.

The ad hoc Weatherization Policy Advisory Council (PAC) reviewed the draft, and it was approved by the HHS Director. The plan was posted for public comment, and a public hearing was held on April 20. No members of the public attended and no comments were submitted. The Iowa Department of Health and Human Services is seeking approval of the 2026 Weatherization Assistance Program State Plan from the HHS Council.

Key Components of the State Plan:

- Identifies Iowa HHS as the applicant
- Budget
- Subgrantee funding allocation
- Program elements include topics such as funding allocations, projected homes to be weatherized, estimated energy savings, eligibility criteria, service areas, household prioritization, weatherization measures, program effectiveness, health and safety requirements, and Iowa's energy crisis and disaster plan.

6. **Council Discussion**

Topics the Council discussed regarding the plan:

- Rental properties can receive services but only with owner approval, and most weatherization work in Iowa historically occurs in owner-occupied homes.
- While non-energy benefits are recognized nationally, they are not tracked at the state level in Iowa.
- Iowa weatherizes multi-unit properties. Buildings with five or more units require additional federal approval.
- Opportunities to better identify high risk individuals who could benefit from improved heating or cooling to reduce health risks and related medical costs.
- While weatherization funds can technically be used for air conditioning, cooling measures are not cost-effective in Iowa's climate, so the program focuses on heating. A separate program provides cooling assistance when needed.
- There are no major changes from last year's State Plan for the Weatherization Assistance Program, and that the program's award remains just over \$7 million.

Dr. Donald McFarlane moved to approve the 2026 Weatherization Assistance Program State Plan; Sandra McGrath seconded the motion. Motion carried by voice vote.

7. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:21am.