

HealthWatch Tri County Coalition

June 25, 2013

Present: Jim Trundle, Mary Van Stippen, Linda Schwobe, John Ulness, Tracey Ratzburg, Lyle Verstegen, Connie Raether, Susan Garcia Franz, Sue Schlieve, Lor Mee Vang, Cyndi DiMatteo, Kristeen Stacker, Penny Bernard Schaber, State Representative District 57

Rep. Bernard Schaber gave a report on the effects of the Wisconsin budget:

- Adults at or below 100% of poverty will be covered by Badgercare. Those above must purchase insurance through the exchanges.
- Children between 100 and 133% of poverty will still be covered, but their parents won't.
- Badgercare will cover pregnant women and children if they are at or below 200% of poverty (could be 300%, Penny will check.) Penny will also check if the 80/20 insurance rule is still in effect.
- Many parents will be eligible for subsidies but there may be difficulties for people who don't understand the exchanges. Health exchanges will be ready to accept people by Oct. 1st
- \$72 million was provided to hospitals for uncompensated care.
- Estimates are that the following will lose their BadgerCare:
 - 2812 people in Outagamie Co.
 - 2643 people in Winnebago Co.
 - 507 people in Calumet Co.
 - 4000 in Brown Co.

Rep. Bernard Schaber's advice: **If you have people who are who are losing their badgercare, have them call their state representative and state senator, as that is the only way they will understand the ramifications of the decision to pass on Medicaid funding. Also, we need to do our best to make these changes work and help educate people in our programs about them.**

The Affordable Care Act (ACA):

Several websites are available to help people understand the Affordable Care Act:

www.healthcare.gov

Marketplace.cms.gov

www.hhs.gov

Enrollamerica.org

Also a toll free number: 800- 318-2596

Questions abound regarding the ACA. People can enroll from October through March. After that, what happens?? Will people be allowed to enroll if there are qualifying events and if so, of what will those qualifying events consist?

The NBA will do an educational campaign aimed at young men encouraging them to sign up with the exchanges

Navigators: Wisconsin Primary Care Association and the Consortia applied for a grant that would put 14 navigators throughout Wisconsin.

Counties are adding staff as well to get ready for the number of people who will need assistance.

160 million Americans are insured through their work, millions more through Medicaid and/or Medicare. Only about 5% of people buy insurance privately now, so those are the people who will be on the exchanges, but many more uninsured and those presently on HIRSP type plans will also be looking for insurance on the exchanges.

Wisconsin rates 2nd from the bottom in access to dental care for kids. See article provided by Carey Cullen: <http://www.jsonline.com/features/health/state-2nd-worst-in-poor-kids-dental-care-b9941053z1-212865891.html>

There may be some coverage for kids/dental through the ACA but it is not known what the costs will be. There is a program in Minnesota that trains dental hygienists to be “associate dentists.” Some talk in Wisconsin of starting a program like that here. Minnesota requires that a certain percentage of people treated through this program be Medicaid recipients.

Fox Cities Community Health Center:

- Will be changing its name in the near future so watch for news!
- Currently 93,000 people in the three counties (Outagamie, Calumet and Winnebago) that fall below 200% of poverty. Community Health Center is currently serving 10% of those. No shows are a huge problem. CHC is doing a big inreach right now by calling all people 100-133% of poverty to educate them about loss of Badgercare. They are also identifying all childless adults who will qualify for Badgercare to call them and educate them.
- Some people who receive prescription assistance lose it if they have insurance so they have chosen not to be on an insurance plan.

Announcement:

Farmer’s Markets now take EBT and SNAP in Neenah and Appleton and give discounts on purchases to people on SNAP.

Next meeting is July 23, 9:30 a.m. It will be a brunch, so please R.S.V.P. and let us know what you would be willing to bring. Idea: let’s brainstorm ways in which we can reach people who will be gaining/losing Badgercare.

