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A Project of ABC for Health, Inc.
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Mark Your Calendars Now

Support Our Efforts!

Meetings by Region

Southern: February 4, 9:00-11:00am. Harambee Center, 2202 S. Park St, Madison. Contact Nora Foshager at (608)261-6939 ext. 204 or nfoshager@safetyweb.org with questions.

Southeastern: February 13, 10:00am-12:00 pm. Aurora Family Services, 3200 W. Highland Blvd, Milwaukee. Contact Leah Jepson at (414) 286-6608 or ljepso@milwaukee.gov or Tanya

HealthWatch Wisconsin Update

Online Registration Now Open for 1st Annual HWW Conference

Conference Theme: BadgerCare Plus

You can now register for the HWW Conference online at www.healthwatchwisconsin.org! Click on the 'Annual Conference' link to be directed.

The 1st Annual HealthWatch Wisconsin Conference will take place on Tuesday, March 11 from 8:30am-4:30pm at the Best Western Inn on the Park in Madison. [Click here](#) to view the "Save the Date" card. As promised, there is a deep discount for registered members of the HealthWatch Wisconsin Organization - you pay less than half the regular conference attendance fee!!!

If you are not yet a registered member of the HWW Organization, it's not too late. You can register for membership at the same time as you register for the conference and still qualify for the greatly reduced membership fee. If you are unsure of your membership status, feel free to call Nora at 1-800-585-4222, ext. 204.

Visit www.healthwatchwisconsin.org for more information on the Annual Conference and HealthWatch Wisconsin.

Case Advisory: Emergency Services Coverage Expanding to 300% FPL

Please take note that under BadgerCare Plus, starting February 1, 2008, the coverage threshold for Emergency Services will increase to 300% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). These services are typically provided to non-qualified immigrants in emergency care situations.

Stay tuned for more news on expanded and reduced coverage under BadgerCare Plus.

Atkinson at Tanya.Atkinson@ppwi.org with questions.
Children's Health Access for the Special and Equal (CHASE) Meeting – February 21, 11:30am-1:30pm. ARC of Milwaukee, 7203 W. Center St. Contact Brad Holman at (414)266-3189 or bholman@chw.org with questions.

Western: March 11, 10:45am–12:00pm. Room 121, Chippewa County Court House, 711 N. Bridge St, Chippewa Falls. Contact Rose Marsh at 1-800-400-3678 or rmarsh@co.chippewa.wi.us with questions.

Coalitions Under Development

Barron: Contact Mike Rust at (715) 485-8525 or MikeR@co.polk.wi.us with questions.

La Crosse: Contact Lindsey Schwarz at (608) 785-5841 or Schwarz.lindsey@co.la-crosse.wi.us with questions.

Polk: Contact Mike Rust at (715) 485-8525 or MikeR@co.polk.wi.us with questions.

Other Meeting Notices

FREE WEBINAR - Communicating in Adolescence: Building on Strengths While Addressing Risks - January 30, 11:00am Central Time. This free 90-minute audio conference, sponsored by the AAP Adolescent Health Partnership Project, will help pediatricians, nurse practitioners, internal medicine and family practitioners, nurses, and office staff learn how to incorporate a practical, strength-based approach in interviewing and intervening with adolescents. To

Featured Link: The BadgerCare Plus Handbook

Answers to many questions about BadgerCare Plus can be found in the program's handbook. You can view the handbook directly online, or you can click on the 'PDF Versions' link at the top of the screen to save a printable copy to your computer. To access, visit www.emhandbooks.wi.gov/bcplus.

BadgerCare Plus: Upcoming Town Hall; Archived Webcasts Available Online

Upcoming Town Hall Meeting

Kevin Hayden, Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, will be hosting a Town Hall Meeting to discuss BadgerCare Plus in the Medical Side Conference Room of the Bridge Community Health Clinic, 1810 N. 2nd St. in Wausau. The meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 22 from 1:00-2:00pm. To RSVP, please contact Claire Smith at SmithCF1@dhfs.state.wi.us or (608) 266-1334.

Archived Webcasts Available Online

Learn about BadgerCare Plus, the newly expanded program beginning February 1, 2008. Visit the DHFS Website to peruse the catalog of archived Webcasts. Many more are scheduled for the rest of January, so check back periodically for new information.

Steps to view an archived Webcast: (1) Visit <http://dhfs.wi.gov/webcast>. (2) Click on the link that says 'View the Catalog of our Webcasts.' (3) Browse the program catalog or search for a specific presentation using the search engine. (4) Click on the presentation you wish to view.

NEWS: Social Security Numbers Debacle

Use the following links to access news articles about the recent mistaken releases of Medicaid recipients' Social Security Numbers (SSNs):

- [State announces another mail foul-up - Patrick Marley for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, January 15](#)
- [Statement of Governor Doyle: Protecting Social Security Numbers - Office of the Governor, January 15](#)
- [Other states avoid glitch; Wisconsin's neighbors don't use Social Security numbers as Medicaid ID - Patrick Marley and Stacy Forster for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, January 14](#)
- [Victims urged to use credit monitoring and take other measures - Jason Stein for the *Wisconsin State Journal*,](#)

learn more and register for the event, please [click here](#).

Resources

Energy Services, Inc. of Dane County:

The home energy plus program can help with high energy costs. To apply for energy assistance, call (608) 267-8601. Grants are available, as well as home weatherization. For those who are homebound due to physical disability, a worker will visit the home. ESI also provides emergency after-hours assistance – just call! Call ESI for more information on qualifying and applying.

Kaiser's Consumer-Directed Health Care (CDHC)

Resources: A narrated slide tutorial on principles and different models of CDHC ([click here](#)), its companion issue module on the latest research and policy analysis on CDHC ([click here](#)), and the results of Kaiser's Health Poll Search on CDHC ([click here](#)) are all available from the Kaiser Family Foundation.

Knowledge Path is a web-based guide from the Maternal and Child Health Library at Georgetown University that points to current, high-quality resources on caring for CYSHCN. Separate sections list resources on specific aspects of care and development, such as adolescent transition, advocacy, financing, and screening. To access this resource, please [click here](#).

Wisconsin First Step can help you find resources for children birth to 21 with special needs. Staff are on-hand 24 hours a day to answer calls and can provide follow-up and materials on specific diseases or conditions. Call (800) 642-7837 with questions. Language interpretation and TTY services are available. You can also email

[January 13](#)

- [EDITORIAL: Full audit needed on latest privacy breach in state - the Sheboygan Press, January 13](#)
- [Wisconsin Consumer's Privacy Breached... Again; Legislative Oversight Needed - the Wisconsin Coalition for Consumer Choice, January 11](#)
- [Action asked against firm in Social Security disclosure - Jason Stein for the Wisconsin State Journal, January 10](#)

NEWS: Health Care in Wisconsin

Use the links below to access recent news on health care and coverage in Wisconsin:

- [Demand for public aid swamps staff; For needy in \[Milwaukee\] county, cutbacks mean long waits - Ellen Gabler for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, January 15](#)
- [Prescription Discount Card Saves Racine County Residents More Than \\$10,000 In Less Than Two Months - Office of the County Executive, Racine County, January 15](#)
- [Hraychuck and Garthwaite Author Bill to Create Tax Credits for Medical Assistance Providers - Wisconsin Assembly Media Advisory, January 14](#)
- [EDITORIAL: Lack of health plan kills 100,000 a year - the Wausau Daily Herald, January 13](#)
- [County Residents Saved More Than \\$126,000 On Prescription Drugs Through The End Of 2007 - Milwaukee County, January 11](#)
- [Legislator targets drug prices; Bill would eliminate minimum markup law - Guy Boulton for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, December 31, 2007](#)
- [Clinic hires 6 bilingual doctors - Georgia Pabst for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, December 28, 2007](#)
- [Medicaid computer price tag now tops \\$64 million; Original cost for tardy state system \\$32 million - Patrick Marley for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, December 28, 2007](#)
- [Health plan for all takers outlined; Insurance would cover pre-existing medical conditions - Rick Romell for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, December 20, 2007](#)
- [Underinsured pay both ways; High health-care deductibles bring bills for doctor visits and premiums - Guy Boulton for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, December 17, 2007](#)

NEWS: Health Care & the 2008 Election

Use the links below to navigate recent articles on health care in the 2008 election process:

- [2008 Presidential Candidate Health Care Proposals: Side-by-Side Summary - prepared by the Kaiser Family Foundation with the assistance of Health Policy Alternatives, Inc. Allows](#)

wispubhealth@mch-hotlines.org
or [visit their website](#).

Links of Interest

Catalyst Center – A national center dedicated to improving health care insurance and financing for CYSHCN.

www.hdwg.org/

The Commonwealth Fund – A private foundation working toward a high performance health system. <http://www.cmwf.org>

Cover the Uninsured Week – CTUW 2008: April 27-May 3.

<http://covertheuninsuredweek.org>

Family Voices– Speaking on behalf of CYSHCN.

www.familyvoices.org

Kaiser Family Foundation – A non-profit, private operating foundation focusing on the major health care issues facing the nation. www.kff.org/

Parent to Parent USA – A national non-profit organization committed to assuring access and quality in Parent to Parent support across the country.

www.p2pusa.org

If you have any suggestions on websites or other resources that you have found helpful, please send them to Nora Foshager at nfoshager@safetyweb.org.

you to compare up to 4 at a time, and you can choose from 5 Democratic candidates' and 7 Republican candidates' plans. Information is compiled from candidates' Web sites, speeches, debates, and news reports. Updated regularly.

NEWS: Health Care Reform

Follow the links below to access recent news articles on reforming the health care system:

- [AMA ads target healthcare reform - Jeffrey Young for *The Hill*, January 9](#)
- [Court gives San Francisco health plan a boost - Bob Egelko for the *San Francisco Chronicle*, January 4](#)
- [Part of S.F. Health Care Plan Tossed Out - Lisa Leff for the *Associated Press/San Francisco Chronicle*, December 27, 2007](#)
- [Value-Based Health Care Approach May Be Cost-Effective: The Promise of Health Care Cost Containment - A. Garber, D.P. Goldman, and A.B. Jena for *Health Affairs*, Volume 26, Number 6, Nov/Dec 2007, pages 1545-1547](#)

NEWS: Covering Children

Follow the links below to access recent news articles on children's care and coverage:

- [Bush approves SCHIP extension - Ben Feller for the *Associated Press*, December 30, 2007](#)
- [Children's health insurance sees setbacks in '07 - the *Associated Press/USA Today*, December 25, 2007](#)

NEWS: Health Care Costs & Access

Click on the links below to access recent news articles on health care costs and access:

- [Insurers Stop Paying for Care Linked to Errors - Vanessa Fuhrmans for the *Wall Street Journal*, January 15](#)
- [How employers save on health care: auditing workers - Katherine Reynolds Lewis for *Newhouse News Service/Houston Chronicle*, January 12](#)
- [A Safety-Net Hospital Falls Into Financial Crisis - Shaila Dewan and Kevin Sack for *The New York Times*, January 8](#)
- [EDITORIAL: No Insurance, Poor Health - *The New York Times*, January 3](#)
- [Study: Free drug samples for to wealthy, insured - Liz Szabo for *USA Today*, January 2](#)
- [Court curbs insurers' ability to rescind medical policies; A ruling restricts the ability of California health plans to cancel](#)

[coverage after patients run up medical bills - Lisa Girion for the *Los Angeles Times*, December 25](#)

NEWS: Medicaid

Follow the links below to access recent articles on Medicaid:

- [Proposed Rule to Allow Medicaid Beneficiaries to Control Personal Assistance Services - DisabilityInfo.gov, January 14](#)
- [U.S. Curtailing Bids to Expand Medicaid Rolls - Robert Pear for *The New York Times*, January 4](#)

■ CKSN Corner ■

Covering Kids with Special Needs



Contact Us

We need your help to develop content and tips for our bi-weekly HWW Update. Please let us know about your ideas, events, or success stories. Email your suggestions to nfoshager@safetyweb.org or call (800) 585-4222 ext. 204. If you would like to submit news and information for future HWW Updates, please send it to the attention of Nora Foshager. All submissions should be limited to 150 words.

HealthWatch Wisconsin Update Staff

Wisconsin First Step Help Book 2008: A Directory of Services for Children with Special Needs

Five regional directories are available, each serving specific counties in Wisconsin. The directories are produced in "real time" with the most up-to-date information available at the time of downloading. To access the directories, go to www.mch-hotlines.org.

For information or assistance in downloading the directories, please contact Teresa Halverson or Karen Brandt at Wisconsin First Step: 1-800-642-7837 or wispubhealth@mch-hotlines.org.

2007-2008 Statewide Autism Training - Wisconsin DPI

- January 30-31, 2008: Basic Level - Green Bay
- April 8-9, 2008: Advanced Level, Addressing Challenging

Bobby Peterson
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 Shelly Flanders
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Behavior - Madison

For more information, contact Jeanne Hook at jeanne.hook@dpi.state.wi.us or 608-266-3928 or Lynn Boreson at lynn.boreson@dpi.state.wi.us or 608-266-1218, or visit <http://dpi.state.wi.us/sped/autism.html>.

New address

ABC for Health, Inc. has moved.

ABC for Health, Inc.
 32 N. Bassett St.
 Madison, WI 53703-2606

ABC for Health, Inc. is a Wisconsin-based, nonprofit public interest law firm dedicated to linking children and families, particularly those with special health care needs, to health care benefits and services. ABC for Health's mission is to provide information, advocacy tools, legal services, and expert support needed to obtain, maintain, and finance health care coverage and services.



(608)261-6939
info@safetyweb.org

If you know someone who might be interested, please [Forward this Newsletter >>](#)

Mark Your Calendars Now

Three Excellent Conferences in 2008!

- 2008 Rehabilitation and Transition Conference: Blast Off... To the Stars!** – This event will be held April 9-11, 2008, at the American Club in Kohler. This annual event is Wisconsin's premiere conference for rehabilitation and transition professionals. [Click here](#) for conference updates.
- ASW 2008 Annual Conference** - This event will be held May 1-3, 2008, at the Regency Suite/ KI Convention Center in Green Bay. The full conference program will be available in February. [Click here](#) to fill out the registration form before December 31st and receive the special early bird registration fee.
- International Conference on Self-Determination -** This event will be held May 27-29, 2008, at the Renaissance Center in Detroit, Michigan. A pre-conference workshop will be held on Tuesday, May 27 from 9:00 am-4:00 pm. The topics will be: Income and Asset Development and International Communication and Information Sharing. This conference is dedicated to laying a foundation across disability and aging for moving publicly funded systems of support/care from the paternalism of the past to true equality in the future. It will feature international perspectives on progressive notions of recovery, family supports, community membership, ending forced impoverishment and system change requirements. Visit www.self-determination.com for more information or [click here](#) to view an informative PDF. E-mail info.icsd@gmail.com with questions.

Support Our Efforts!

You can donate to ABC through our website. Follow the link below, then click on the button in the lower left-hand corner of our homepage that says "Make a Donation." We greatly appreciate your generous donations, which go towards helping to maintain ABC for Health, Inc. and our many projects, including HealthWatch

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