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A Project of ABC for Health, Inc.
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Volume 5, Number 1

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Mark Your Calendars Now

Produce your own webcast! Rent the ABC for Health Studio!

Support Our Efforts!

Coalition Meetings by County

Barron: February 3,
1:00-2:00pm. Barron County
Workforce Resource, Inc., 331 S.
Main St., Ste. 6, Rice
Lake. Contact Mike Rust at (715)
485-8525 or miker@co.polk.wi.us
with questions.

Chippewa: March 10, 10:45am-
12:00pm. Chippewa County
Courthouse, Room 121, 711 N.

HealthWatch Wisconsin Update

Please click here to view the PDF version on our Web site.

BREAKING NEWS: BC+ Core Plan for Childless Adults Expected to Start July 1, 2009!

Please see the section below on the Hospital Assessment Proposal that was released by the Doyle Administration.

Register Today for the 2nd Annual HealthWatch Wisconsin Conference!

Learn about the new BC+ Core Plan for Childless Adults! The program is expected to start in July of 2009!



Enjoy two days of learning as experts from across Wisconsin share resources, tips and strategies for working with Wisconsin's health care consumers. Network with agencies, providers, academics and legislators in a setting committed to assuring a more sufficient, competent and coordinated public health workforce.

[Click here](#) to visit our 2009 Conference Web Site, to register online using Paypal or to download a registration form.

Special Sessions will dive into timely topics such as:

- The BadgerCare Plus Core Plan for Childless Adults
- The Future of Health Care Coverage in Wisconsin and Across the United States
- A Look at BadgerCare Plus--One Year Later
- Cultural Competency in Service Delivery, Outreach and Advocacy
- A Panel Discussion with Key Wisconsin Legislators (*Back by popular demand!*)
- ...and much more! [Click here](#) to view our updated conference agenda.

Conference Dates: Monday, February 9, 2009, 1:00pm-4:30pm
(Evening Reception 6:00pm-8:00pm)
Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 8:30am-4:30pm

Bridge St., Chippewa Falls.

Contact Rose Marsh at

1-800-400-3678 or

rmarsh@co.chippewa.wi.us with questions.

Dane: February 2, 9:00-11:00am.

Campus Community Partnerships,

2300 S. Park St., Ste. 1B,

Madison. Contact Nora Foshager

at (608) 261-6939, ext. 204 or

nfoshager@safetyweb.org with questions.

Dunn: February 11, 11:45am-

1:00pm. Red Cedar Medical

Center (Education Center), 2321

Stout Rd., Menomonie. Contact

Patrick Rebman at (715)

233-7309 or

rebman.patrick@mayo.edu with questions.

Eau Claire: March

5, 12:00-1:30pm. Luther Hospital

Cafeteria, Dining Room 1, 1221

Whipple St., Eau Claire. Contact

Lou Kelsey at (715) 834-4455 or

lkelseyefww@sbcglobal.net or Pat

Perkins at (715) 839-4718 or

pat.perkins@co.eau-claire.wi.us

with questions.

Milwaukee: February 11,

10:00am-12:00pm. Aurora Family

Services, 3200 W. Highland Blvd.,

Milwaukee. Contact Kari

Mattson at (414) 449-4777, ext.

145 or

karim@communityadvocates.net

with questions.

Milwaukee CHASE (Children's Health Access for the Special and Equal): February 19,

11:30am-1:30pm. ARC of

Milwaukee, 7203 W. Center St.,

Milwaukee. Contact Brad Holman

at (414) 266-3189 or

bholman@chw.org with

questions.

Polk: February 5, 10:45am-

12:00pm (lunch included). Polk

County Health Department,

Conference Room A & B, 100 Polk

County Plaza, Balsam

Lake. Contact Mike Rust at (715)

485-8525 or miker@co.polk.wi.us

with questions.

Coalitions Under Development

Price: Register for one day only or both days! Prices range from \$20 to \$215. Be sure to select the appropriate box on the registration form. We are working to include Continuing Education Credits for most professionals! Questions? Call Brynne at 608-261-6939 ext. 210.

Location: Best Western Inn on the Park, 22 S. Carroll Street, Madison, WI

Parking: Parking will be available on a first come, first serve basis. For additional parking options in Madison, please [click here](#).

Register Early! Registration is open now through February 1, 2009. *Any registrations received on or after February 2, 2009 will be subject to a late fee.* As always, there is a deep discount for registered members of HealthWatch Wisconsin - you pay *less than half* the regular conference fee! **Group Discounts**

Available: Register with your co-workers! For every 10 individuals registered from your agency or organization, you will receive 2 free conference registrations!

Visit www.healthwatchwisconsin.org to register, view information about the Conference, and learn about HealthWatch Wisconsin.

A Start Date for New BC+ Core Plan for Childless Adults??

BREAKING NEWS: Hospital Assessment Proposal Includes July 1, 2009 Start Date for BC+ Core Plan for Childless Adults

The new Hospital Assessment Proposal, developed by the Doyle Administration, is slated to be introduced before the state legislature for consideration as soon as possible. The bill is expected to pass the Senate and the Assembly, both of which are Democrat-controlled. Pending approval of the proposal, DHS will begin accepting applications statewide for BadgerCare Plus Core Plan for Childless Adults on June 1, 2009, and benefits for those deemed eligible will begin July 1, 2009.

Please click on the following links for news articles about the hospital assessment proposal:

- ["Hospital Assessment Proposal Unveiled, Wisconsin" - Medical News TODAY, January 15](#)
- ["Doyle revives hospital tax plan to bring in more federal aid" - Steven Walters and Stacy Forster for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, January 14](#)
- ["WMC Pleased with Doyle Plan to Attract Federal Funds" - press release from Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce, January 14](#)
- ["Democrats Make a Bee-Line for the 'Last Resort'" - State Senator Neal Kedzie \(R-Elkhorn\), January 14](#)

Please [click here](#) to read the press release from DHS.

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

SAVE THE DATE!

The 2nd Annual **HealthWatch Wisconsin Conference** will be held February 9-10, 2009, at the Best Western Inn on the Park in Madison. The theme for 2009 is **BadgerCare Plus Expansion for Childless Adults**.

Registration is now open! Visit [the 2009 conference Web site](#) for more information and to register online or to download a registration form.

Other Meeting Notices

Symposium on Adolescent Health Issues - This conference will be held February 5-6, 2009 at the Best Western Bridgewood Resort and Conference Center in Neenah. To view a conference brochure, please [click here](#). For questions, please contact the Office of Continuing Education at 920-424-1129 or visit www.uwosh.edu/cont_ed. To register online, please visit www.peopleware.net/222115; the deadline is January 28.

Is Immigration a Health Issue? A Forum for Community Health Professionals and Policy Makers - February 12, 3:00-5:00pm. CORE/EI Centro, 611 W. National Ave., Milwaukee. Presented by the Milwaukee Latino Health Coalition. Panelists: Rebecca Lopez (Office of U.S. Senator Russ Feingold), Jessica Cavazos (Office of Congresswoman Gwen Moore), Katie Gaulin (Community Advocates), Steve Ohly (Walker's Point Community Clinic), Voces de

Please [click here](#) to read an executive summary of the proposal.

Please [click here](#) to read a letter from DHS Secretary Karen Timberlake.

Please [click here](#) to read the statement of support from the WI Hospital Association.

Case Tip: Correcting a Newborn's Start Date of Eligibility for BC+

Obtaining health care coverage for a newborn baby is typically a high priority for moms. Knowing that your baby has BadgerCare Plus coverage is very comforting, but getting a hospital bill for this newborn's hospital stay can be quite a shock.

What should a mother on BC+ do to secure health care coverage promptly for her newborn? The process may start with a call to her Economic Support (ES) worker to inform them that a baby has been born. If she makes that phone call and STILL receives a bill for her baby's delivery and other costs, there may be problems with her baby's **start date of eligibility**.

Usually, a newborn added to BadgerCare Plus will have a start date of eligibility that coincides with his or her birth date. If these two dates (the start date of eligibility and the baby's birth date) do not match, a phone call or voicemail message to the family's ES worker/case worker asking that the baby's coverage be "backdated to his/her date of birth" is usually enough to correct the problem.

EXAMPLE: Jane, a mother with BadgerCare Plus coverage, gave birth to a baby boy, Nathan, on December 12, 2008. She contacted her caseworker to properly add the baby to BadgerCare Plus coverage. In January, she got Nathan's ForwardHealth Card and a notice saying Nathan was determined eligible for BadgerCare Plus. Not long after, Jane got a bill for Nathan's hospital expenses for his December 12-14 stay. Since Nathan has BadgerCare Plus, Jane was stunned that she got a bill. She called her case worker to make sure Nathan's coverage began on his date of birth. She requested that the caseworker backdate Nathan's coverage to December 12, 2008.

Two New Ops Memos Relating to BC+

[Operations Memo 08-56: Extension of BadgerCare Plus Transitional Grandfather Eligibility](#)

Effective immediately, the BC+ Transitional Grandfathered (BCPT) Program has been extended to July 31, 2009 (release date of Ops Memo was 12/30/08). Originally, the BCPT Program was supposed to end January 31, 2009.

[Operations Memo 08-53: BC+ Prenatal Program and Continuously Eligible Newborns](#)

Starting January 1, 2009 children born to women on BC+ Prenatal are eligible for Continuously Eligible Newborn coverage.

New Medicaid Eligibility Handbook

la Frontera. RSVP to (414)
386-2673 by February 4.

Launching Maternal & Child Health: Opportunities for a New Era - This annual conference, hosted by the Association of Maternal and Child Health, will be held February 21-25, 2009 at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, 2660 Woodley Road, NW, in Washington, DC. To learn more about the conference or to register, please visit www.amchp.org/events. Questions? Please contact Helen Cedenio at hcedeno@amchp.org or 202-775-0436.

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

Released

The MEH Release 09-01 was made January 15, 2009, is effective January 1, 2009, and include COLA updates. The full Medicaid Eligibility Handbook is available [online](#).

Specialized Training Opportunities

Sponsor a BadgerCare Plus training in your community! [Click here](#) for more information.

Help HealthWatch Wisconsin develop a new web-based training format for Wisconsin's public health workforce! [Click here](#) for more information.

NEWS: Health Care in Wisconsin

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

- ["Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Series Examines Issues Related to Financial Ties Between Physicians, Pharmaceutical Industry" - Kaiser Daily Health Policy Report, January 13](#)
- ["Doctors face pressure to disclose all side pay" - John Fauber for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, January 12](#)
- ["Area health-care providers face heavy financial burden: Local hospitals, clinics increasing cost of care" - Sara Boyd for the Green Bay Press Gazette, January 7](#)
- ["State Senator Russ Decker plans to reintroduce Health Wisconsin insurance reform bill this legislative session" - Amy Olson for the Wausau Daily Herald, January 7](#)
- [PRESS RELEASE: "Farmers' Health Cooperative of Wisconsin To \[sic\] offer dental coverage in 2009" - January 5](#)
- ["U.S. spends more on health: Outpatient services driving increase in costs" - Guy Boulton for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, January 4](#)
- [OPINION: "Doyle's ambitious health plan won't control costs for Wisconsin" - business columnist John Torinus for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, December 21](#)

NEWS: Health Care & the Economic Stimulus Package

Follow the links below to access recent news articles on possible economic stimulus for health care:

- ["Summary: American Recovery and Reinvestment" - summary of the House of Representatives plan for an economic recovery bill, January 15](#)
- [NEWS RELEASE: "Health Provisions Among Public's Top Priorities for Economic Stimulus" - Kaiser Family Foundation, January 15](#)
- ["Struggling states cut healthcare for poor before Obama can bolster coverage" - Noam N. Levey for the Los Angeles Times, January 14](#)
- ["States continue spending sprees" - Dennis Cauchon and](#)

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 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.

- [Judy Keen for USA Today, January 13](#)
- ["Business Group Calls for Economic Stimulus Package To Include Health Care Investments" - Kaiser Daily Health Policy Report, January 13](#)
- ["Health IT sector to get multibillion-dollar boost" - Matthew Perrone for the Boston Globe, January 12](#)
- [OP-ED: "Ideas for Obama" - Op-Ed columnist Paul Krugman for The New York Times, January 12](#)
- [EDITORIAL: "The Stimulus Debate" - The New York Times, January 11](#)
- ["COBRA Too Costly for Many Unemployed, Report Finds" - Ceci Connolly for the Washington Post, January 10](#)
- ["Health coverage goes with jobs: Continuing plans of former employers is too costly for unemployed" - Kevin Freking for the Associated Press, January 10](#)
- [OP-ED: "The Leaves Have It" - Op-Ed columnist Gail Collins for The New York Times, January 10](#)
- [OP-ED: "Obama's Biggest Challenge" - Op-Ed columnist Bob Herbert for The New York Times, January 10](#)
- ["COBRA coverage can eat up unemployment checks" - Lindy Washburn for the Bergen Record, January 9](#)
- ["COBRA unaffordable for most families" - Chicago Tribune news blog, January 9](#)
- [OP-ED: "Increase federal matching funds" - Bruce Rueben for the Miami Herald, January 9](#)
- [EDITORIAL: "Growing the bailout" - the San Francisco Chronicle, January 9](#)
- [EDITORIAL: "Barack Obama on right track" - the Boston Herald, January 9](#)
- [EDITORIAL: "The spending side" - The Hill, January 8](#)
- ["Stimulus to offer health subsidies for jobless, senator says: COBRA would allow more to stay insured" - Lisa Wangsness for the Boston Globe, January 7](#)
- ["Obama Pushes States to Cover More Unemployed" - Jonathan Weisman for The Wall Street Journal, January 7](#)
- ["Health care could nab \\$100B payday" - Chris Frates for the Politico, January 7](#)
- ["How to Craft A \[sic\] Stimulus" - Ruth Marcus for the Washington Post, January 7](#)
- ["An economic game plan emerges" - David Rogers for the Politico, January 6](#)
- ["Stimulus, health reform top broad AARP agenda" - Jeffrey Young for The Hill, January 6](#)
- ["Top Democrats Give Longer Timetable for Stimulus Bill" - Shailagh Murray for the Washington Post, January 5](#)
- ["Obama Considers Major Expansion in Aid to Jobless" - Jackie Calmes and Carl Hulse for The New York Times, January 4](#)

NEWS: Health Care and the Presidential Transition

Visit the links below to access recent news about the transition to the Obama administration and what it means for health care:

- ["Obama, Reid take dead aim at Medicare HMOs" - Jeffrey](#)

Previous Issues of the Update:

(in PDF form)

[December 15](#)

[December 1](#)

[November 15](#)

[November 1](#)

[October 15](#)

[October 1](#)

[September 15](#)

[September 1](#)

[August 15](#)

[August 1](#)

All other issues can be viewed on our website at www.healthwatchwisconsin.org, under the "HWW Update" heading.

HealthWatch WatchDog Episode Archive:

Season 1, Episode 1: ["Advocacy Strategies"](#)

Season 1, Episode 2: ["HIRSP"](#)

The following episodes are available for HealthWatch Wisconsin members only. Join today to gain full access! To become a member, please visit www.healthwatchwisconsin.org.

Episode 3 "ACCESS"

Episode 4 "Health Care Reform"

Episode 5 "Birth Cost Recovery"

Episode 6 "The Functional Screen"

Episode 7 "Back-to-School"

Episode 8 "Duplicative Service

Young for *The Hill*, January 14

- ["Anti-Smoking Advocate Is Named to Health Post" - Robert Pear for *The New York Times*, January 14](#)
- ["Deficit might shift priorities in short term, Obama says: Wants to fix Social Security and Medicare" - Lisa Wangness for the *Boston Globe*, January 12](#)
- [OP-ED: "Obama's Health-Care Headache" - Op-Ed columnist Robert J. Samuelson for the *Washington Post*, January 12](#)
- [OP-ED: "A Dubious 'Fix' for US Health Care" - Op-Ed columnist Grace-Marie Turner for the *New York Post*, January 12](#)
- [COMMENTARY: "A high court of health" - Robert Moffit for the *Washington Times*, January 12](#)
- ["Obama: Cost-Cutting Targets to Include 'Medicare Advantage' Program" - Adriel Bettelheim for *CQ Politics*, January 11](#)
- [OUTLOOK: "We All Want Longer, Healthier Lives. But It's Going to Cost Us." - David Brown for the *Washington Post*, January 11](#)
- ["Daschle Lays Out a Plan to Overhaul Health Care" - Robert Pear for *The New York Times*, January 9](#)
- ["Daschle to Face Tough Questions on Competition in Health Insurance" - Robert Pear for *The New York Times*, January 8](#)
- ["With More Oversight on the Horizon, Drugmakers Work to Polish Image" - Ceci Connolly for the *Washington Post*, January 8](#)
- [OPINION: "What Medicaid Tells Us About Government Health Care: Why would Obama want to build on a system with poor outcomes?" - Scott Gottlieb for the *Wall Street Journal*, January 8](#)
- ["TV's Gupta Chosen for Medical Post: Pick for Surgeon General Brings Communication Skill" - Ceci Connolly and Howard Kurtz for the *Washington Post*, January 7](#)
- [OPINION: "The GOP Should Fight Health-Care Rationing" - Tom Price for *The Wall Street Journal*, January 7](#)
- [OP-ED: "The Risks in Obama's Ambitions" - Michael Gerson for the *Washington Post*, January 7](#)
- [EDITORIAL: "Mr. Bush's Health Care Legacy" - *The New York Times*, January 3](#)
- ["Obama Team Engages Public on Health Care: Daschle Visits Indiana for Grass-Roots Forum" - Ceci Connolly for the *Washington Post*, December 30](#)
- ["Millions await Obama's action on health insurance" - Michael Vitez for the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, December 30](#)
- [OPINION: "Obama Will Ration Your Health Care: Think of his health plan as a federal HMO" - Sally C. Pipes for *The Wall Street Journal*, December 30](#)
- [EDITORIAL: "Reasons for Hope: Helping the uninsured" - the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, December 29](#)

NEWS: Health Care Reform

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

- [EDITORIAL: "Give consumers alternative to private medical](#)

Denials"

Episode 9 "Private Health Insurance"

Episode 10 "Coalition Building"

Episode 11 "Economic Stimulus"

Episode 12 "COBRA"

Visit the HealthWatch WatchDog webpage at www.healthwatchwisconsin.org. Just click on "HW WatchDog" from the menu on the left.

[insurance; Public plan could provide better service and benefits at lower cost."](#) - *USA Today*, January 13

- [OP-ED: "Opposing view: Don't crowd out insurers"](#) - Robert Moffit for *USA Today*, January 13
- ["Republican Task Force To Lead GOP Health Care Reform Efforts"](#) - Kaiser Daily Health Policy Report, January 13
- ["New Television Ad Links Health Reform to Economic Recovery"](#) - Kaiser Daily Health Policy Report, January 9
- ["Window of Opportunity?"](#) - Drew Altman, PhD, President and CEO of Kaiser Family Foundation, January 7
- [OP-ED: "Dr. Leavitt's Scary Diagnosis"](#) - George F. Will for the *Washington Post*, January 1
- ["Orszag's Health Warning: Obama's budget chief delivers a reality check on costs."](#) - *Wall Street Journal*, December 29
- [OPINION: "Care is a primary concern: Health care reform won't work without efficient delivery and additional primary care physicians"](#) - Victor J. Dzau for *The News & Observer*, December 28
- [OP-ED: "Health Care With a Few Bucks Left Over"](#) - Op-Ed contributor Alain Enthoven for *The New York Times*, December 28
- [COMMENTARY: "Avoiding health-care chaos"](#) - Michael Cannon for the *Washington Times*, December 28
- [EDITORIAL: "Health care reform"](#) - the *Baltimore Sun*, December 26
- [OPINION: "Health Insurance Companies Cannot Be Trusted to Reform System"](#) - Weisman for the *Providence Journal*, December 23
- [OPINION: "Four steps can heal health care"](#) - Stuart Butler for the *Washington Times*, December 18

NEWS: Covering Children

Visit the links below to read recent news articles about the State Children's Health Insurance Program (S-CHIP):

- ["House Votes to Expand Children's Health Care"](#) - Robert Pear for *The New York Times*, January 15
- ["House Set to Pass Child Health Bill"](#) - Shailagh Murray and Ceci Connolly for the *Washington Post*, January 14
- ["Congress Set to Renew Health Care for Children"](#) - Robert Pear for *The New York Times*, January 13
- ["Children's Health Bill Aids Legal Immigrants"](#) - Laura Meckler for the *Wall Street Journal*, January 13
- ["Democrats set vote to tighten health gap: Party hopes to give Obama early victory on SCHIP"](#) - Sean Lengell for the *Washington Times*, January 12
- ["Congress Takes Up Children's Health Program -- Again"](#) - Carl Hulse for *The Caucus: The New York Times Politics Blog*, January 12
- [OP-ED: "Cover the Children"](#) - E. J. Dionne Jr. for the *Washington Post*, January 12
- [OPINION: "Cigarette Tax Should Not Be Used to Fund Children's Health Care"](#) - Kerpen for the *Washington Times*, January 2

NEWS: Health Care Costs & Access

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

- ["Big Health Insurer Agrees to Update Its Fee Data" - Danny Hakim and Reed Abelson for *The New York Times*, January 13](#)
- ["Oklahoma Expands 'Insure Oklahoma' To Include More Small Businesses, College Students" - Kaiser Daily Health Policy Reports, January 13](#)
- ["Cost Sharing for Health Care: France, Germany, and Switzerland" - Kaiser Family Foundation Issue Brief, January 12](#)
- ["Ruling removes billing headache from emergency room visits: Patients can't be billed when their HMOs fail to pay, the California Supreme Court says. Doctors say they're being squeezed." - Lisa Giron for the *Los Angeles Times*, January 9](#)
- [EDITORIAL: "Behind the Health Spending Data" - *The New York Times*, January 8](#)
- ["Blue Shield of California To Reinstate Coverage for 678 Residents" - Kaiser Daily Health Policy Reports, January 7](#)
- ["Spending Rise for Health Care and Prescription Drugs Slows" - Robert Pear for *The New York Times*, January 6](#)
- ["More Americans getting multiple chronic illnesses" - Will Dunham for the *Boston Globe*, January 6](#)
- ["Report: Tween and teen years help shape health" - from the Associated Press, January 6](#)
- ["Jobless turn to health lifeline" - Kay Lazar for the *Boston Globe*, December 28](#)

NEWS: Medical Debt

Use the links below to access a recent news series on medical debt from Kaiser Health News/*Washington Post*:

- ["Seeing Red: The Rising Costs of Care And \[sic\] a Failing Economy Drive More Americans Into Medical Debt" - Sandra G. Boodman, January 13](#)
- ["The Bills Pile Up" - Sandra G. Boodman, January 13](#)
- ["Insured but in Debt" - Sandra G. Boodman, January 13](#)
- ["Bankrupt and Banned" - Sandra G. Boodman, January 13](#)
- ["Even With Her Bill Cut in Half, Woman Feels Overwhelmed" - Sandra G. Boodman, January 13](#)
- ["Credit Card Was No Panacea for an Orthodontist's \[sic\] Bill" - Sandra G. Boodman, January 13](#)

Use the links below to access a news series on medical debt from the *Baltimore Sun*:

- ["In their debt: Maryland hospitals have stepped up debt collection, sometimes from the poor, and Gov. O'Malley demands review" - Fred Schulte and James Drew, December 21](#)
- ["Their day in court: Hospital debt collection lawsuits can zoom through the courts, pitting experienced law firms against ill-informed defendants" - Fred Schulte and James Drew, December 22](#)

- ["Loose Rules: Maryland hospitals have fought back efforts by lawmakers to tighten the oversight of their collection policies" - James Drew and Fred Schulte, December 23](#)
- ["Tighter hospital control sought: Lawmaker, judge look at ways to ease debt burden on poor" - Fred Schulte and James Drew, December 24](#)

NEWS: Medicaid

Click on the links below to access recent news articles on Medicaid:

- ["Rising Unemployment, Medicaid, and the Uninsured" - Kaiser Family Foundation Policy Brief, January 9](#)
- ["States Cut Medicaid Coverage Further" - Amy Goldstein for the *Washington Post*, December 26](#)

Featured Link: Wisconsin Women's Health Guide in Spanish

Guía de salud para la mujer de Wisconsin

Mujeres más sanas. Un Wisconsin más sano.

The guide provides general information on a variety of women's health topics and a list of health services for each of Wisconsin's 72 counties. Among the 44 categories of services and resources listed, readers will find contact information for transportation providers, long-term care assistance, child care assistance, job centers, public libraries, and community action agencies - all in Spanish!

Please [click here](#) to view an electronic copy of the new guide online.

The guide is now available to the public and Wisconsin health care and social service providers. All providers listed in the guide will automatically be receiving a copy. For information about ordering copies of the guide, please contact Sara Finger at (866) 399-9294.

■ **CKSN Corner** ■
Covering Kids with Special Needs



Three Great CYSHCN Resources

- **Wisconsin First Step Help Book 2009: A Directory of Services for Children with Special Needs** - Directories are now available online - please [click here](#). Five regional directories are available, each serving specific counties in Wisconsin. They are produced in "real-time" with the most up-to-date information provided at the time of download. 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.
- **Materials on Self-Determination for Youth with Disabilities** - Please [click here](#) for materials from Virginia, including lesson plans for teachers, checklists and assessments, and resources for families and students, among others.
- **Resource Page on the New ADA Amendment Act** - Please [click here](#) for this resource page from the Job Accommodation Network (JAN).

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
Bobby Peterson
bobbyp@safetyweb.org

Mark Your Calendars Now

Six Excellent Events in 2009!

- **Autism Trainings** - These trainings will be held from November 14-April 24 at MATC-Madison's Downtown Education Center, 211 N. Carroll St. Trainings can be taken as a series, or attendees can pick and choose ones that match their interests. For more information, please [click here](#) to view a PDF brochure with a list of classes and a registration form - space is limited!
- **6th Annual Wisconsin Transition Conference** - This event will be held January 22-23 at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells. The pre-conference will be held January 21. [Click here](#) to view a PDF copy of the conference brochure which includes details on conference sectional offerings. Questions? Contact Lisa Hebgren at 608-574-0355 or lhebgren@swtc.edu.
- **Regional Transition Advisory Council Meetings** - These meetings will go over the DHFS/DVR/DPI inter-agency agreement and will be set up as discussion sessions. They will be held from 9:00am-noon in several

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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.



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regions. Registration is free and can be done online at www.wsti.org up to one week before each session; any questions regarding registration should be directed to Kay Fitzgerald, kfitzgerald@cesa11.k12.wi.us or 715-986-2020, ext. 2131. Contact your Pathways Regional Coordinator or Allison Lourash at Allison.Lourash@wisconsin.gov or 715-884-1999 with any other questions. Meetings will be held:

- Appleton - January 29, at Fox Valley Technical College, 1825 N. Bluemound Drive, Building Entrance #13, Room C140,
 - West Salem - February 2, at CESA 4, 923 East Garland Street,
 - Wautoma - February 5, at the Waushara County Courthouse, Demonstration Room, 209 S. St. Marie St., and
 - Milwaukee - February 10, at the Tommy Thompson Youth Center, 640 S. 84th St in West Allis.
- **2009 "Did You Know? Now You Know!"** - Family Voices is planning its trainings across the state. Registration and contact information is available on the [Family Voices Web site](#). Here is a list of upcoming trainings for the winter and spring:
 - Manitowoc: February 4 and 11 (9:00am-2:30pm)
 - Wausau: February 5, 12, and 26 (5:00-8:00pm)
 - Portage: March 3 and 10 (4:30-9:00pm)
 - Green Bay: March 21 and April 18 (9:00am-2:30pm)
 - Black River Falls: March 27 and April 24 (9:00am-2:30pm)
 - **Circles of Life 2009** - This event will be held April 30-May 1 at the Marriott Madison West. Visit the 2009 conference site at www.wfv.org/circle.
 - **Welcome to My World: A Spectrum of Perspectives - ASW 2009 Annual Conference** - This event will be held May 7-9, 2009 at the Kalahari Resort & Convention Center in Wisconsin Dells. To get the early bird rate, ASW must receive your registration before December 31, 2008. The final registration deadline is April 3, 2009. For more information about the conference and to download a PDF registration form, please visit www.asw4autism.org. Questions? Email jpribek@asw4autism.org or call 920-973-4080.

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