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A Project of ABC for Health, Inc.
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Coalition Meetings by County

Barron: TBA. Barron County Workforce Resource, Inc., 331 S. Main Street, Suite 6 in Rice Lake. Contact Mike Rust at (715) 485-8525 or miker@co.polk.wi.us with questions.

Chippewa: Jan. 13, 10:45am-12:00pm. Chippewa County Courthouse, Room 121, 711 N. Bridge St., Chippewa Falls. Contact Rose Marsh at 1-800-400-3678 or rmrsh@co.chippewa.wi.us with questions.

Dane: Dec. 1, 9:00-11:00am. Harambee Center, 2202 S. Park St.,

HealthWatch Wisconsin Update

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

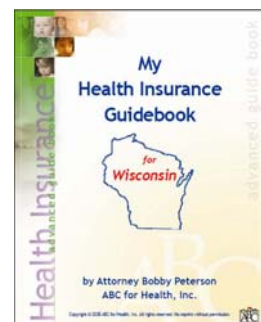
Provide Input on the Next State Health Plan

Lend your ideas, perspective and opinions to develop public health policy for the next decade. Wisconsin's Department of Health Services states, "Healthiest Wisconsin 2020 will become the policy roadmap to protect health and safety, eliminate inequalities in health, and transform our public health system to achieve our shared vision of Healthy People in Healthy and Safe Wisconsin Communities."

Participate by attending the last Community Engagement Forum on November 20 in Wausau, or by sending your comments via email to DHSHW2020@wisconsin.gov.

Comprehensive Guidebooks and Publications Distributed to HealthWatch Wisconsin Members

This past week, members of HealthWatch Wisconsin experienced one of the great benefits of membership - **10 comprehensive guidebooks and publications**. Distributed electronically, members can enjoy books specializing on medical debt, public benefits and private insurance, as well as efficient program charts.



HealthWatch Wisconsin members will also receive a substantial discount at our upcoming 2009 HealthWatch Wisconsin Conference. Watch your inbox for more event details. [Click here](#) to view the "Save the Date" card with more information.

It's not too late to receive these member benefits by joining

Madison. Contact Nora Foshager at (608) 261-6939 ext. 204 or nfoshager@safetyweb.org with questions.

Dunn: Feb. 11, 11:45am-1:00pm. Red Cedar Medical Center (Education Center). Contact Patrick Rebman at (715) 233-7309 or rebman.patrick@mayo.edu with questions.

Eau Claire: Jan. 8. 12:00-1:30pm. Luther Hospital cafeteria, Dining Room 1, 1221 Whipple St., Eau Claire. Contact Lou Kelsey at (715) 834-4455 or lkelseyfww@sbcglobal.net or Pat Perkins at (715) 839-4718 or pat.perkins@co.eau-claire.wi.us with questions.

Milwaukee: Dec. 10, 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 - Nov. 20, 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: TBA. Polk County Health Department in Balsam Lake, conference room A & B. Contact Mike Rust at (715) 485-8525 or miker@co.polk.wi.us with questions.

Coalitions Under Development

La Crosse: Contact Lindsey Schwarz at (608) 785-5841 or Schwarz.lindsey@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**.

Please [click here](#) to view a Save the

HealthWatch Wisconsin! [Click Here](#) for more information.

Case Tip: Instant Verification

For many, the act of filling out the BadgerCare Plus application is merely the first step in a lengthy process to getting health care coverage. To streamline the application process, applicants should consider submitting the following two verification forms, verifying income and employer-sponsored health insurance, along with their application. This "legwork" up front will prevent delays in processing the application and will prevent a series of notices and requests for verification down the line.

To access those verification forms, please visit the following links:

- Employment Verification of Earnings: <http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/forms/F1/F10146.doc>
- Employer Verification of Health Insurance: <http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/forms/F1/F10155.doc>

If an applicant applied online, they can write down the tracking number they are given once they hit "submit" on that online application form. The applicant can write that number on the top of *each verification form* they submit to their economic support worker.

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.

Shelly's Section

In my everyday work as the HealthWatch Wisconsin Update editor, I talk with interesting people, discover exciting video and web content, and learn about helpful reminders for complicated programs. In this section of the Update, I share my findings with you!

This edition, it's post election time!

Now is the time to let president-elect Barack Obama know that you want health care reform to be a top priority for his administration. To view Obama's health care plan from his campaign Web site, please [click here](#). Also, you can visit his

Date card. They will be emailed soon, so watch your inbox! Stay tuned for more information in the HWW Update or visit www.healthwatchwisconsin.org.

Other Meeting Notices

CKF Fall Coalition Meeting - This meeting is free to attend and will be held November 18, 9am-3pm at Goodman Atwood Community Center, 149 Waubesa St. in Madison. To register online and view an agenda, please visit the meeting Web site at <http://www.ckfwi.org/fallmeeting.htm>. For more information, please contact Jeni Appleby at 608-261-1455 or jlbingen@wisc.edu.

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.

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 Cedeno 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,

transition Web site at <http://change.gov/page/s/yourvision> and submit your comments. With so many different issues and priorities vying for attention, it's important to let the transition team know what you feel is important and worthy of their attention.

NEWS: Health Care in Wisconsin

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

- [State Senate Democrats will try to revive universal health care plan - Steven Walters and Patrick Marley for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, November 12](#)
- [Report says Wisconsin must address lack of primary care doctors - Guy Boulton for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, November 10](#)
- [Health-care advisory referendum passes, but... - George Hesselberg for the *Wisconsin State Journal*, November 9](#)
- [Commissioner welcomes federal expansion to Michelle's Law - Press release from the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance, November 7](#)
- [Group Health ranked eighth in U.S. - David Wahlberg for the *Wisconsin State Journal*, November 7](#)
- [Insurer drops UW Hospital transplant program - David Wahlberg for the *Wisconsin State Journal*, November 3](#)
- [Badger Poll on health care shows dissatisfaction - *The Capital Times*, October 31](#)

NEWS: Health Care Reform

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

- [Maryland Citizens Health Initiative unveils new plan - Karisse Carmack for *The Capital*, November 13](#)
- [Keeping the Health Reform Coalition Together - Drew Altman for the Kaiser Family Foundation, November 11](#)
- [Obama urged to overhaul healthcare, stat - Noam N. Levey for the *Los Angeles Times*, November 11](#)
- [Senator Takes Initiative on Health Care - Robert Pear for the *New York Times*, November 11](#)
- [Health care improvements have to wait awhile - Victoria Colliver for the *San Francisco Chronicle*, November 9](#)
- [OPINION: 3 Steps to wider health care - Bryan A. Liang for the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, November 5](#)

NEWS: Health Care Technology

Use the links below to access recent news on health care technology:

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 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

- [Intel releases at-home health care laptop - redOrbit, November 10](#)

NEWS: Health Care Costs & Access

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

- [U.S. trails other nations in chronic illness care - Will Dunham for Reuters, November 13](#)
- [Some G.M. Retirees are in a Health Care Squeeze - Nick Bunkley for the New York Times, November 9](#)
- [Hospitals See Drop in Paying Patients - Reed Abelson for the New York Times, November 6](#)
- [Low-Wage Workers and Health Care - Kaiser Family Foundation, November 3](#)

NEWS: The Uninsured

Visit the links below to read recent news articles about the uninsured:

- [Campaign to end 2-year insurance gap for disabled - Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar for the Associated Press/San Francisco Chronicle, November 12](#)
- [Doctors study repatriation of uninsured - New York Times, November 10](#)
- [Deported in a coma, saved back in U.S. - Deborah Sontag for the New York Times, November 8](#)

NEWS: Medicaid

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

- [EDITORIAL: Wrong Move at the Wrong Time - New York Times, November 11](#)
- [New U.S. Rules Pares Outpatient Medicaid Services - Robert Pear for the New York Times, November 7](#)

Featured Link: Hospital Compare Tool

The Hospital Compare Tool, created by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), the Department of Health and Human Services, and other members of the Hospital Quality Alliance, is designed help patients research and compare hospitals based on how well these hospitals care for patients

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.

Previous Issues of the Update: (in PDF form)

[November 1](#)

[October 15](#)

[October 1](#)

[September 15](#)

[September 1](#)

[August 15](#)

[August 1](#)

[July 15](#)

[July 1](#)

[June 15](#)

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

with certain medical conditions or surgical procedures and the quality of the care received (as reported in patient surveys).

The tool allows users to compare up to three hospitals at one time and was updated just two months ago, so the information is recent and relevant. To access this valuable resource, please [click here](#).

CKSN Corner

Covering Kids with Special Needs



New Publication: Adolescent Transition from Pediatric to Adult Health Care

A new fact sheet is now available from the National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health.

Written by Margaret McManus, Harriette Fox, Karen O'Connor, Thomas Chapman and Jessie MacKinnon, "[Pediatric Perspectives and Practices on Transitioning Adolescents with Special Needs to Adult Health Care](#)" presents recent data about the gaps in transition support and reasons for these gaps.

Mark Your Calendars Now

Three Excellent Conferences in 2008, and Five in 2009!

- **Family Care Trainings** - The Survival Coalition is sponsoring these trainings, which will be held in several cities throughout Wisconsin. The day session runs from 9am-4pm, and an abbreviated evening session will also be held from 5:30-7:30pm for those not able to attend the day session. Registration is required. Please contact Fil Clissa at 608-698-0333 or fil@tds.net with questions or to request a registration form. Upcoming sessions will be held in the Grant/Richland and Racine/Kenosha areas in the next few months. Stay tuned for details.
- **Autism Trainings** - These trainings will be held from

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 Denials"

Episode 9 "Private Health Insurance"

Episode 10 "Coalition Building"

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

Calling all Volunteers!

Are you a student looking for some valuable, hands-on experience? Are you a professional looking to work on policy issues and health care reform? Contact Brynne at bmcbride@safetyweb.org for more information!

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!

- **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 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:
 - Hayward - December 4, at the Ramada Inn, 10290 State Road 27,
 - Eau Claire - December 5, at the Best Western Trail Lodge, 3340 Mondovi Road,
 - Wausau - January 9, at Northcentral Technical College, Health Sciences Center, 1000 Campus Drive,
 - Jefferson - January 15, at the Jefferson Co Workforce Development Center, 874 Collins Road,
 - 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.
- **Save the Date: 6th Annual Wisconsin Transition Conference** - This event will be held January 22-23 at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells. [Click here](#) to view a PDF copy of the conference brochure or contact Lisa Hebgen at 608-574-0355 or lhebgen@swtc.edu with any questions.
- **Circles of Life 2009** - This event will be held April 30-May 1 at the Marriott Madison West. The Call for Presentations application is now available at [this Web site](#); visit the site for instructions, FAQs, the online application, and other helpful links. The deadline for submissions is October 24. Visit the 2009 conference site at www.wfv.org/circle.
- **Save the Date: ASW 2009 Annual Conference** - This event will be held May 7-9 at the Kalahari Resort & Convention Center in Wisconsin Dells.

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.

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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.



(608)261-6939

info@safetyweb.org

Now Hiring

The State Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) Program was recently awarded a three-year federal grant and, as a result, the Waisman Center will be hiring two new staff workers. Please visit the links below for more information about the positions and how to apply. Questions? Contact Amy Whitehead at Amy.Whitehead@wisconsin.gov or 608-267-3861.

- Project Coordinator:
www.ohr.wisc.edu/pvl/pv_060467.html
- Training and Outreach Coordinator:
www.ohr.wisc.edu/pvl/pv_060465.html

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

ABC for Health has developed a web casting studio with state of the art technology to reach a mass audience in the comforts of their own homes or offices. Agencies and organizations are invited to rent this studio space. [Click here](#) for more information.

Support Our Efforts!

You can donate to ABC through our website. Please visit www.abcforhealth.org, 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 Wisconsin. Thank you!

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