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A Project of ABC for Health, Inc.
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December 1 , 2009

Vol. 5 No. 21

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Coalition Meetings by County

Barron: Next Meeting TBA, 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

HealthWatch Wisconsin Update

Please [click here](#) to view the PDF version on our Web site.

Award Nominations Due This Friday!

Participate in the nomination process for the First Annual HealthWatch Wisconsin Awards! Nominations will be accepted through December 4, 2009! See below for details.

Registration is Now Open! 3rd Annual HealthWatch WI Conference

"Back to Basics: The Proposed BadgerCare Plus Basic"

Join the staff of HealthWatch Wisconsin, ABC for Health, and area experts as we gather for the 3rd Annual HealthWatch Wisconsin Conference **February 8 & 9, 2010**. In addition to a review of the latest health reform news, we will explore the proposed BadgerCare Plus Basic buy-in program, discuss outreach and advocacy strategies for working with Wisconsin's health care consumers, and dig into issues like functional screens, new private health insurance rules, health literacy, and health disparities. Network with agencies, providers, academics, health care journalists, and legislators committed to assuring a more sufficient, competent and coordinated public health workforce.



Location:

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

Conference Dates:

Monday, February 8, 2010, 1:00pm-4:30pm
 (Evening Awards Reception 6:00pm-8:00pm)
 Tuesday, February 9, 2010, 8:30am-4:30pm

REGISTER TODAY!!

[Click Here](#) to Register Online

-or-

Download our Conference [Registration Form](#).

miker@co.polk.wi.us with questions.

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

Dane: December 7, 9:00-11:00am. Harambee Center, 2202 S. Park St., Madison. Contact Erin McBride at (608) 261-6939, ext. 211 or emcbride@safetyweb.org with questions.

Dunn: Next Meeting TBA. 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: January 7, 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: December 9, 9:30am-11:30am. Aurora Family Services, 3200 W. Highland Blvd., Milwaukee. Contact Kari Mattson at (414) 449-4777, ext. 145 or karim@communityadvocates.net or Tanya Atkinson at (414) 289-3749 with questions.

Milwaukee CHASE (Children's Health Access for the Special and Equal): Next Meeting TBA, 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, 10:45am-12:00pm. Polk County Health Department, Conference Room A & B, 100 Polk

Registration is open December 1, 2009 through February 1, 2010. Any registrations on or after February 2, 2010 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! For every 10 individuals registered from your organization, you will receive 2 free conference registrations! *That's 12 for the price of 10!*

Lodging: Conference participants are responsible for their own lodging accommodations. If you plan to stay at the conference hotel either the night of February 7, 8 or 9, please mention the "**HealthWatch Wisconsin Block of Rooms**" to get the discounted room rate of \$94.00 for rooms with one bed (1 to 2 people), \$104.00 for rooms with two beds (1 to 2 people), and \$134.00 for suites. Rates do not include taxes of 5.5% for the state or 9% for the city, if applicable. Hotel check-in time is after 3 p.m. and check-out time is before 12 p.m. Reservations can be made at the Inn on the Park by phone: (608) 285-8000 or (800) 279-8811. The rates quoted above are good for a limited time (through early January, 2010).

Nomination Deadline This Friday for HealthWatch Awards!

We have received some fantastic nominations from our members but we want even more! HealthWatch Wisconsin is seeking nominees for its First Annual HealthWatch Awards, to be delivered at the Third Annual HealthWatch Wisconsin Conference in February 2010. The Council seeks to recognize outstanding work in healthcare advocacy and service in the following categories:

- Advocate of the Year
- Legislator of the Year
- Outstanding Media Coverage Award
- Outstanding Outreach Efforts Award

To nominate someone for an award, send your name and workplace, the nominee's name and workplace, and why you think the nominee deserves to be recognized, in 200 words or less, to bmcbride@safetyweb.org by **Friday, December 4, 2009** at 11:59 PM. Feel free to use or share the [nomination form](#).

US Senate Begins Debate on the Health Reform Bill

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid pushed for Democratic unity on health-care legislation this week. After a vote on November 21 that cleared the way to get to this stage, the US Senate will begin debate on the "[Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act](#)"

County Plaza, Balsam Lake. 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.

Tri-County Coalition: Winnebago, Calumet and Outagamie Counties. Next meeting TBA, Goodwill Community Center, Menasha Room. Contact Susan Garcia Franz at susan.garciafranz@ppwi.org for more information.

Resources

Domestic Abuse Intervention Services (new website!) - Offers crisis support, shelter and advocacy to victims of domestic abuse and their families in Dane County. www.abuseintervention.com

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.

[H.R. 3590](#), a 2,074-page bill that contains the biggest changes to U.S. health care in more than four decades and is President Obama's top domestic priority.

Debate on the Senate bill comes less than a month after the US House of Representatives passed their bill on November 7 by a vote of 220-215. The ["Affordable Health Care for America Act" H.R. 3962](#) proposes the most sweeping change in the health care financing and delivery landscape since the passage of Medicare and Medicaid. The bill also includes a public option.

Both the House and Senate bills would require that Americans get health insurance or pay a penalty, offer subsidies to help lower-income people and set up online exchanges for "comparison shopping." The bills would encourage greater use of preventive care while also requiring insurers to accept new customers regardless of preexisting conditions.

The biggest difference between the current House and Senate versions is how to pay for the expansion of coverage to millions of uninsured people. The House relies on a surtax on the wealthiest Americans; but the Senate would tax high-end insurance plans and impose other new levies.

Reconciliation??

Ask any historian, and you'll learn that budget reconciliation was never intended to push through dramatic and expansive new programs. It was created as a way to help a reluctant Congress curb spending or reduce deficits. Yet reconciliation enters the health care debate as both a "fall back" and a threat for Senate Democrats hoping to pass health reform. President Obama has indicated he will keep reconciliation as an option in case he doesn't like the way reform discussions are going. The threat to use reconciliation to drive through dramatic policy changes on national health-care could, however, destroy any incentive for good-faith negotiations over the details between the Democrats and Republicans. Moreover, changes made under reconciliation could be set to expire after five years. A real threat to Congress is, "do we want to do this all over again in 5 years???"

Over the past 35 years, reconciliation has been used only 22 times -- and three of those bills were vetoed. The power of a reconciliation bill is that the Senate is limited to only 20 hours of debate and passage requires only a simple majority of 51 votes (instead of the usual open debate, with 60 votes needed to close debate.) If Senator Reid and Senate leadership is finding they don't have the 60 votes needed to pass the bill, they may have a much easier time garnering 51 votes. A few articles of interest explore reconciliation further:

[Threat of Reconciliation Hovers Over Centrist Democrats on Healthcare, By Alexander Bolton for *The Hill*, Dec. 1, 2009](#)

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 Web site – Organization that sponsors annual Cover the Uninsured Week. <http://covertheuninsured.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

[Senate Reconciliation May Not Help Against Senate Healthcare Turkeys, By Gillian Hubble for *Change.Org*, Nov. 26, 2009](#)

Marysa's Section: A Look At Private Insurance

Post Claims Underwriting and Rescission Practices

With exciting discussion happening in the Senate about health care reform, the timing seems appropriate to look a little closer at some common private insurance practices. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation published a paper by authors Peter Harbage MPP, Hilary Haycock, and Meredith King Ledford, identifying post-claims underwriting and rescission as two examples of what many across the United States view as the excesses and problems in private health insurance markets that national health reform should address. [Read the paper here](#).

Let's first take a look at how the two terms are described. I'm relying on Brietta Clark, a professor at Loyola Law School and author of the article "Rescissions, A Scary Epidemic" in the Daily Journal, to guide these definitions:

Post-Claims Underwriting: occurs when an insurance plan purposefully adopts a "wait and see" approach to assessing risk. For some plans, this means that although applicants are required to complete medical history questionnaires, they are not investigated before the policy is issued. The applications may have ambiguous questions that lead to innocent mistakes by the applicant. Instead, some plans wait to investigate risk until after claims for expensive medical treatment are submitted.

Rescission: occurs when an error is found in the application and a plan retroactively drops the consumer from coverage, claiming that the "correct information" would have led the plan to assess risk differently. An insurance company's own failure to perform pre-claims underwriting may allow some plans to "game the system" of rules designed to protect consumers and govern allocation of risk. This power to rescind policies retroactively may simply allow insurers to avoid paying for expensive medical treatment.

The authors in the RWJF begin: "Regulation of the individual (non-group) health insurance market is conducted through a mix of federal and state efforts. While federal law primarily delegates insurance regulation to the states, the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) offers important consumer protections that states are to enforce. Among other things, HIPAA requires health insurers to renew or continue health insurance coverage at the policyholder's discretion, except in very limited circumstances, such as fraud or nonpayment of

to Parent support across the country. www.p2pusa.org

Events and Trainings

Poverty Matters! - Dec. 2-3, 2009. Radisson Paper Valley Hotel, Appleton. This conference (formerly our "Women & Poverty Conference") will bring together human service professionals, community leaders, and state officials, low-income advocates, educators, and low-income people to talk about the causes and solutions to poverty. This unique networking environment supports the sharing of ideas, identification of new and continuing successful strategies, greater integration of service provision, and a better understanding of how low-income people and community based organizations can work together to promote economic opportunity. www.wiscap.org

Job Coach Training - CESA #2 Transition Program - Dec. 3-4, 2009. 9am - 3:30pm, Holiday Inn Express, 3100 Wellington Place, Janesville. Laura Owens, PhD., an associate professor at UW-Milwaukee and founder of Creative Employment Opportunities, an employment agency for people with disabilities, will present a 2-day job coach training targeted toward paraprofessionals, high school teachers, transition coordinators and other service professionals. Contact Peggy at pstrong@cesa2.k12.wi.us

First Wisconsin Self-Directed Supports (SDS) Network Event - Dec. 3, 2009. 9:30am-3:15pm Wilderness Resort, Wisconsin Dells. Self-Directed Supports (SDS) operates within Family Care, IRIS and CIP, and currently supports over 5,000 elderly and disabled Wisconsin citizens. Learn how to apply SDS in your work and personal life. Speakers include Fredi-Ellen Bove,

premiums. Based on a set of four case studies, this paper seeks to help policymakers understand what works — and in particular, what does not work — under the current system and how these failings can be overcome."

As Congress debates health reform, there is increasing interest in understanding the impact of private health insurance market practices on everyday Americans. Two such practices, post-claims underwriting and rescissions, can result in loss of coverage for individuals who submit large claims. We need a publicly accountable and centralized mechanism for financing care that guarantees coverage for people the market leaves behind.

Listen to this episode of "This American Life" called "[Fine Print, Act III: Restrictions May Apply](#)"

HealthWatch Wisconsin at the Milwaukee Bucks!!

Only a Few Tickets Remain! Meet us at the Bradley Center December 12!

Members of HealthWatch Wisconsin are invited to join the staff of HealthWatch Wisconsin at a Milwaukee Bucks Game this December! **The first 20 people to RSVP** will be invited to attend the Milwaukee Bucks basketball game versus the Portland Trail Blazers, Saturday, December 12 at 7:30pm. Tickets are FREE to HealthWatch Wisconsin members. Call Brynne at (608)261-6939 ext 210 or email: bmcbride@safetyweb.org to reserve your tickets (let us know if you would like 1 or 2 tickets-maximum 2 per person), or to learn how to become a HealthWatch member and join us!

Packer Ticket Prize Drawing Winners!

Congratulations to **Marcia Shefchik of the Brown County Health Department** and **Diane Moyle of Women's Care of Wisconsin**, winners of indoor, deluxe club seat tickets to the Packers vs. San Francisco 49ers game. Watch future editions of the Update Newsletter to learn of our next ticket prize drawing. Remember, all individual members of HealthWatch Wisconsin are eligible to win! In addition to a chance to win in our Packer Ticket Prize Drawing, HealthWatch Wisconsin members benefit from:

- Access to detailed publications on advocacy strategies and tips,
- Discounted registration for conferences, events and trainings, including a HUGE discount for the annual HealthWatch Wisconsin Conference,

Deputy Administrator, Division of Long-Term Care; Monica Deignan, Managed Care Section Chief; and John Agosta, Asst. Director, Human Services Research Institute. [Click here](#) for registration information.

- Access to online and live trainings on health care coverage programs, and
- Much more!

Your individual membership fee is still only \$20

and ensures that you are lending your voice and passion toward developing a more comprehensive system of health care and coverage. Your workplace can purchase an **organizational membership for just \$75**. [Click here](#) for more information about HealthWatch Wisconsin and the ticket drawings, or call Brynne at 1-800-585-4222 ext. 210.

New Materials

Read the State Health Access Reform Evaluation (Share) on ["Wisconsin's BadgerCare Plus Coverage Evaluation and Simplification: Early Data on Program Impact"](#) from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Case Tip:SSI-E

"Exceptional Expense" Supplement for Recipients of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) in Wisconsin

View the [SSI-E Handbook](#)

The State Health Access Data Assistance Center (SHADAC) has released a new web-based tool for organizing and researching health coverage statistics. Users can customize tables and graphs and easily access Census Bureau information and coverage trend data back to 1987. [Click here](#) to visit the [Data Center](#).

This program is administered by the Department of Health Services and county agencies and provides a monthly cash benefit to eligible SSI recipients of up to **\$95.99**. (This is payment on top of the annual Federal payment of \$674.00 and State payment of \$83.78 for SSI.) An eligible recipient is someone who receives SSI, whose expenses are greater than the [SSI-E payment level \(\\$883.77 in 2009\)](#), and lives in a licensed or certified facility or requires extra support services to live independently. Examples of facilities include: Foster home for children; Group home for children; Licensed or Certified adult family/foster home; CBRF of 20 beds or less; or Certified Residential Care Apartment Complex (RCAC). It is also possible to qualify by being an SSI recipient who lives in their own household or another's household who pay their share of household expenses and who need at least 40 hours of primary long-term support services each month.

From the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and *Health Affairs*: ["How Would the Public Health Insurance Plan Work?"](#)

SSI recipients who wish to apply for SSI-E should contact their [county department of social or human services](#) to request an assessment for SSI-E. The county agency will provide or arrange for an assessment and determine whether the SSI recipient meets the SSI-E eligibility criteria. If denied, individuals have the right to request a fair hearing.

The Kaiser Family Foundation released a new set of [state data](#), including numbers on Medicaid eligibility, health care fraud, nutrition and more.

Calls for Submissions and Volunteers

Updates from DHS

[ABC for Health](#) is seeking legal interns for Summer 2010! All interested volunteers, students with public interest fellowships or work-study awards are encouraged to apply by sending an email with a

Follow the links to view updates from the Department of Health Services:

- Release [09-02](#) of the [SSI-E Handbook](#), November 19

cover letter and resume to
bmcbride@safetyweb.org.

Researchers at the University of Wisconsin-Madison seek volunteers for a study of social and communication abilities of toddlers (18-36 months) with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Participation would include observations of you and your child, interviews, forms and surveys, and education and training--all in your home. Interested families should contact Laura Mulford, M.S. in the School Psychology Program at 847-721-8283 or mulford@wisc.edu or Jennifer Asmus, Ph.D. in the School of Education at 608-262-3027 or asmus@wisc.edu.

Help Wanted

Executive Director, Madison Area Down Syndrome Society (MADSS), part-time. Lead efforts to provide information, social support and resources to people affected by Down Syndrome in South Central Wisconsin. Manage fundraising and budget, create goals and operational procedures for staff and volunteers, and collaborate with related organizations. Some travel and weekend hours required. Bachelor's degree, excellent communication skills, experience in fundraising required. Experience working with individuals with disabilities preferred. Average 25 hrs. per week, salary commensurate with experience. Send a cover letter with resume to
executivesearch@madss.org.

Member, UW School of Medicine and Public Health Oversight and Advisory Committee - The Wisconsin Partnership Program is seeking nominations to replace a public member vacancy on the UW School

BC+ Core Plan: DHS Resources

Note: DHS is no longer enrolling new Core Plan members as of Oct. 9. However, the state is maintaining a waiting list for the program and individuals are still encouraged to apply for a spot on the list. (The \$60 fee is not required to be added to the waiting list).

Note: no changes have been made to application and enrollment procedures for BadgerCare Plus for children and families. The waiting list is only for the Core Plan.

Online Resources Core Plan members are beginning HMO registration. Keep this information nearby to help clients navigate this often complicated process.

- [To Apply Online \(ACCESS\)](#)
- [Core Plan Publications Page](#)
- [ForwardHealth Enrollment and Benefits Booklet](#)
- [BadgerCare Plus Policy Handbook \(Core Plan is Ch. 43\)](#)

Phone Support

- For questions from **applicants: The Enrollment Services Center: 1-800-291-2002**
- For questions and coordination issues from **advocates/professionals: (608)261-9305 or 1-888-415-2116.** (DHS has asked that this number not be shared with the public.)

For Milwaukee Residents--the new MiIES email contacts

- dhsmiles@wisconsin.gov - for new applications, verifications, etc.
- dhsmileschanges@wisconsin.gov - for scanning changes (HTF only scanning changes from cases)
- dhsmilescustomerservice@wisconsin.gov - Advocate Email: use to email MiIES with advocate questions.

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

of Medicine and Public Health Oversight and Advisory Committee (OAC) in the categories of advocates representing an urban or minority community, children, or senior citizens. The goal of the OAC is to advance population health in Wisconsin by executing its stewardship responsibility in partnership with the School of Medicine and Public Health, and in accordance with the Insurance Commissioner's Order and the five-year plan. To learn more about The Wisconsin Partnership Program, visit our [website](#).



Mark Your Calendars Now Check Out These Excellent Events in 2009!

Customer Service Representatives, Automated Health Systems. Part time and full time needed for Madison office. Knowledge of BadgerCare Plus and Forward Health Programs desired. HS Diploma/GED required, Associates degree preferred. Bilingual Spanish a plus. For more information, contact Katie Stewart, HR Specialist/Recruiter, at (800)506-3032 ext. 2361. \$12/hr. Apply to hr@automated-health.com or online at www.automated-health.com, or fax resumes to 412-367-1131.

Previous Issues of the Update: (in PDF form)

[November 15](#)

[November 1](#)

[October 20 Special Edition](#)

[October 15](#)

[October 1](#)

[September 15](#)

[September 1](#)

- **Autism Society of Southeastern Wisconsin Parenting Series - Oct. 17 through May 15**, Nicolet High School, D-Wing Library, Glendale, WI, 9:30-11:30am. October's topic: No More Meltdowns. Call (414)427-9345 or email info@assew.org to register.
- **WI FACETS Phone Trainings for December** - Dec. 3, 7-8 pm: Transition I Preparing for life after high school. Dec. 8, 12-1pm: Transition II Age Appropriate Assessments. Dec. 15 7-8pm: IEPs Part I. Dec. 18, 12-1pm: IEPs Part II. Presented by Charlotte Price. Toll-free call to participate: 1-877-374-0511. Please register 1 week in advance. Contact smcfarland@wifacets.org for more information.
- **DPI-Autism Webinar: Addressing Challenging Behaviors and Sensory Integration - Dec. 18, 2009**. 3:15pm-5:15pm. [Click here](#) for more information or to register.
- **ASW Annual Conference: "Positively Autism" - March 18-20, 2010**, Keynote speakers include Paula Kluth, Ph.D., Temple Grandin, Ph.D. and Eric Courchesne, Ph.D. Early Bird registration open until November 25, 2009. For more information, visit www.asw4autism.org.

CDC Materials on H1N1 for Parents of Children with Complex Medical Needs: Earlier this month, the Center for Disease Control released [this brochure](#) for parents of children with special health needs who may be more at risk for contracting the virus.

Tip Sheets for Siblings of People with Disabilities: [Adolescent and Young Adult Siblings](#); [Adult Siblings](#); [Information for Parents](#)

Champions for Inclusive Communities published a [fact sheet](#) on the 2005/6 National Survey of CSHCN.

[August 15](#)

[August 1](#)

[July 15](#)

[July 1](#)

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

Recent HealthWatch WatchDog Episodes:

Season 2:

Episode 13: [BadgerCare Plus Core Plan and Health Care Reform](#)

Episode 12: [Health Reform and Campaign Finance Reform](#)

Episode 11: [Access to Health Care--A Moral Imperative](#)

Episode 10: [A Public Option](#)

Episode 9: [Health Reform: Patient Advocacy](#)

Episode 8: [Fact or Fiction](#)

HealthWatch WatchDog episodes are now available to everyone who receives the HealthWatch Wisconsin Update! **Watch all other episodes at www.healthwatchwisconsin.org. Just click on "HW WatchDog" from the menu on the left.**

Contact Us

We need your help to develop content and tips for our bi-weekly HWW Update. Please let us know

News: Health Care in Dane County

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

- [Trying to Explain a Drop in Infant Mortality - by Erik Eckholm for *The New York Times*, November 26](#) - This past week, the efforts to explain the unusual, but fantastic progress in healthy birth outcomes for African American mothers in Dane County was highlighted by the New York Times. Reporter Erik Eckholm explores "what went right" in interviews with Dr. Tom Schlenker, Director of Public Health Madison and Dane County; Bobby Peterson, Director of ABC for Health; and others.

NEWS: Health Care in Wisconsin

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

- [Feingold, Kohl Should Push for Strong Public Option - by the Capital Times Editorial Staff for the *Capital Times*, December 1](#)
- [A Healthy Debate on Reform - by Tim Damos for *Baraboo News Republic* December 1](#)
- [Controlling Costs Must Be A Part of Federal Health Care Solution - by Tim Still for *Wisconsin Technology Network*, November 30](#)
- [Free Flu Care Available For Uninsured - by Joe Potente for *Kenosha News*, November 20](#)
- [Press Release: Commissioner Reminds Seniors of Open Enrollment Period - Office of the Commissioner of Insurance, November 19](#)
- [Press Release: Wisconsin Health Insurance Costs 22% Higher Than National Average - Citizen Action of Wisconsin, November 19](#)
- [Foodshare Still Dysfunctional in State Hands - by Tom Held for *The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, November 17](#)
- [About 7,000 Poor Adults on Insurance Waiting List - by Scott Bauer for *The Wisconsin State Journal*, November 17](#)
- [Brandon Rudie Inspires US Rep. Kagen, D-Appleton, on Health Reform - by J.E. Espino for *Appleton Post-Crescent*, November 16](#)
- [National Health Plan Might Mirror Wisconsin - by Jake Miller and Keith Uhlig for *Wausau Daily Herald*, November 15](#)

NEWS: Health Care Reform

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

about your ideas, events, or success stories. Email your suggestions to mlarowe@safetyweb.org or call (800) 585-4222 ext. 216. If you would like to submit news and information for future HWW Updates, please send it to the attention of Marysa LaRowe. All submissions should be limited to 150 words.

HealthWatch Wisconsin Update Staff

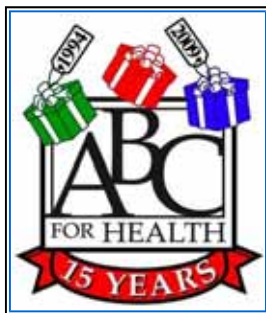
Bobby Peterson

bobbyp@safetyweb.org

Marysa LaRowe

mlarowe@safetyweb.org

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 >>](#)

- [CBO Estimates Financial Impact of Healthcare Reform Bill - by James Green for *Investment Advisor*, December 1](#)
- [Senate Health Bill Gets a Boost - by Lori Montgomery for *The Washington Post*, December 1](#)
- [Will Healthcare Reform Drive Costs Down? A Little, Report Says - by Gail Russell Chaddock for the *Christian Science Monitor*, November 30](#)
- [Divided US Senate Begins Healthcare Reform Bill Debate - *BBC News*, November 30](#)
- [Public Option at Center of Debate - by Shailagh Murray for *The Washington Post*, November 23](#)
- [Centrist Senators Say Health Care Bill Needs Major Changes - by Julian E. Barnes for *The Los Angeles Times*, November 23](#)
- [Senate Votes to Open Health Care Debate - by Robert Pear and David M. Herszenhorn for *The New York Times*, November 22](#)
- [House OKs \\$210 Billion To Help Out Doctors - by Erica Werner for *Associated Press*, November 20](#)
- [A Look at How Key Provisions Compare in the House and Senate Bills - *Kaiser Health News*, November 19](#)
- [CBO: Senate's Public Option Would Enroll 3 or 4 Million People - by Jacob Goldstein for *The Wall Street Journal*, November 19](#)
- [Senate Says Health Plan Will Cover Another 31 Million - by Robert Pear and David M. Herszenhorn for *The New York Times*, November 19](#)
- [Health Overhaul Sparks Debate on Future of CHIP - by Mary Agnes Carey for *NPR News and Kaiser Health News*, November 18](#)
- [Charting the Future of the Health Overhaul Bill - by Kathleen Masterson and Mary Agnes Carey for *NPR News*, November 18](#)
- [With Senate Health Bill, Reid Tries to Balance Many Interests - by Mary Agnes Carey and Phil Galewitz for *Kaiser Health News*, November 18](#)
- [House Health Bill Includes Medicaid Relief for States - by Aaron C. Davis for *The Washington Post*, November 16](#)

NEWS: Opinion

Click below for editorials and opinion pieces about health care reform:

- [Editorial: Rationing Grandma's Health Care - *The Washington Times*, November 30](#)
- [Editorial: Fighting the Wrong Healthcare Battle - *The New York Times*, November 28](#)
- [Editorial: Who's Afraid to Debate Health Reform - *The Washington Post*, November 20](#)
- [Editorial: The Rationing Commission - *The Wall Street Journal*, November 15](#)

NEWS: Health Care Costs & Access

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

- [IT is Pillar of White House Healthcare Policy - by Mitch Wagner for Information Week, December 1](#)
- [Healthcare Reform's Control of Cost Questioned - by Chris Frates for *Politico*, December 1](#)
- [Health Insurance Costs Won't Rise for Most in U.S., Study Finds - by Alex Nussbaum for *Bloomberg*, December 1](#)
- [Mental Health Parity Laws Require Oversight - by Shari Roan for *Los Angeles Times*, December 1](#)
- [Insurers Say They Won't Alter Mammogram Coverage Despite New Guidelines - *Kaiser Health News*, November 19](#)
- [Rising Prices of Drugs Lead to Call for Inquiry - by Duff Wilson for *The New York Times*, November 19](#)
- [House Health Bill Includes Medicaid Relief for States - by Aaron C. Davis for *The Washington Post*, November 16](#)
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- [Medicare Fee-For-Service Payment Error Rate More Than Doubles, White House Says - by Gregg Blesch for *Modern Healthcare*, November 17](#)
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