



A Project of ABC for Health, Inc.  
[www.healthwatchwisconsin.org](http://www.healthwatchwisconsin.org)

# HealthWatch Wisconsin Update

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## HealthWatch and Covering Kids and Families – Meetings by Region

**Southern:** January 8, 9:00-11:00am.  
Harambee Center, 2202 S. Park St,  
Madison. Contact ABC for Health's  
Annie Trimberger at (608)261-6939  
ext. 203 or [atrimberger@safetyweb.org](mailto:atrimberger@safetyweb.org)  
with questions.

**Southeastern:** January 10, 10:00am-

# HEALTHWATCH WISCONSIN FUNDED!

## 2007 Will Mark Beginning of a New Era in Public Health Education and Advocacy

The Wisconsin Partnership Program at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health has awarded funding to ABC for Health to develop HealthWatch Wisconsin as a statewide organization. The decision was announced at the Oversight and Advisory Committee meeting on December 13 at the UW School of Medicine and Public Health.

In summary, HealthWatch Wisconsin (HWW) is a proposed statewide organization with a goal of transforming the public health system by assuring a more sufficient, competent, and coordinated public health workforce that will assist people in accessing health care coverage and services. By 2010, the statewide HWW organization, through training, technical assistance, collaboration, and coordination, will increase the capacity of at least 600 members of the public health workforce to assure access to health care coverage and services for Wisconsin's under- and un-insured populations. HWW will achieve this goal by 2010 by following five strategies:

- Strategy 1 – Establish HealthWatch Wisconsin Council (HWWC), comprised of faculty partner and local, regional, and statewide representatives of public health workforce from around the state, to facilitate coordination and a flow of information between and among local public health workers.
- Strategy 2 – Promote, develop, and sustain local HW coalitions through technical assistance, leadership

12:00 pm. Aurora Family Services, 3200 W. Highland Blvd, Milwaukee. Contact Tracy Wymelenberg at (414)449-4767 ext. 144 or [tracyw@communityadvocates.net](mailto:tracyw@communityadvocates.net) with questions.

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

**Northeastern:** January 11, 9:00-11:00am. Bosco Hall-United Way Complex, 1825 Riverside Dr, Green Bay. Special Topics: Lisa Clark, 211 United Way. Contact Steve Gerczak at (920)433-8154 or [sgerczak@stvgb.org](mailto:sgerczak@stvgb.org) with questions.

**Western:** January 9, 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](mailto:rmarsh@co.chippewa.wi.us) with questions.

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

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

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

training, and funding.

- Strategy 3 – Training and education: HWW will transform the health care landscape by improving the public health workforce's capacity by providing trainings and interactive web-based educational materials and pre- and post-training competency testing.
- Strategy 4 – Issue identification and tracking: Mine aggregate client encounter data from ABC for Health to identify issues and barriers to accessing health care coverage and services and develop education and outreach tools to help public health workforce, coordinated through local HW coalitions, increase capacity to serve the un/underinsured, thereby transforming the health care system.
- Strategy 5 – Convene a statewide conference and training in the fall of 2007 with key statewide stakeholders to develop and promote a focused 2008 training agenda on access to care and coverage for people in Wisconsin.

Multiple strategic planning events conducted throughout 2005 and 2006 identified the need to coordinate and communicate strategies that address state and local barriers to quality health care coverage and services. HWW will conduct educational initiatives, including web casts coordinated through local coalitions, to teach strategies to help connect people to health care coverage and services. Trainings and policy recommendations will be developed to address barriers identified at the local and statewide level.

HWW will become self-sustainable as a membership-driven grassroots organization dedicated to improving access to health care coverage and services for Wisconsin families.

Thank you to all who supported our efforts, participated in strategic planning, and believed in the possibilities. HealthWatch Wisconsin will be our chance to make a difference!

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## Case Tip Series: Appeals, Part 3 - Your Hearing Preparation

You now have the documents you want to present at the hearing and have talked to potential witnesses (doctors, therapists, teachers, etc.). You should have three copies of all the documents you plan to submit to the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) at the hearing: one for the judge, one for you, and one for a state or county representative who might be at the hearing.

You will receive a notice from the Division of Hearings and

### Other Meeting Notices

- **Make and Take – Visual Support Strategies for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder:** December 20, 8:00am-3:00pm. Participants *must* be familiar with the Boardmaker™ software. Fee is \$100. Contact Karen Stindt for more information at [kstindt@cesa6.k12.wi.us](mailto:kstindt@cesa6.k12.wi.us).
- **Healthy Policies – Transforming Ideas Into Reality:** January 25, 8:30am-5:30pm. Milwaukee Center for Independence, 2020 W. Wells, Milwaukee. Looking to change policies to improve community health but don't know where to begin? Join the Healthy Wisconsin Leadership Institute for an all-day skill building workshop! Registration fee is \$50 and space is limited to the first 75 registrants. To register, you must select a health priority track – Violence, Obesity, or Tobacco prevention. To register, call (608) 262-1397. For more information, contact Kristen Gruebling at (414) 456-4827 or [kgruebling@mcw.edu](mailto:kgruebling@mcw.edu).
- **Health Action 2007 Annual Grassroots Conference:** January 25-27, 2007. Renaissance Mayflower Hotel, Washington, D.C. Opening speaker: Senator Barack Obama. Special Early Bird Registration fee of \$315 available until December 18; after that, \$365. More information: Contact Joan Eisner at (202) 628-3030 or [jeisner@familiesusa.org](mailto:jeisner@familiesusa.org), or visit [www.familiesusa.org](http://www.familiesusa.org).

Appeals with the date, time, and location of your hearing. The notice is sent 10 days or more before the hearing date. The ALJ's name and phone number will be on the notice. You can call to reschedule your hearing if it is absolutely necessary, such as if you have a conflict in your schedule or if a witness is not available on the day of the hearing. Remember that your witnesses may present their testimony by telephone. You should call the ALJ ahead of time and let him/her know that you will need access to a telephone for the hearing. You should also let the ALJ know if you have witnesses and how many there will be so that there is enough time scheduled to cover all of your issues.

Don't be intimidated by the ALJ or the process. A lot of people go to the fair hearings on their own. The ALJ is an employee of the State of Wisconsin Department of Administration, a lawyer, and experienced in matters of Medicaid. You will need to state your case and show the ALJ that you are entitled to the benefits.

Information on the Division of Hearings and Appeals (DHA) and fair hearings is available at the DHA website at <http://dha.state.wi.us>.

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## Heard it Through the Grapevine... Report your changes!



ABC for Health staff has heard that families who forget to report their change in income may be asked by Medicaid to pay back certain costs. Reporting your changes is especially important to remember if you have Medicaid for secondary or "blanket" coverage, or if you have Medicaid "just in case" and are not even using the coverage! You can still be held responsible for the costs [capitated rate] that Medicaid pays to the HMOs or for services if you don't report your change in income or family size. Families should receive adequate notice of these possible charges. If you have heard of other families being asked to pay Medicaid back for an overpayment issue, please contact ABC for Health staff!

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## State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP)

Two new items regarding SCHIP:

Family Voices Conference Call, December 19 2:00pm CST  
– "What is the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) and What are its Prospects for Reauthorization?" To RSVP, please [click here](#).

[Leading Child Health Groups Present Key Priorities for SCHIP Reauthorization - December 12](#)

## 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 [wispubhealth@mch-hotlines.org](mailto:wispubhealth@mch-hotlines.org) or visit their website at [www.mch-hotlines.org](http://www.mch-hotlines.org).

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## Upcoming WI Health Care Reform Panels

The following Wisconsin health care reform panels are now scheduled:

- January 11, 6:30-8:30pm: Eau Claire** (place TBD)
- January 14, 10:15-11:15am: Milwaukee, downtown**  
(1<sup>st</sup> Unitarian Society, corner of Ogden and Astor)
- January 18, 7:00-9:00pm: Columbus** (place TBD)
- January 23, 6:30-8:30pm, Tomah**  
(First United Methodist)
- February 3, 10:00am-12:00pm: Janesville** (place TBD)
- February 7, 6:30-8:30pm: Beaver Dam** (place TBD)
- February 11, 2:00-4:00pm: Superior**  
(United Presbyterian Church, 229 N. 28<sup>th</sup> Street East)
- TENTATIVE - February 11, Time TBD: Hayward**
- February 12, 1:00-3:00pm AND 6:30-8:30pm: Ashland**  
(Northern Great Lakes Visitors Center, US Hwy 2)
- February 13, 6:30-8:30pm: Green Bay**  
(Public Library – **tentative**)
- February 22, 7:00-9:00pm: Stevens Point**  
(Sentry Insurance Theater)
- March 28, 10:00am-12:00pm: Madison** (place TBD)
- April 18, 8:00-10:00am: Kenosha**  
(Gateway Technical College)

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## NEWS: Health Care in Wisconsin

Follow the links below to articles on recent health care news in Wisconsin:

- [Doyle continues to push to expand health coverage - Stacy Forster for the \*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel\*, December 10](#)
- [Hospital discourages poor: Aurora St. Luke's sends most away; other providers object - Guy Boulton for the \*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel\*, December 9](#)
- [EDITORIAL: Aurora's regrettable decision - \*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel\*, December 12](#)
- [Health costs a key issue for farmers - Amy Rinard for the \*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel\*, December 3](#)
- [DHFS releases health insurance coverage data for Wisconsin](#)

### Links of Interest

**Catalyst Center** – A national center dedicated to improving health care insurance and financing for CYSHCN. [www.hdwg.org/projects/catalyst.htm](http://www.hdwg.org/projects/catalyst.htm)

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

**Cover the Uninsured Week** – CTUW 2007: April 23-29. <http://covertheuninsuredweek.org>

**Family Voices** – Speaking on behalf of CYSHCN. [www.familyvoices.org](http://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/](http://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](http://www.p2pusa.org)

If you have any suggestions on websites or other resources that you have found helpful, please send them to Annie Trimberger at [atrimberger@safetyweb.org](mailto:atrimberger@safetyweb.org).

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## NEWS: Health Care Costs

Use the links below to navigate recent health care cost-related news articles:

Specialty drugs seen driving up health care premiums - the *Boston Globe*, December 4

Employers seek ways to control health costs as efforts hit plateau - Diane Stafford for the *McClatchy-Tribune*, December 4

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## NEWS: Medicaid in the News

The following are links to Medicaid-related news articles:

Medicaid rules changes could cut \$167 million from Pa. facilities - Jerome L. Sherman for the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, December 6

Rep. Emerson, others oppose changes to Medicaid - Adam Sichko for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, December 6

Screening for Medicaid Eligibility Under the Pickle Amendment - Gordon Bonnyman Jr. for *Poverty Law*

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## NEWS: Health Care Reform

Follow the links below for recent news on health care reform:

OPINION: Health-care resolve - Robert Goldberg for the *Washington Times*, December 7

National Health Care? We're Halfway There - Daniel Gross for the *New York Times*, December 3

OPINION: A healthcare idea with mileage - Scot Lehigh for the *Boston Globe*, November 24

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## NEWS: Other Health News

See below for links to other recent health-related news:

Immigrants' health assessed in Rand study - Mary Engel for the *Los Angeles Times*, December 6

Systems Struggling to Address Student Health - Valerie Strauss for the *Washington Post*, December 5

Minnesota sets bar on health again - Liz Szabo for *USA Today*, December 5

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## Featured Link: The Waisman Center

The Waisman Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison is one of 14 national centers dedicated to the advancement of knowledge about human development and developmental

## 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 [atrimberger@safetyweb.org](mailto:atrimberger@safetyweb.org) or call (800) 585-4222 ext. 203. If you would like to submit news and information for future HWW Updates, please send it to the attention of Annie Trimberger. All submissions should be limited to 150 words.

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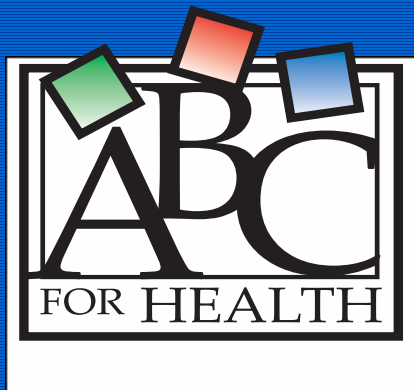
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ABC for Health, Inc. is a Wisconsin-based, nonprofit public interest law firm dedicated to linking children and families, particularly those with special health care needs, to health care benefits and services. ABC for Health's mission is to provide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



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disabilities through research and practice. It is housed in an eight-story, 120,000 square-foot building, with 42 research laboratories, 7 clinics, 3 biological (clinical) laboratories, and a preschool. The Center's website has a substantial archive of publications, descriptions of its current projects, and parent resources. To find out more, please [click here](#).

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## Help Support ABC for Health, Inc.

Even though the window of time for the Fall Workplace Giving Campaign has now closed, you can still 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." Your generous donations are greatly appreciated and go towards helping to maintain ABC for Health, Inc. and our many projects. Thank you!

[www.abcforhealth.org](http://www.abcforhealth.org)

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## ■ CKSN Corner ■

Covering Kids with Special Needs



## *New York Times Article:* **"Off to College Alone, Shadowed by Mental Illness"**

This featured article, written by Lynette Clemetson, discusses the many aspects to consider when planning for college for youth with mental illnesses. It tracks college students with mental illnesses in learning how to 'make it work' and when to ask for help as they discover their niche in college life. Please [click here](#) to access the article in full.

## Mark Your Calendars Now: Three Excellent Conferences in 2007!

**WI Statewide Transition (WSTI) Conference** – The 4<sup>th</sup> annual conference will be held in Stevens Point on February 16 and 17.

**2007 Rehabilitation & Transition Conference** – "Cruising Into the Future." The conference is scheduled March 21-23 at the American Club in Kohler. Visit [www.rfw.org](http://www.rfw.org) for conference information.

**The 2007 Circles of Life Conference** – April 26 and 27 at the Madison Marriott West in Middleton. Visit [www.wfv.org/circle](http://www.wfv.org/circle) for more information.