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A Project of ABC for Health, Inc.  
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## HealthWatch Wisconsin Update

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December 14 , 2007

Volume 3, Number 23

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Mark Your Calendars Now

Support Our Efforts!

### Meetings by Region

**Southern:** January 7, 9:00-11:00am. Harambee Center, 2202 S. Park St, Madison. Contact Nora Foshager at (608)261-6939 ext. 204 or [nfoshager@safetyweb.org](mailto:nfoshager@safetyweb.org) with questions.

**Southeastern:** January 9, 10:00am-12:00 pm. Aurora Family Services, 3200 W. Highland Blvd, Milwaukee. Contact Leah Jepson at (414) 286-6608 or [ljepso@milwaukee.gov](mailto:ljepso@milwaukee.gov) or Tanya Atkinson at [Tanya.Atkinson@ppwi.org](mailto:Tanya.Atkinson@ppwi.org) with questions.

### First Annual HWW Conference

The first annual HealthWatch Wisconsin Conference will be held from 8:30am-4:30pm on Tuesday, March 11, 2008, at the Best Western Inn on the Park in Madison. [Click here](#) to view the "Save the Date" card. More information on the conference will be available soon at [www.healthwatchwisconsin.org](http://www.healthwatchwisconsin.org).

### Case Tip: BadgerCare Plus Express Enrollment Begins January 14, 2008

Applications for BadgerCare Plus begin February 1, 2008. However, some pregnant women and children can qualify for services as early as January 14, 2008, through the BadgerCare Plus Express Enrollment feature.

Using Express Enrollment, pregnant women up to 300% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) and children up to 150% of the FPL are eligible to gain **immediate access** to benefits and services under the BadgerCare Plus Standard Plan. To be eligible for Express Enrollment, these children and pregnant women must also be U.S. citizens. For more information on Express Enrollment and eligibility rules, please see the [BadgerCare Plus Eligibility Handbook](#), sections 32.1 (Express Enrollment for Children) and 32.2 (Express Enrollment for Pregnant Women).

Currently, presumptive enrollment for pregnant women is determined by a certified medical provider. Under BadgerCare Plus Express Enrollment, community organizations can become certified to help determine temporary enrollment for children using a special application at [www.access.wi.gov](http://www.access.wi.gov); pregnant women must still receive their determination of a pregnancy from a medical provider. Online Express Enrollment gives these children and pregnant women immediate access to services and allows the certified provider or organization to print out a temporary BadgerCare Plus card. Please note: Eligibility under Express Enrollment will last from the date of determination by the provider or organization only until the last day of the following month. Therefore, certified partners are encouraged to assist clients in completing the full application for BadgerCare Plus online at the

Children's Health Access for the Special and Equal (CHASE) Meeting – December 20, 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 10, 9:00-10:30am. Melania Hall – Green Bay Catholic Diocese, 1825 Riverside Drive, Green Bay. Special Topic: Children's Mental Health Access and Coverage. Contact Steve Gerczak at (920) 433-8154 or [Steven.Gerczak@stvgb.org](mailto:Steven.Gerczak@stvgb.org) with questions.

**Western:** January 8, 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.

#### Coalitions Under Development

**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.

## Other Meeting Notices

**Health Action 2008** - January 24-26 at the Renaissance Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C. This National Grassroots Meeting is being organized by Families USA. As a crucial election period is nearing, this meeting will give health advocates a chance to learn and share

same time they assist in the Express Enrollment to ensure that there is no lapse in coverage once the Express Enrollment eligibility period has ended.

**EXAMPLE:** On January 20, after taking a home pregnancy test, Sarah visits her physician, who confirms her pregnancy (a necessary determination for BadgerCare Plus eligibility). The physician is a medical provider who is certified to assist pregnant women in using the Express Enrollment feature for BadgerCare Plus and, using the access code that was provided during certification, Sarah's physician helps her apply online using Express Enrollment. After completing the Express Enrollment application process, Sarah's physician prints off Sarah's temporary BadgerCare Plus card for her so that she can begin accessing covered services and benefits immediately. After completing the Express Enrollment application and printing the temporary card, Sarah's physician helps her complete the full BadgerCare Plus application to ensure that her coverage does not lapse at the end of February when her express enrollment period has ended.

If Sarah is found to be eligible for BadgerCare Plus after review of her complete application, she will then receive her official BadgerCare Plus card in the mail and services will continue. Should she be found ineligible for BadgerCare Plus before the end of February, her enrollment will end following notice of *adverse action* (see the [BadgerCare Plus Eligibility Handbook](#), section 32.2).

To become certified to determine temporary enrollment under Express Enrollment, someone from your organization must complete a paper form and submit it to the state certifying agency. These forms will be available on the DHFS Web site in late December.

## It's now even easier to join HealthWatch Wisconsin!

Use our new online membership tool by going to [www.healthwatchwisconsin.org](http://www.healthwatchwisconsin.org) and clicking on the link to register!

For only \$20, you gain future access to online and live trainings on health care coverage programs, access to detailed publications on advocacy strategies and tips, and a chance to meet your friends and peers for a *deep discount* at our 2008 annual conference! Members are all a part of our efforts to see that all people have access to affordable and comprehensive health care and coverage in Wisconsin.

The HealthWatch Wisconsin Membership Year runs July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2008.

## BadgerCare Plus Information

The Department of Health and Family Services has released the

strategies with other advocates and to prepare for the year ahead. [Click here](#) to visit their website and register by December 21 to receive the special early bird fee!

## 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.

BadgerCare Plus Eligibility Guidelines. [Click here](#) to view the chart comparing the covered services and co-payments for the Standard and Benchmark Plans of the program.

[The BadgerCare Plus Policy Handbook](#) is now available to view online, although individuals cannot apply until February 1, 2008, when the program goes into effect. The handbook is designed for local county/tribal agency workers who determine eligibility and issue benefits for the program.

## NEWS: Health Care in Wisconsin

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

- [Majority say health care system broken in state, universal health care favored - Charles Brace for the \*Daily Cardinal\*, December 13](#)
- [Wisconsin families spending more on health care - Ellyn Ferguson for the \*Oshkosh Northwestern\*, December 13](#)
- [Round-table roundup - \(Scroll down to read comments from local leaders on health care\), the \*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel\*, December 8](#)
- [Governor Doyle Meets with Community to Discuss BadgerCare Plus - Press release from the office of Governor Jim Doyle, December 4](#)
- [Health care costs unequal - Guy Boulton for the \*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel\*, December 4](#)
- [New Study Reveals Wide Regional Disparities in Wisconsin Health Insurance Costs - Press release from Citizen Action of Wisconsin, December 4](#)

## NEWS: Health Care Reform

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

- [Defining government's role in healthcare - Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar for the \*LA Times\*, December 14](#)
- [Ohio Senator Still Awaiting Universal Health Coverage - Christopher Lee for the \*Washington Post\*, December 7](#)
- [OPINION: Rx for Health Care: Pain - Robert J. Samuelson for the \*Washington Post\*, December 6](#)
- [Doctors endorse single-payer - Stacey Burling for the \*Philadelphia Inquirer\*, December 4](#)
- [HHS secretary promotes personalized medicine at Harvard forum - Elizabeth Cooney for the \*Boston Globe\*, November 29](#)

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](#).

## Links of Interest

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

[www.hdwg.org/](http://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](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 Nora Foshager at [nfoshager@safetyweb.org](mailto:nfoshager@safetyweb.org).

## NEWS: Health Care & the 2008 Election

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

- [Small Businesses Oppose Mandates for Health Plans - Milt Freudenheim for the \*New York Times\*, December 13](#)
- [Politics of Health Care Reform - Video clip from ABC World News Tonight with Charles Gibson, December 11](#)
- [OPINION: The Mandate Muddle - Paul Krugman for the \*New York Times\*, December 7](#)
- [Clinton Attack on Obama Overlooks Some Realities - Katharine O. Seelye for the \*New York Times\*, December 5](#)
- [Cures for an Ailing System - \*Newsweek\*, December 1](#)
- [Democrats' battle shifts to healthcare - Peter Wallsten and Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar for the \*LA Times\*, December 1](#)
- [Under Edwards, people of means must be insured - Tony Leys for the \*Des Moines Register\*, November 30](#)

## NEWS: Health Care Costs & Access

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

- [Disability Cases Last Longer as Backlog Rises - Erik Eckholm for the \*New York Times\*, December 10](#)
- [Employment-based health coverage could be near 'tipping point,' report suggests - Diane Stafford for the \*Kansas City Star\*, December 6](#)
- [Almost 1 in 5 Americans Going Without Health Care - Steven Reinberg for the \*HealthDay Reporter/Washington Post\*, December 3](#)
- [Over 40 million in U.S. can't afford health care: report - Maggie Fox for \*Reuters\*, December 3](#)

## NEWS: Covering Children

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

- [Bush vetoes kids health insurance bill - Jennifer Loven for the \*Associated Press/Denver Post\*, December 13](#)
- [President Vetoes Second Measure to Expand Children's Health Program - Sheryl Stolberg for the \*New York Times\*, December 13](#)
- [Post-Thanksgiving, Congress still has a full plate - Matt Kelley for \*USA Today\*, December 2](#)

## Featured Link: BadgerCare Plus Web site

With BadgerCare Plus set to begin on February 1, 2008, the

Department of Health and Human Services has created a Web site for people to get more information about the program.

The site contains information about who is eligible to enroll, benefits of the program, information about current members of Medicaid, BadgerCare, and Healthy Start and how they will be affected by the change, tips for staying healthy, information for community-based organizations interested in helping people apply for the program, a FAQ section and a phone number and e-mail address that people can contact for more information. Explore the site at [www.badgercareplus.org](http://www.badgercareplus.org).

## ■ CKSN Corner ■

Covering Kids with Special Needs



### "Find Your Voice and Use It!" Interactive Transition Series

This **free** series of workshops on self-advocacy is designed for parents, educators, service providers and transition-aged students. It is recommended that participants attend all three sessions since each session builds on the previous one. The three sessions are:

1. **Find Your Voice**, Wednesday, January 16, 2008, 6:30-8:30pm. Participants will explore and discuss what advocacy is, why it's important to students, and how it should be used in the school and community.
2. **Know Your Voice**, Wednesday, February 13, 2008, 6:30-8:30pm. This workshop explores several models to help students become better acquainted with what they want and need to be successful.
3. **Use Your Voice**, Wednesday, March 19, 2008, 6:30-8:30pm. In the last session, participants will learn how to effectively use self-advocacy in the classroom, during the IEP process, and in post-school settings.

All sessions will be held at Options for Independent Living, 555 Country Club Road in Green Bay. To register, contact Julia Cartwright at 920-923-3480 or [cartwrightj@charter.net](mailto:cartwrightj@charter.net).

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## 2007-2008 Statewide Autism Training - Wisconsin DPI

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

## 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](mailto: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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## New address

ABC for Health, Inc. has moved.

ABC for Health, Inc.

32 N. Bassett St.

Madison, WI 53703-2606

ABC for Health, Inc. is a Wisconsin-based, nonprofit public interest law firm dedicated to linking children and families,

## Mark Your Calendars Now

### 5 Excellent Conferences in 2008!

- **5<sup>th</sup> Annual Wisconsin Transition Conference** – This event will be held January 22-23, 2008, at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells. [Click here](#) for complete program details and to register for the conference.
- **Careers Conference 2008: Preparing for a Lifetime of Change** – This event will be held January 28-30, 2008, at the Madison Concourse Hotel and Governor's Club. The Careers Conference is one of the largest gatherings of its kind – consistently drawing 1100-1200 participants to explore career development, transitions, and education for work issues. It offers practical, cost-effective ideas on programs, strategies, best practices, and resources for careers practitioners, counselors, and educators at all levels from kindergarten through adult. [Click here](#) for complete program details and registration. The early bird deadline for registering is December 15.
- **2008 Rehabilitation and Transition Conference: Blast Off ... To the Stars!** – This event will be held April 9-11, 2008, at the American Club in Kohler. This annual event is Wisconsin's premiere conference for rehabilitation and transition professionals. [Click here](#) for conference updates.
- **ASW 2008 Annual Conference** - This event will be held May 1-3, 2008, at the Regency Suite/ KI Convention Center in Green Bay. The full conference program will be available in February. [Click here](#) to fill out the registration form before December 31st and receive the special early bird registration fee.
- **International Conference on Self-Determination** - This event will be held May 27-29, 2008, at the Renaissance Center in Detroit, Michigan. A pre-conference workshop will be held on Tuesday, May 27 from 9:00 am-4:00 pm. The topics will be: Income and Asset Development and International Communication and Information Sharing. This

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](mailto:info@safetyweb.org)

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

conference is dedicated to laying a foundation across disability and aging for moving publicly funded systems of support/care from the paternalism of the past to true equality in the future. It will feature international perspectives on progressive notions of recovery, family supports, community membership, ending forced impoverishment and system change requirements. Visit [www.self-determination.com](http://www.self-determination.com) for more information or [click here](mailto:info.icsd@gmail.com) to view an informative PDF. E-mail [info.icsd@gmail.com](mailto:info.icsd@gmail.com) with questions.

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### Support Our Efforts!

You can donate to ABC through our website. Follow the link below, then click on the button in the lower left-hand corner of our homepage that says "Make a Donation." We greatly appreciate your generous donations, which go towards helping to maintain ABC for Health, Inc. and our many projects, including HealthWatch Wisconsin. Thank you! [www.abcforhealth.org](http://www.abcforhealth.org)

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