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A Project of ABC for Health, Inc.
www.healthwatchwisconsin.org
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HealthWatch Wisconsin Update

Happy Holidays!



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

December 16 , 2008

Volume 4, Number 23

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Mark Your Calendars Now

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

Support Our Efforts!

Coalition Meetings by County

Barron: 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

New in 2009: HealthWatch WatchDog Talk Show episodes available to everyone!

Beginning in 2009, the **HealthWatch WatchDog** talk show will be available for FREE to all of our friends who are signed up to receive the HWW Update! Currently, the episodes are only available to members of HealthWatch Wisconsin, but we are offering Season 2 to everyone!

The **HealthWatch WatchDog** is a web program that is filmed



semi-monthly at the ABC for Health, Inc., studio, opposite the publication of the HWW Update. The show features commentary, behind-the-scenes analysis and discussion of health coverage issues, and policy puzzlers to test your knowledge of key issues.

2nd Annual HealthWatch Wisconsin Conference: Registration is open!

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



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

Special Sessions will dive into timely topics such as:

- The Expansion of BadgerCare Plus

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: Jan. 5, 9:00-11:00am. Harambee Center, 2202 S. Park St., 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 lkelseyefww@sbcglobal.net or Pat Perkins at (715) 839-4718 or pat.perkins@co.eau-claire.wi.us with questions.

Milwaukee: Jan. 14, 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 - Dec. 18, 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

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

Conference Dates: Monday, February 9, 2009, 1:00pm-4:30pm

(Evening Reception 6:00pm-8:00pm)

Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 8:30am-4:30pm

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

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

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

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

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

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

NEW FEATURE! Video Case Tip!

Now you can watch a video edition of the case tip! Just click on the picture!

Transferring your BC+ /Medicaid Case to a New County

Today, people are often on the move to new cities, counties, and even states. Such transitions can cause problems with certain benefit programs if you are not



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**.

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

Other Meeting Notices

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

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

careful. Take BadgerCare Plus as an example: If you move to a new county within Wisconsin, you will need to make sure your health benefits move along with you. This process of "transferring your case" to the new county of residence can usually be done with a quick phone call to the Department of Human Services in the new county. You will need to provide your new address; the new county will then take the steps necessary to obtain and retrieve your case file from your previous county of residence. The case file and the transferring of the case are electronic. Be sure to watch the mail for a Verification of Address form, and you can expect to have a review within 30 days of the case transfer to the new county. If you have any questions, please check in again with the new county and ask to speak to the "transfer coordinator."

EXAMPLE: Jim lost his job this month, so he and his two small children moved from La Crosse County to Dane County, where he hoped he could more easily find a job. The family receives both BadgerCare Plus and FoodShare benefits. To ensure these benefits continue, Jim called Dane County Human Services to report his new address. Dane County retrieved Jim's benefits file from La Crosse County and sent Jim forms in the mail to verify his new address. Jim returned the paperwork and scheduled a meeting with an Economic Support worker for a benefits review.

New Ops Memo: Transition from GA/GR Medical Programs to BC+ for Childless Adults

A new DHS Operations memo has been released to describe the transition to the BadgerCare Plus Core Plan for Childless Adults, which will be replacing the General Assistance/General Relief Medical programs. Also, this population will be eligible as "Transitional Childless Adults" (TCLA) beginning January 1, 2009. A full description of the changes can be found in this PDF:

[Ops Memo 08-54](#)

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,

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, 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

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, I'd like to encourage you to sign up to host a health care discussion. President-elect Obama and his administration recognize the need for health care reform in the U.S., so they are urging people to hold small community discussions from December 15-31 to provide input for health care reform. All hosts will receive a free moderator kit; you can sign up your event at <http://change.gov/page/s/hcdiscussion>. Senator Tom Daschle, head of the Health Policy Team, may even attend your discussion in person!

[Click here](#) to read an article from the *Denver Post* about the call for input, or [click here](#) to read one from the *Los Angeles Times*.

NEWS: Health Care in Wisconsin

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

- [Health insurance options after job loss - WKOW TV, December 11](#)
- [A roundup of top health issues likely to come before state lawmakers - Shawn Doherty for the *Capital Times*, December 10](#)
- [Be wary of discount health plans - Press release from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection](#)
- [Small businesses hope to find health care fix in proposal - Jason Stein for the *Wisconsin State Journal/La Crosse Tribune*, December 8](#)

NEWS: The New Administration and Health Care

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

- [Tom Daschle has his own health plan - Noam N. Levey for the *Los Angeles Times*, December 15](#)
- [Obama, lawmakers expanding health measures in stimulus plan - Ceci Connolly for the *Washington Post*, December 12](#)
- [Health care policy is in hands of an ex-senator - Robert Pear for the *New York Times*, December 11](#)
- [Obama hopes to avoid Clinton health care missteps - Kevin Freking for the *Associated Press/USA Today*, December 6](#)
- [HHS will be shepherding health-care reform - Ceci Connolly for the *Washington Post*, December 5](#)

are available. You can also email wispubhealth@mch-hotlines.org or [visit their website](#).

Links of Interest

Catalyst Center – A national center dedicated to improving health care insurance and financing for CYSHCN. www.hdwg.org/

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

Cover the Uninsured Week – CTUW 2008: April 27-May 3. <http://covertheuninsuredweek.org>

Family Voices– Speaking on behalf of CYSHCN. www.familyvoices.org

Kaiser Family Foundation – A non-profit, private operating foundation focusing on the major health care issues facing the nation. www.kff.org/

Parent to Parent USA – A national non-profit organization committed to assuring access and quality in Parent to Parent support across the country. www.p2pusa.org

If you have any suggestions on websites or other resources that you have found helpful, please send them to Nora Foshager at nfoshager@safetyweb.org.

Previous Issues of the Update: (in PDF form)

[December 1](#)

- [Obama policymakers turn to campaign tools: network of supporters tapped on health-care issues - Ceci Connolly for the *Washington Post*, December 4](#)
- [Obama promises quick relief for governors - Brian Knowlton for the *New York Times*, December 2](#)

NEWS: Health Care Reform

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

- [Adding SCHIP, Health IT to stimulus package could help clear path for health care reform, Sen. Baucus says - Kaiser Daily Health Policy Report, December 11](#)
- [Daschle says U.S. health-care overhaul will help spur economy - Aliza Marcus for *Bloomberg News*, December 5](#)
- [Insurers propose universal, centralized healthcare - Noam N. Levey for the *Los Angeles Times*, December 4](#)
- [OPINION: Medicine for the Job Market - Jonathan Gruber for the *New York Times*, December 4](#)
- [Lobbies backing health reforms - Lisa Wangsness for the *Boston Globe*, December 3](#)
- [OPINION: Presidential Rx for Health - Susan Blumenthal and Yi-An Ko for the *Washington Times*, November 30](#)

NEWS: Health Care Technology

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

- [Insurers, costs spur rise in online medical records - Alex Nussbaum for *Bloomberg News*, December 9](#)

NEWS: Health Care Costs & Access

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

- [Making medical homes work: moving from concept to practice - Press release from the Center for Studying Health System Change, December 11](#)
- [Health insurers protest \\$88.8 Billion 'hidden tax' - Avram Goldstein for *Bloomberg News*, December 9](#)
- [When a job disappears, so does the health care - Robert Pear for the *New York Times*, December 6](#)
- [Hospitals raise perk ante to draw, treat patients - Tom Murphy for the *Associated Press/San Francisco Chronicle*, December 3](#)
- [Small business owners say cutting health care costs, need for reform are top concerns - Press release from Cover the](#)

[November 15](#)[November 1](#)[October 15](#)[October 1](#)[September 15](#)[September 1](#)[August 15](#)[August 1](#)[July 15](#)

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

HealthWatch WatchDog Episode Archive:

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

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

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

Episode 3 "ACCESS"

Episode 4 "Health Care Reform"

Episode 5 "Birth Cost Recovery"

Episode 6 "The Functional Screen"

[Uninsured, December 3](#)

- [Medical security tops urgency list - Jennifer Harper for the Washington Times, December 2](#)
- [UnitedHealth to insure the right to insurance - Reed Abelson for the New York Times, December 2](#)
- [Health Coverage in a Period of Rising Unemployment - Karyn Schwartz for the Kaiser Family Foundation, December 2008](#)
- [Underinsured struggle to afford health care - Joseph Shapiro for NPR, November 20](#)

NEWS: Medicaid

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

- [Medicaid: A Primer - Kaiser Family Foundation, December 2008](#)

NEWS: The Uninsured

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

- [Uninsured put a strain on hospitals - Reed Abelson for the New York Times, December 8](#)

NEWS: Mental Health Issues

Click on the links below to access recent news articles on mental health issues:

- [Change in federal law could mean small companies will take a big hit on insurance rates - Steve Twedt for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, December 2](#)

Featured Link: Guide to Approaches for Covering the Uninsured

The Kaiser Family Foundation's Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured has recently released a useful reference guide regarding options for covering the 45 million uninsured people in our country. The guide goes over four different strategies for expanding health care coverage and how they can be combined to reform the system.

Episode 7 "Back-to-School"

Episode 8 "Duplicative Service Denials"

Episode 9 "Private Health Insurance"

Episode 10 "Coalition Building"

Episode 11 "Economic Stimulus"

Episode 12 "COBRA"

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

To access this guide, please visit www.kff.org/uninsured/7795.cfm.

CKSN Corner

Covering Kids with Special Needs



Mark Your Calendars Now

One Excellent Conference in 2008, and Five in 2009!

- **Autism Trainings** - These trainings will be held from November 14-April 24 at MATC-Madison's Downtown Education Center, 211 N. Carroll St. Trainings can be taken as a series, or attendees can pick and choose ones that match their interests. For more information, please [click here](#) to view a PDF brochure with a list of classes and a registration form - space is limited!
- **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:
 - 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

Contact Us

We need your help to develop content and tips for our bi-weekly HWW Update. Please let us know about your ideas, events, or success stories. Email your suggestions to nfoshager@safetyweb.org or call (800) 585-4222 ext. 204. If you would like to submit news and information for future HWW Updates, please send it to the attention of Nora Foshager. All submissions should be limited to 150 words.

HealthWatch Wisconsin

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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

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

Courthouse, Demonstration Room, 209 S. St. Marie St., and

- o Milwaukee - February 10, at the Tommy Thompson Youth Center, 640 S. 84th St in West Allis.

- **6th Annual Wisconsin Transition Conference** - This event will be held January 22-23 at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells. The preconference will be held January 21. [Click here](#) to view a PDF copy of the conference brochure which includes details on conference sectional offerings. Questions? Contact Lisa Hebgen at 608-574-0355 or lhebgen@swtc.edu.
- **Circles of Life 2009** - This event will be held April 30-May 1 at the Marriott Madison West. Visit the 2009 conference site at www.wfv.org/circle.
- **Welcome to My World: A Spectrum of Perspectives - ASW 2009 Annual Conference** - This event will be held May 7-9, 2009 at the Kalahari Resort & Convention Center in Wisconsin Dells. To get the early bird rate, ASW must receive your registration before December 31, 2008. The final registration deadline is April 3, 2009. For more information about the conference and to download a PDF registration form, please visit www.asw4autism.org. Questions? Email jpribek@asw4autism.org or call 920-973-4080.

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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