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A Project of ABC for Health, Inc.
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Vol. 5 No. 22

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

HealthWatch Wisconsin Update

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

Season's Greetings!

Enjoy the final newsletter for 2009!!

HealthWatch Wisconsin will publish its next Update newsletter on January 15, 2010. (There will not be a newsletter on January 1, 2010).



We wish you all a very happy holiday and start to the New Year!

Register Today! 3rd Annual HealthWatch WI Conference

Hot Topics: The *Proposed* BadgerCare Plus Basic & National Health Reform!



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

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: January 4, 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: January 13, 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 County Plaza, Balsam Lake. Contact Mike Rust at (715) 485-8525 or

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](#).

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).

Ring in the New Year: Administrative and Legislative Changes Effective Jan. 1

New Year's Eve has always been a time for looking back to the successes and progress of the past year and starting a new chapter. Take a look at some administrative and legislative changes going into effect Jan. 1, 2010. Below is just a sampling.

State to Expand Health Coverage for Young Adults. In June 2009, Wisconsin passed a [new law](#) requiring health insurance policies to cover eligible young adults up to age 27. The law applies to individual health and group health benefit plans and a self-insured plan of the state, or a county, city, village, town or school district, including limited scope plans, such as vision and dental plans. However, the law does not apply to non-state regulated, self-funded coverage plans, which officials say make up roughly 40 percent of Wisconsin's insurance. The statute goes into effect for health insurance policies issued or renewed beginning on Jan. 1, 2010. To be eligible for this coverage, young adults must be:

- Over 17 but less than 27 years of age,
- Not married, and

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.

- Either not eligible for health coverage through the young adult's employer or whose premium contribution for employer coverage is greater than the additional premium amount the parent is required to pay to add the young adult to the parent's health plan.

Additional eligibility rules apply to young adults who are called to federal active duty in the National Guard or reserves while a fulltime student. Gov. Jim Doyle announced an [emergency rule](#) from the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance (OCI) implementing and clarifying the new law. The rule clarifies, mainly, the calculation for eligibility based on premium costs; and eligibility for military personnel, students, non-resident young adults with resident parents, and young adults previously dropped from coverage because of their age.

Mental Health Parity. The [Wellstone-Domenici Parity Act](#), which became law on Oct. 3, 2008, requires that any group health plan that covers more than 50 employees and offers mental health and/or substance use disorders coverage must provide that coverage with no greater financial requirements (i.e., co-pays, deductibles, annual or life-time dollar limits) or treatment limitations (i.e., number of visits) than the predominant requirements that it applies to substantially all medical/surgical benefits. The law goes into effect on Jan. 1, 2010.

Keep an eye on local progress: Wisconsin legislators are proposing a new state law that would end such disparities by requiring group health plans to provide coverage for treatment of mental illnesses and substance abuse disorders comparable to what plans provide for other conditions. The [Wisconsin Mental Health and Alcohol Addictions Parity Act](#), a bill introduced last month by Sen. Dave Hansen, D-Green Bay, and Rep. Sandy Pasch, D-Whitefish Bay, would expand coverage to Wisconsin residents employed by firms with 50 or fewer workers.

Read Shawn Doherty's article "[Plan Might Violate Mental Health Parity Law](#)" about the BadgerCare Plus Core Plan, for the *Capital Times*, December 6, 2009.

Marysa's Section: A Look At HIRSP

[Wisconsin's Health Insurance Risk-Sharing Plan \(HIRSP\)](#) offers health insurance to Wisconsin residents who are not eligible for Medicaid or BadgerCare Plus and who cannot find adequate health insurance coverage in the private market due to either: A medical condition or Loss of employer-sponsored group health insurance and exhaustion of continuation coverage. Additionally, individuals currently enrolled in HIRSP are able to apply for the Core Plan. ([BadgerCare Plus Handbook](#), Ch. 43.6.5)

Example: Jim suffers from Diabetes and Bi-Polar disorder. He is

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

interested in applying for the Core Plan but knows the mental health benefits offered through the program are extremely minimal. He therefore enrolls in HIRSP and pays a monthly premium for that coverage. On June 15 Jim applies online at www.access.wi.gov for the Core Plan. If he is approved for benefits, he will use both Core Plan and HIRSP coverage to obtain the range of medical services he needs.

HIRSP Expansion

Currently, HIRSP is expanding benefits and simplifying its application process. HIRSP, which covers more than 16,000 people, is doubling its lifetime maximum benefit to \$2 million. To qualify, people must provide one letter of rejection from an insurance company, down from two. HIRSP premium reductions are now available for policyholders with households incomes up to \$33,000 per year.

For those who are found to be eligible, HIRSP will cover major medical and prescription drug expenses, subject to pre-existing condition waiting periods. For more information on HIRSP eligibility and coverage, visit the [HIRSP Authority Web site](#). You can also [apply online](#).

HIRSP Phone: 1-800-828-4777; (608) 221-4551

On HIRSP right now? Remember, deductible carryover benefit is no longer available: Expenses incurred between Oct.1, 2009 - Dec. 31, 2009, WILL NOT count toward your 2010 deductible. Please plan accordingly.

Read the latest [HIRSP Newsletter](#).

Dane County HealthWatch Training

Local Coalition to Host Deputy Commissioner of Insurance

On Monday, January 4, 2010, the Dane County HealthWatch Coalition welcomes [Eileen Mallow](#), Deputy Commissioner of Insurance from the [Wisconsin Office of the Commissioner of Insurance](#). Ms. Mallow will discuss the new rules for 2010 related to health insurance in Wisconsin. Such law changes include the [Autism and Cochlear Implant mandates](#), Dependent Coverage rules, and Independent Review procedures for insurance plans governed by the State of Wisconsin. These issues will also be a topic of discussion at the 3rd Annual HealthWatch Wisconsin Conference in February 2010.

All are welcome to attend this informative Dane County HealthWatch Coalition meeting:

Monday, January 4, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.

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

Events and Trainings

LIVE Webcast: *Today's Topics In Health Disparities: What Might Health Reform Mean for Women of Color?* Dec. 16, 2009, 12:00p.m. The Kaiser Family Foundation's next [live, interactive webcast](#) in its *Today's Topics In Health Disparities* series on Wednesday, December 16 will examine aspects of the current Senate and House health reform bills that particularly impact women of color. Women tend to be greater users of the health care system than men, have higher rates of some chronic illnesses, and have unique reproductive health care needs.

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.

The Kaiser Family Foundation released new issue briefs examining the implications of the Medicare buy-in program for [women, older adults, low-income children,](#) and [immigrants](#). You can see all of the Kaiser Foundation's research tools and resources on health reform [here](#).

Harambee Center, 2202 S. Park Street, Madison

HealthWatch Wisconsin Membership

There has never been a better time to become a member of HealthWatch Wisconsin. Whether you are joining for the first time or renewing your membership, you are teaming up with an impressive new effort in Wisconsin that will work to focus and amplify the voices of health care advocates across the state. 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,
- A chance to win in our Packer Ticket Prize Drawing,
- 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.

Case Tip: Gifts!

It's the holiday season, and gift-giving is on our minds!! A quick glance at the [BadgerCare Plus eligibility handbook](#) will pinpoint the rules for "gifts" and when they are counted as income for **BadgerCare Plus** purposes. For instance, handbook Section 16.5.5 "Other Income" defines a gift as something a person receives which: a.) is not repayment for goods or services the person provided, and b.) is not given because of a legal obligation on the giver's part. To be a gift, therefore, something must be given irrevocably (that is, the donor relinquishes all control). If money is given as a gift, the BadgerCare Plus recipient must count any dollar amount over \$30 as "income" in a calendar quarter. (A Calendar quarter is three consecutive months beginning with January, April, July or October.)

Example: Grandma Smith gives her adult daughter, Julie, a check each month for \$150.00 to help her and her baby with rent. Grandma Smith considers this a gift. She does not expect Julie to repay it, and she is not giving it as reimbursement for any money Julie owes her. Julie and her family are on BadgerCare Plus. Since this gift was over \$30, Julie will have to

Calls for Submissions and Volunteers

[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 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

count this money as income for the quarter it was received.

A tougher question: What if Grandma Smith gives Julie a check for \$150.00 in her Christmas stocking? The rule isn't as clear. What are your thoughts? How should this be counted? Send your suggestions to [Brynne](#).

Updates from DHS

Below, find Wisconsin's Department of Health Services (DHS) Operation Memos (Ops Memos) or information updates, with brief summaries and rationales drawn from the information provided by DHS. Any "Opinions" highlighted below are interpretations of HealthWatch Wisconsin staff and Update editors. Follow the links to view the actual memos:

[Ops Memo 09-76](#): Medicare Premium Assistance Asset Limit (Released 12/7/09)

- **New Policy:** Effective January 1, 2010, the Medicare Savings Programs asset limits will be equal to the asset limits associated with a full subsidy under the Medicare Part D Low Income Subsidy program. Therefore, effective for benefit months January 2010, and forward, the asset limits for all Medicare Savings Programs (i.e., Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB), Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB), Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary Plus (SLMB+) and Qualified Disabled Working Individual (QDWI) will be \$6,600 for a group size of 1 and \$9,910 for a group size of 2. The new limits will be increased annually to account for any increase in the consumer price index.
- **Rationale:** These changes are required under federal law. The Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 amends section 1905(p)(1)(C) of the Social Security Act requiring asset limits associated with a full subsidy under the Medicare Part D Low Income Subsidy program be applied to all Medicare Savings Programs.

[Ops Memo 09-75](#): Verification of Shelter and Dependent Care Expenses for FoodShare (Released 12/7/09)

- **New Policy:** Shelter and dependent care expenses are not required to be verified in order for the expense to be used in the FoodShare benefit calculation.
- **Rationale:** To reduce agency workload, and increase program participation and FoodShare issuance in Wisconsin.

[Ops Memo 09-72](#): Processing Changes for the Childless Adult Population (Released 12/1/09)

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 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](#).

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)

[December 1](#)

[November 15](#)

- **New Policy:** The new policy helps clarify the question: County Processing or Enrollment Services Center (ESC) Processing. The ESC will not pull existing FoodShare/Family Planning Waiver cases into the ESC if the member requests the Core Plan and is put on the waitlist. The local agency should continue to manage these ongoing cases until the person's name is pulled from the waitlist and they are able to apply for the Core Plan. If a local agency receives an MADA for an individual open or pending for FoodShare/Family Planning Waiver at the ESC, but on the waitlist for the Core Plan, you should pull that case into your agency and process the MADA along with the EBD Medicaid request.
- **Rationale:** To clarify questions about changes in processing guidelines for health care, FoodShare and Family Planning Waiver requests for the Core Plan population.

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

- dhsmls@wisconsin.gov - for new applications,

[November 1](#)[October 20 Special Edition](#)[October 15](#)[October 1](#)[September 15](#)[September 1](#)[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 14: [Elements of Patient Advocacy in National Health Reform Bills](#)

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](#)

verifications, etc.

- dhsmileschanges@wisconsin.gov - for scanning changes (HTF only scanning changes from cases)
- dhsmilescustomerservice@wisconsin.gov - Advocate Email: use to email MILES with advocate questions.

■ CKSN Corner ■

Covering Kids with Special Needs



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

- **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. 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.
- **Non-Emergency Transportation Stakeholders Advisory Committee** - Dec. 16, 1-3pm. The purpose of this Committee will be to discuss the details and implications of the transportation management initiative we are looking to implement in 2011. Where: Kalahari Resort -- Ironwood Meeting Room. If you would like to participate, but are unable to attend, please contact Carola A. Gaines (608) 821-4214.
- **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,

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.**

2009. For more information, visit www.asw4autism.org.

Wisconsin First Step Help Book 2010 A Directory of Services for Children with Special Needs Directories are now [available on-line](#). Five regional directories are available, each serving specific counties in Wisconsin. Directories are produced in "real-time" with the most up-to-date information provided at the time they are downloaded. For information or assistance in downloading the directories please contact Teresa Halverson or Karen Brandt at [Wisconsin First Step](#); 1-800-642-7837.

[Updated Contact Listing \(12/10/2009\) for the Regional CYSHCN Centers.](#) Questions? [Email Jayne Vargas](#)

Fact Sheet on Mandated Coverage for Autism Services: [This fact sheet takes an informal look at the Autism Mandate \(12/04/09\)](#)

Katie Beckett Program Consultants: [View the Map and Listing of Consultants](#)

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.

Special Issue of *Pediatrics* Devoted to Analyses from the 2005-2006 National Survey of Children with Special Health Care Needs.

A just-released special issue of *Pediatrics* contains 15 articles whose new findings result from closer examination of data collected by the 2005-2006 National Survey of Children with Special Health Care Needs. The articles focus on timely epidemiologic and public health issues at the national and state levels that highlight elements affecting this population. Included in the supplement are studies on the well-being of the health care environment for children with special health care needs (CSHCN), oral health care and Medicaid, school and community services for children with autism spectrum disorder, unmet health care needs among CSHCN with neurological conditions, and geographic disparities in access to a medical home. The survey can be [accessed online](#). A limited number of paper copies of the journal supplement will be available through the [HRSA Information Center online](#) or by phone at 1-888-Ask-HRSA. You can also request a paper copy by e-mailing [Steph Toomer](#). The

articles can also be [accessed online](#).

NEWS: Health Care in Wisconsin

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

- [State Democrats back reform with single-payer system – by Paulette Garin for the *Janesville Gazette*, December 15](#)
- [Health Care Changes Can't Please All - by Guy Boulton for *The Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel*, December 13](#)
- [High Cost of Charity: Costs Continue to Swell for Area Hospitals - by Corrinne Hess for *Business Journal of Milwaukee*, December 11](#)
- [Cost of Prescriptions Doubled in 10 Years - by Corrinne Hess for *Business Journal of Milwaukee*, December 11](#)
- [Addressing the primary care workforce crisis for the uninsured - by Richard E. Rieselbach, MD; Byron J. Crouse, MD; and John G. Frohna, MD, MPH for *Annals of Internal Medicine*, December 8](#)
- [State Medicaid Program to Get \\$1.1 Million Restitution - by Greg Hesselberg for *The Wisconsin State Journal*, December 7](#)
- [Mystery of Dane County's black infant mortality rate grows - by David Wahlberg for the *Wisconsin State Journal*, December 7](#)
- [Health Transparency Bill Introduced - *The Business Journal of Milwaukee*, December 4](#)
- [Hospitals Increasing Rates for 2010 - by Corinne Hess for *The Business Journal of Milwaukee*, Dec. 4](#)
- [FAQs about HIPAA and Wisconsin medical privacy laws: Access without patient authorization - by Sonia Teas for *Inside Track*, December 2](#)

NEWS: Health Care Reform

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

- [Hoyer: House can pass healthcare reform bill without public option - by Molly Hooper for *The Hill*, December 15](#)
- [Obama health care meeting aims to rally Senators - by Sheryl Gay Stolberg for the *New York Times*, December 15](#)
- [Obama "last chance" for health reform - by Carrie Budoff Brown and Mike Allen for *Politico*, December 15](#)
- [Senate health bill unlikely to include Medicare buy-in - by Shailagh Murray and Lori Montgomery for *The Washington Post*, December 15](#)
- [The five biggest myths about health reform - by Kristen Gerencher for *Philly.com*, December 14](#)
- [Lieberman gets ex-party to shift on health plan - by David](#)

[Herszenhorn and David Kirkpatrick for *The New York Times*, December 14](#)

- [Senate Disputes Threaten '09 Passage of Health Bill - by Shailagh Murray for *The Washington Post*, December 14](#)
- [Long-Term Care Stirs Health Care Debate - by Robert Pear for *The New York Times*, December 13](#)
- [Doubts Grow Over Senate's Christmas Deadline for Health Care Reform - by Alexander Bolton for *The Hill*, December 12](#)
- [White House Working To Close Benefit Caps Loophole - *CNN*, December 12](#)
- [High Premiums in Senate Democrats' Health Plan - by David M. Herszenhorn and Robert Pear for *The New York Times*, December 11](#)
- [Senate Tied in Knots Over Proposal to Allow Imported Drugs - by Robert Pear for *The New York Times*, December 11](#)
- [Liberal Senators Press for Expansion of Medicare - by Robert Pear and David M. Herszenhorn for *The New York Times*, December 8](#)

NEWS: Opinion

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

- [Editorial: Insurance cost trend bad for our health - *Post Crescent*, December 15](#)
- [Panel: Health Reform On the Mend? - by Mack McLarty, Douglas Schoen, Michael Leavitt, Ed Rogers, Al From, Len Nichols, Karl Rove and Terry O'Neil for *The Washington Post*, December 13](#)
- [Op-Ed: Is A Health Care Mandate Constitutional? by Stuart Taylor for *The National Journal*, December 12](#)
- [Editorial: Health care reform bills continue to miss mark - *Post Crescent*, December 10](#)
- [Op-Ed: Coverage Without Borders - by Roger Mahoney for *The New York Times*, December 8](#)

NEWS: Health Care Costs & Access

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

- [A 10-point plan to drive down health care costs and expand coverage - by Bradford Kane for the *Huffington Post*, December 15](#)
- [Health care bill expands access, lowers costs, boosts national spending: senators - by Richard Wright for *International Business Times*, December 15](#)
- [Healthcare reform holds promise for dual eligibles - by](#)

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 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.

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

- [Dr. Bruce Chernof for *McKnight's*, December 15](#)
- [Frustrated Workers and Employers Anxious for COBRA Extension - by Andy Miller for *Kaiser Health News*, December 11](#)
- [For some age 55 to 64, Medicare will cost too much - by Janet Adamy for the *Wall Street Journal*, December 9](#)
- [Nurses work to prevent infant mortality in the US - by Janet Boivin for *Nursing Spectrum*, December 7](#)

NEWS: Mental Health and AODA

Click the links to read news stories about mental health and chemical dependency coverage and care:

- [Unemployment in the US: it touches everything - by Michael Luo for the *Financial Chronicle*, December 15](#)
- [Companies expanding EAP offerings - by Shirley Wang for the *Wall Street Journal*, December 15](#)
- [Nearly half of kids with mental disorders go untreated, study finds - by Karen Kaplan for the *Los Angeles Times*, December 13](#)
- [Deployments Taking Toll on Military's Children - by James Dao for *The New York Times*, December 7](#)

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