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HealthWatch Wisconsin Update

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HealthWatch and Covering Kids and Families – Meetings by Region

Southern: February 5, 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 with questions.

Southeastern: February 14, 10:00am-12:00 pm. Aurora Family Services, 3200 W. Highland Blvd, Milwaukee. Contact Tracy Wymelenberg at (414)449-4767 ext. 144 or tracyw@communityadvocates.net with

Governor Announces New Health Initiative, Plans to Extend Coverage to Low-Income Adult Individuals

On January 30, Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle gave his 2007 State of the State address at the capitol in Madison. In the address, the governor called for Wisconsin to be a national leader in health care, among other things. In an effort to cover more of the state's uninsured, Governor Doyle proposed extending coverage to low-income adult individuals under his program, BadgerCare Plus. To view a video clip of the State of the State 2007, please [click here](#). You can also read a text version of the speech by [clicking here](#).

Case Tip: BadgerCare Prenatal Program

A pregnant woman who is ineligible for Healthy Start due to being a non-qualifying resident may be eligible for the BadgerCare Prenatal program. She must meet all BadgerCare criteria except that she does not need to have a Social Security Number. However, while it may appear that a pregnant woman with a household income of less than 185% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) may be eligible for BadgerCare Prenatal, application of the non-financial requirements to the BadgerCare fiscal test group may result in a pregnant woman's ineligibility for BadgerCare Prenatal even if she is low-income.

Example: Josie, her husband Maurice, and their two children are living in Wisconsin. Maurice is working. Only Maurice has a Social Security Number. Josie recently found out she is pregnant and applied for BadgerCare Prenatal. Maurice's income for a family of five is 150% FPL, but, because the two children do not have SSNs, they do not meet the non-financial criteria and therefore are not part of the BadgerCare fiscal test group. Josie is tested against a fiscal group of three, which puts her at 211% FPL. Josie is over income for BadgerCare Prenatal.

[Click here to see the Medicaid Eligibility Handbook non-](#)

questions.

Children's Health Access for the Special and Equal (CHASE) Meeting – February 15, 11:30am-1:30pm. ARC of Milwaukee, 7203 W. Center St. Contact Brad Holman at (414)266-3189 or bholman@chw.org with questions.

Northeastern: March 8, 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 with questions.

Western: March 13, 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 with questions.

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

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

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

Other Meeting Notices

- **Public Health Day at the Capitol:** February 21, 10:00am-2:00pm. For more info, visit www.wpha.org.
- **Planned Parenthood's Women's Health Day of Action:** March 8. Monona Terrace, Madison.
- **CKF Spring Statewide Meeting:** March 14, 9:00-11:45am, Madison. Join the discussion among researchers and community organizations about the latest trends in Medicaid health care, and educate yourself about the new legislation and its impact on Medicaid issues. To register for the meeting, send your name, company affiliation, city, and contact information to Sara Ishado at sishado@wisc.edu or (608) 261-1455.
- **Governor Doyle's E-Health Care Quality and Patient Safety Board:** March 15, 8:00am-4:00pm, Fluno Center for Executive Education, Madison. This is the implementation

financial criteria for BadgerCare eligibility (1.1.2) and description of BadgerCare Fiscal Test Group (5.7.5). [Click here](#) to see the Operations Memo on BadgerCare Prenatal.

Updated Federal Poverty Level Chart and Calculator for 2007

The FPL levels were updated recently for 2007 and you can access the new FPL chart, as well as ABC for Health's FPL calculator, via ABC's website. Please [click here](#) for access.

Revised 06-32 Citizenship Documentation and CARES Verification Code List

Ops Memo 06-32 was revised January 24, 2007. New codes, along with their descriptions, have been added to levels 1, 2, and 5. To view these changes, please [click here](#).

Upcoming WI Health Care Reform Panels

The following Wisconsin health care reform panels are now scheduled:

February 3, 10:00am-12:00pm – Janesville

(New Life Assembly of God, 2416 N. Wright Rd.)

CANCELLED February 7, 6:30-8:30pm – Beaver Dam

February 11, 2:00-4:00pm – Superior

(United Presbyterian Church, 229 N. 28th Street East)

February 11, 7:00-9:00pm – Hayward

Episcopal Church of the Ascension, 10612 California Ave.

February 12, 1:00-3:00pm & 6:30-8:30pm – Ashland

(Northern Great Lakes Visitors Center, 29270 Co. Hwy. G)

February 13, 11:30am-1:00pm – Park Falls

(Public Library, 121 N. 4th Ave.)

February 13, 6:30-8:30pm – Green Bay

(Brown Co. Public Library, 515 Pine St.)

February 22, 7:00-9:00pm – Stevens Point

(Sentry Insurance Theater)

March 25, 2:00-4:00pm – Madison

(Covenant Presbyterian Church, 326 S. Segoe Rd.)

April 18, 8:00-10:00am – Kenosha

(Gateway Technical College)

summit for Wisconsin's 5-Year Action Plan for e-Health Quality and Patient Safety. More information is available at <http://ehealthboard.dhfs.wisconsin.gov>

- **Batteries NOT Included: Motivating the Reluctant Learner:** March 20, 9:00am-3:00pm. Cardinal Stritch University, Milwaukee. Call (414) 259-1884 for more information or to order tickets.
- **Cover the Uninsured Week 2007:** Mark your calendars for CtUW 2007, which will take place April 23-29. Please visit www.covertheuninsured.org for more information.
- **Imagine...Everybody Works! – A Collaborative Conference on Employment and Autism:** May 10-11. Hyatt Regency, Columbus, OH. For more information, contact Teresa Grossi at tgrossi@indiana.edu.
- **Annual Public Health Conference:** May 23-24, Radisson Paper Valley Hotel, Appleton. For more information, please visit the WPHA website at www.wpha.org.

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

NEWS: Bush's Health Care Proposal

Follow the links below to recent articles on President Bush's health care proposal:

- Experts See Peril in Bush Health Proposal - Robert Pear for *The New York Times*, January 28
- Bush ignites health debate; Impact of plan could hit earlier in metro area - Guy Boulton for *The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, January 26
- Bush Revives Some Past Proposals and Offers a New Initiative on Health Insurance - Robin Toner and Robert Pear for *The New York Times*, January 24
- Bush unveils health plan tied to tax deduction - Julie Appleby for *USA Today*, January 24

NEWS: Health Care Reform

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

- With Health Care Topic A, Some Sketches for a Solution - Milt Freudenheim for *The New York Times*, January 25
- Obama calls for universal health care - Nedra Pickler for the Associated Press, January 25
- Universal health care gaining steam in many states - Robert Tanner for the Associated Press, January 21

NEWS: Access to Health Care

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

- People left holding bag when policies revoked; Make a mistake on your application? You may pay for that surgery yourself - Julie Appleby for *USA Today*, January 29
- EDITORIAL: The Clinic Is Open - in *The New York Times*, January 22
- Must insurer pay for surrogate? - Jason Stein for the *Wisconsin State Journal*, January 17

Featured Link: Cover the Uninsured Week

During *Cover the Uninsured Week 2007* (April 23-29), individuals, coalitions, and organizations across the country will come together to promote the reauthorization of SCHIP through a variety of events and activities. Individuals and groups are encouraged to get involved now and continue activities through the Week and beyond, until SCHIP is reauthorized. Although the Week is still a few months away,

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 at www.mch-hotlines.org.

Links of Interest

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

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 Annie Trimberger at atrimberger@safetyweb.org.

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 or call (800) 585-4222 ext. 203. If you would like to submit news and information for future HWW Updates,

it is not too early to learn more about what you can do to help. For more information, visit www.covertheuninsured.org.

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." We greatly appreciate your generous donations, which go towards helping to maintain ABC for Health, Inc. and our many projects. Thank you!

www.abcforhealth.org

■ CKSN Corner ■

Covering Kids with Special Needs



Call for Parents In Partnership Applications, Due March 1

PIP is a four or five part leadership opportunity for parents, foster parents, or other care givers who have children with special needs aged 6-14 or youth with special needs aged 12-21. Parents who participate develop leadership skills, support networks, and positive parent-professional partnerships. If you would like more information on PIP, please call Martha De Young at (608) 742-8814 ext. 255 or email her at deyoungm@cesa5.k12.wi.us.

Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured Issue Brief

"Aging Out of Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT): Issues for Young Adults with Disabilities" was published by KCMU in January 2007 and discusses challenges and implications for young people with disabilities when they become adults and lost their EPSDT benefits. To access the issue brief, please [click here](#).

Great CYSHCN Resources

The first resource is the Wisconsin First Step Help Book 2007: A Directory of Services for Children with Special Needs. Five regional directories are available at no charge, each serving specific counties in Wisconsin. The directory is available online at <http://www.mch-hotlines.org>.

The second and third resources are websites that youth and

please send it to the attention of Annie Trimberger. All submissions should be limited to 150 words.

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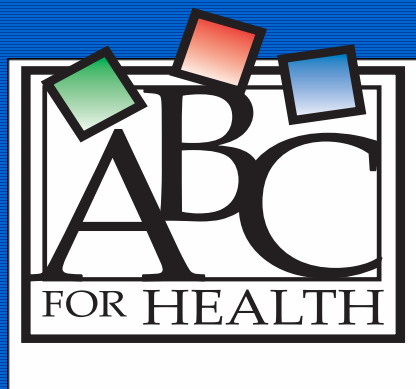
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ABC for Health, Inc. is a Wisconsin-based, nonprofit public interest law firm dedicated to linking children and families, particularly those with special health care needs, to health care benefits and services. ABC for Health's mission is to provide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



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their parents may want to check out when thinking about careers: www.careervoyages.gov/students-main.cfm and <http://worknet.wisconsin.gov/worknet/>.

The fourth and fifth resources are available through ABC for Health's website. You can access the [Healthcare Coverage Transitions for CYSHCN Chart](#) and the [New Parent to Parent Brochure](#) by clicking on the appropriate links.

Mark Your Calendars Now: Four Excellent Conferences in 2007!

- WI Statewide Transition Initiative (WSTI) Conference**
 - The 4th annual conference will be held in Stevens Point on February 16 and 17. Visit www.wsti.org to register.
- 2007 Rehabilitation & Transition Conference** – “Cruising Into the Future.” The conference is March 21-23 at the American Club in Kohler. Visit www.rfw.org for conference information.
- ABOARD 7th Annual Spring Conference** – “Helping People with ASD Learn from Life’s Day-to-Day and Severe Losses.” The conference will be held on March 26 at the Seven Springs Mountain Resort in Champion, PA. Conference registration and brochure are available online at www.aboard.org or by calling (412) 781-4116.
- The 2007 Circles of Life Conference** – The conference will be held April 26 and 27 at the Madison Marriott West in Middleton. Visit www.wfv.org/circle for more info.