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HealthWatch Wisconsin Update

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HealthWatch and Covering Kids and Families – Meetings by Region

Southern: March 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: March 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 questions.

Classic Case Tip: Insurance Bills Can Be Used To Meet a Medicaid Deductible

Some families may have private health insurance as well as "blanket" Medicaid coverage. If a family's income exceeds the Medicaid income limits, that family may still qualify by using the Medicaid deductible feature. Remember, you cannot use a deductible to gain eligibility for BadgerCare.

In addition to using medical debt to meet a deductible, you can also use the money spent on private health insurance. For example, if you pay \$300 per month for premiums, you can use that to apply \$1800 for the six-month period, plus \$900 for the previous three months, for a total of \$2700 to apply toward your Medicaid deductible. If you qualify for backdated coverage, you can also use health insurance premiums that are paid in the three-month period before the six-month deductible period starts. You may also use the general category of 'medical bills,' which is a category of medically related allowable costs. Also included in this category are remedial payments and in-kind payments, which are defined fully in the [Medicaid Eligibility Handbook](#) (Section 4.9.8.1.1).

Please note: Charges that are in deferred status cannot be used to satisfy a deductible unless the provider bills the client or provides a write-off date.

Please see the [Medicaid Eligibility Handbook](#) (Section 4.9.2) for more information on meeting the deductible.

Women's Health Insurance Coverage Fact Sheets

As the cost of health insurance continues to rise, women in particular may face difficult challenges affording coverage because they are disproportionately low-income and can have more limited access to employer-based insurance. To document the health coverage status of women, the Kaiser Family Foundation released new fact sheets providing state and national data on women's health insurance.

Children's Health Access for the Special and Equal (CHASE) Meeting – March 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

- **ABC for Health's BadgerCare Prenatal Presentation "Bienvenidos a BadgerCare" (3 presentation dates!):** February 20, 10:00-11:30am at St. Mary's Bay One Conference Room, St. Mary's Hospital, 707 S. Mills St., Madison. March 8 (time TBA) at the Harambee Center, 2202 S. Park St., Madison. **SPANISH LANGUAGE** - March 20 (time TBA) at the Catholic Multicultural Center, 1862 Beld St., Madison. This presentation is open to anyone who may benefit from learning about the new changes introduced to the program. Please RSVP to mponsati@safetyweb.org. If you have questions or comments, call 1-800-585-4222, Eric at ext. 215 or Ellen at ext. 216 (both speak Spanish).
- **Public Health Day at the Capitol:** February 21, 10:00am-2:00pm. For more info, visit www.wpha.org.
- **Senate Hearings on 3 Comprehensive Health Care Reform Plans:** March 1, 10:00am at the Capitol in Madison. March 2, 10:00am at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. March 6, 9:00am at UW Parkside in Kenosha. For more information, contact Robert Kraig at (414) 476-4550 or Robert.kraig@citizenactionwi.org.
- **Planned Parenthood's Women's Health Day of Action:** March 8. Monona Terrace, Madison.
- **CKF Spring Statewide Meeting:** March

To access the "Women's Health Insurance Coverage Fact Sheet," please [click here](#).

To access "Health Insurance Coverage of Women Ages 18 to 64, 2004-2005," please [click here](#).

Updated Wisconsin Medicaid Programs Chart with New FPL Levels for 2007

ABC for Health recently updated our WI Medicaid Programs Chart with the 2007 FPL levels. This chart contains information on a number of Medicaid programs, including BadgerCare, Healthy Start, Katie Beckett, SSI, and many others. All of the information is on one easy-to-read chart. To access this chart via our website, please [click here](#).

Upcoming WI Health Care Reform Panels

The following Wisconsin health care reform panels are now scheduled:

CANCELLED February 20 - Milwaukee

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

(Sentry Insurance Theater)

NEW February 26, 7:15-9:15am – Marshfield

(Best Western Clearwaters)

NEW March 8, 7:00-9:00pm – Milwaukee area

(venue TBD)

NEW March 15, 6:30-8:30pm – Beloit

(venue TBD)

NEW March 22, 7:00-9:00pm – Whitewater

(City Hall Community Room)

March 25, 2:00-4:00pm – Madison

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

NEW March 26, 6:00-8:00pm – La Crosse

(Reinhart Institute for Ethics in Leadership, Rm. 127, Viterbo Campus)

April 18, 8:00-10:00am – Kenosha

(Gateway Technical College)

NEW April 21, 9:00-11:00am – Combined Locks

(Christ the King Church, 601 S. Washington St.)

NEW April 21, 12:30-2:30pm – Neenah

(First Presbyterian Church, 200 Church St.)

NEW April 21, 3:30-5:30pm – Oshkosh

(St. Paul UCC)

NEW April 24, 7:00-9:00pm – Milwaukee

(Congregation Emanu-El B'ne Jeshurun, 2020 W. Brown

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 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](#))

Deer Rd.)

NEW April 26, 7:00-9:00pm – River Falls

(1st Congregational UCC)

NEW April 26, 7:00-9:00pm – Lodi

(venue TBD)

NEW May 3, 7:00-9:00pm – Brookfield

(Unitarian Universalist Church West, 13001 W. North Ave.)

NEWS: Medicaid in the News

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

State and U.S. at Odds on Aid for Uninsured - Robert Pear and Raymond Hernandez for *The New York Times*, February 13

1.8 Million Uninsured Children Are Eligible for the State Children's Health Insurance Program - the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, February 9

Bush Seeks Big Medicare and Medicaid Saving - Robert Pear for *The New York Times*, February 2

NEWS: Health Care Costs

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

EDITORIAL: Passing the Buck on Health Care - *The New York Times*, February 12

Preventive health plan may prevent cost increases; Safeway program includes hot line, lifestyle advice - Victoria Colliver for the *San Francisco Chronicle*, February 11

Wisconsin's Nonprofit Hospitals are Flush with Cash - Eric Decker for the *Small Business Times*, January 5

NEWS: Health Care Reform

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

Health care for all: Gregoire's plan; Governor and legislative leaders commit to coverage within 5 years - David Ammons for the Associated Press, February 7

Edwards to present health plan - Rob Christensen for the *Charlotte News & Observer*, February 5

Featured Link: The National Assembly of School-Based Health Care

are all available from the Kaiser Family Foundation.

- **Knowledge Path** is a web-based guide from the Maternal and Child Health Library at Georgetown University that points to current, high-quality resources on caring for CYSHCN. Separate sections list resources on specific aspects of care and development, such as adolescent transition, advocacy, financing, and screening. To access this resource, please [click here](#).
- **Wisconsin First Step** can help you find resources for children birth to 21 with special needs. Staff are on-hand 24 hours a day to answer calls and can provide follow-up and materials on specific diseases or conditions. Call (800) 642-7837 with questions. Language interpretation and TTY services are available. You can also email wispubhealth@mch-hotlines.org 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 Trimmerger at atrimberger@safetyweb.org.

The National Assembly of School-Based Health Care provides information and expertise regarding the administration of school-based health services through training and education projects. For more information, visit www.nasbhc.org.

Community Shares of Wisconsin's Annual Share-A-Meal

In coordination with its member organizations and 9 local restaurants, CSW will host its 2nd Annual Share-A-Meal event on Tuesday, March 13.

Participating restaurants will donate a portion of their proceeds to Community Shares and its member organizations (including ABC for Health, Inc.) if you dine out at one of the participating restaurants and make a designation.

You can request that the donated portion of the cost of your meal go directly to ABC for Health, Inc.



Participating Restaurants (all in Madison):

Bunky's Café (2827 Atwood Ave., 204-7004) *L,D

Café Soleil (25 N. Pinckney St., 251-0500) *B,L

The Dardanelles (1851 Monroe St., 256-8804) *L,D

Harvest (21 N. Pinckney St., 255-6075) *D

Maharaja East (1707 Thierer Rd., 246-8525) *L,D

Maharaja West (6713 Odana Rd., 833-1824) *L,D

Roman Candle (1054 Williamson St., 258-2000) *L,D

Tornado Steak House (116 S. Hamilton St., 256-3570) *D

Weary Traveler (1201 Williamson St., 442-6207) *L,D

B=Breakfast L=Lunch D=Dinner

Go to the event website (www.share-a-meal.org) for more information or call Community Shares at (608) 256-1066.

■ **CKSN Corner** ■
Covering Kids with Special Needs



Call for Parents In Partnership (PIP) 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

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

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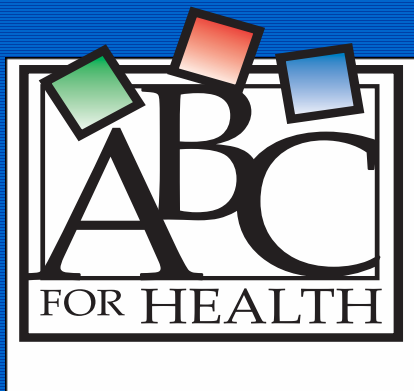
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ABC for Health, Inc. is a Wisconsin-based, nonprofit public interest law firm dedicated to linking children and families, particularly those with special health care needs, to health care benefits and services. ABC for Health's mission is to provide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



(608)261-6939

info@safetyweb.org

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.

Governor Doyle Announces Health Insurance for Autistic Children

On February 9, Governor Jim Doyle announced that, as part of the budget he will submit to the legislature by February 16, he will require that insurers provide coverage for autistic children. This addition to the budget followed the release of a national report by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which found that about 1 in 150 children have autism.

To read the news release on the Governor's website, please [click here](#). To view the CDC report in PDF, please [click here](#).

United Healthcare Children's Foundation's Grants for Kids

The United Healthcare Children's Foundation is offering support to meet the needs of children nationwide with assistance grants for medical services not fully covered by health insurance.

Parents and caretakers across the country will be eligible to apply for grants of up to \$5,000. To be eligible for the grants, children must be 16 years of age or younger. Families must meet economic guidelines, live in the U.S., and be covered by a commercial health insurance plan. For more information, please visit www.uhccf.org.

Mark Your Calendars Now: Three Excellent Conferences in 2007!

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 info.

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.