



A Project of ABC for Health, Inc.

www.healthwatchwisconsin.org

HealthWatch Wisconsin Update

March 1, 2007

Volume 3, Number 4

In This Issue

- New HealthWatch Wisconsin Effort Launches
- Case Tip: Appeals, Final Part – Hearing and Decision
- Maryland Boy Loses Medicaid Coverage, Dies After Tooth Infection Spreads to Brain
- Covering Kids and Families Spring Coalition Meeting
- Wisconsin Women's Health Guide
- Senate Health Committee Hearings
- Joint Finances Committee Announces Schedule of Budget Hearings Across State
- NEWS: Health Care in Wisconsin
- NEWS: Health Care Costs
- NEWS: Health Care Reform
- NEWS: Covering Children
- Featured Link: Health and Human Services – Office on Disability's NEW Website
- Upcoming WI Health Care Reform Panels
- CKSN Corner:
 1. Two New Autism Support Groups
 2. Medication Management Resources
 3. Materials on Health Care Transition
 4. ABC for Health to Present at 2007 Circles of Life Conference
 5. Mark Your Calendars Now: Four Excellent Conferences in 2007!
- Support Our Efforts: Community Shares of Wisconsin's Annual Share-A-Meal

HealthWatch Wisconsin Effort Launches

March 1, 2007 inaugurates HealthWatch Wisconsin's rebirth under a grant from the University of Wisconsin Medical School's Partnership Fund for a Healthy Future.

ABC for Health will be holding a press conference on March 6 at 2:00pm at the Senate Parlor in the State Capitol.

Stay tuned to updates on the HealthWatch Wisconsin website www.healthwatchwisconsin.org We will implement a new homepage with information on plans for the grant, member registration as well as a new page on HWW's affiliated coalitions.

Case Tip Series: Appeals, Final Segment – The Hearing and Decision

You are now seated at a table with your witness, your written evidence, and the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ). The ALJ will explain how the hearing is conducted and you will be sworn in as a witness. The hearing will be tape-recorded.

You can make a short opening statement about the issue you are appealing. You can then present your verbal and written testimony and question your witnesses. You have the right to question the county or state witnesses as well. Usually, the state only submits a written response to your appeal. You will receive a copy before the hearing. Be prepared to address all issues in the state's response letter. The ALJ will probably ask questions and may interrupt you if you get off track and present testimony that is not relevant to your case. When you present written testimony, the ALJ will mark it as an exhibit.

At the conclusion of the hearing, you can ask the ALJ to leave the record open if you have additional written testimony that you would like to submit. If you do not ask for additional time, the record will be closed and you cannot admit additional evidence (except under some limited circumstances). The ALJ will give you an estimated

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.

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.

Coalitions Under Development

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.

timeframe within which you can expect a decision. The decision will be sent to you in writing.

If you win, the decision will state the ALJ's order. If you do not win your case, the decision will explain what further appeal actions you can take: request a rehearing and/or an appeal to circuit court. You should consult an experienced advocate before you pursue those avenues.

More information on the hearings is available on the Division of Hearings and Appeals website at <http://dha.state.wi.us>.

Maryland Boy Loses Medicaid Coverage, Dies After Tooth Infection Spreads to Brain

To access this news article from the Washington Post, please click on the link below:

[For Want of a Dentist - Mary Otto for the *Washington Post*, February 28](#)

Covering Kids and Families Spring Coalition Meeting

Join the discussion among researchers and community organizations about the latest trends in Medicaid coverage, and educate yourself about the new legislation and its impact on Medicaid issues.

Date: March 14

Time: 9:00-11:45am

Place: Room 400 S.E., State Capitol, Madison

To register for the meeting, send your name, company/organization affiliation, city, and contact information to Sara Ishado at sishado@wisc.edu or (608) 261-1455.

Wisconsin Women's Health Guide

On February 23, the Wisconsin Women's Health Foundation and the Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health formally introduced the 2007 Wisconsin Women's Health Guide.

This comprehensive guide includes information on a variety of women's health topics and a list of health services and resources for each of Wisconsin's 72 counties.

[Click here](#) to view an electronic copy of the guide online.

Other Meeting Notices

- **Senate Hearings on 3 Comprehensive Health Care Reform Plans:** 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.
- **ABC for Health's BadgerCare Prenatal Presentation "Bienvenidos a BadgerCare" (2 presentation dates!):** In English - March 8, 10:00-11:00am at the Harambee Center, 2202 S. Park St., Madison. En español – los 20 del marzo (la hora será anunciado) en el 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).
- **Planned Parenthood's Women's Health Day of Action:** March 8. Monona Terrace, Madison.
- **Wisconsin Council on Children and Families 2007 Lobby Day:** March 14, 12:30-4:00pm, Madison. CKF members are encouraged to get involved and educate the legislature about public health insurance and other issues. For more info, contact Vicky Selkove at (608) 284-0580 ext. 326 or vselkove@wccf.org.
- **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.

Senate Health Committee Hearings

The Wisconsin State Senate Committee on Health and Human Services, headed by State Senator Jon Erpenbach, will hold hearings that are open to the public at the following locations:

Green Bay – March 8, 4:00pm

Aging and Disability Resource Center of Brown County
300 S. Adams St.

Eau Claire – March 22, 4:00pm

Chippewa Valley Tech College Auditorium
620 W. Clairemont Ave.

Joint Finances Committee Announces Schedule of Budget Hearings Across State

This is your opportunity to speak up on issues related to the budget. Hearings will be held in the following cities on the following dates and times:

March 20, 10:30am-4:30pm – Milwaukee

March 21, 10:00am-4:00pm – De Forest area

March 27, 12:00-5:00pm – Chippewa Falls

April 4, 12:00-5:00pm – Prairie du Chien

April 11, 12:00-5:00pm – Rhinelander

April 12, 10:00am-4:00pm – Green Bay

Specific facility locations for each hearing will be released in the near future. Please stay tuned for more information. If you have any questions regarding these hearings, please contact Atty. Jeffrey Spitzer-Resnick of Disability Rights Wisconsin at (608) 267-0214, TTY: (888) 758-6049, or spitznick@drwi.org. You can access the Budget in Brief and budget documents by individual agencies through Governor Doyle's website; please [click here](#).

NEWS: Health Care in Wisconsin

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

[Poster Patients - ABC for Health's Bobby Peterson featured on Wisconsin Public Television, February 15 \(Follow this link then click under "Web Resource" to watch the segment in Real Player or Windows Media\)](#)

[Take Care Health to open 5 clinics in area; Walgreens-](#)

- **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.
- **20th Annual National Maternal and Child Health Leadership Conference:** May 15-16, Hilton Garden Inn, 4070 East Main St., St. Charles, IL, 60174. This conference will focus on making change happen by translating research into maternal and child health (MCH) public health practice. For more information, visit www.uic.edu/sph/mch/mch_leadership_conference.htm.
- **Annual Public Health Conference:** May 23-24, Radisson Paper Valley Hotel, Appleton. For more information, please visit the WPHA website at www.wpha.org.

based medical centers offer limited care at fixed prices
- Guy Boulton for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, February 24

Farm health insurance co-op set to debut - Amy Rinard for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, February 18

Hospital tax would shift costs - Guy Boulton and Stacy Forster for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, February 16

NEWS: Health Care Costs

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

Advisers: Bush Plan Would Cost Taxpayers - Kevin Freking for the Associated Press/*San Francisco Chronicle*, February 28

Bush Spotlights Rising Health Care Costs - Kevin Freking for the Associated Press/*San Francisco Chronicle*, February 24

States are running out of health dollars - Shannon McCaffrey for the Associated Press/*Houston Chronicle*, February 22

Company health care costs rise 8% - Theresa Agovino for the Associated Press/*The Detroit News*, February 22

Bush pushes plan to shift costs of health coverage - *USA Today*, February 22

Medical Costs Boost Consumer Prices - Martin Crutsinger for the Associated Press/*Houston Chronicle*, February 21

Some Employers Are Offering Free Drugs - Milt Freudenheim for *The New York Times*, February 21

Spending bill OK'd, may be sign of new Congress - Andrew Taylor for the Associated Press/*Houston Chronicle*, February 14

NEWS: Health Care Reform

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

Hospital Group Offers Plan on Health Coverage for All - Milt Freudenheim for *The New York Times*, February 22

Bush Touts Plan to Help Uninsured - Ben Feller for the Associated Press/*Houston Chronicle*, February 21

Bush Vows Cooperation on Health Care - Deb Riechmann for the Associated Press/*San Francisco Chronicle*, February 18

Illinois congressmen push child health plan - William Neikirk for *The Chicago Tribune*, February 16

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 are available. You can also email wispubhealth@mch-hotlines.org or visit their website at www.mch-hotlines.org.

Coleman unveils legislation to improve rural health care - Frederic J. Frommer for the Associated Press/*Star Tribune*, February 15

Senators Take Health Plan to Bush - Kevin Freking for the Associated Press/*San Francisco Chronicle*, February 13

NEWS: Covering Children

Follow the links below for recent articles on children’s health care coverage and services:

Child Health Care Splits White House and States - Robert Pear for *The New York Times*, February 27

For healthcare, put kids and prevention first - Susan Brink for *The Los Angeles Times*, February 26

Making Health Care a Reality for Low-Income Children and Families - Judith Wooldridge for *Covering Kids and Families*, February 2007

Featured Link: Health and Human Services - Office on Disability’s NEW Site

The Office on Disability is pleased to announce the launch of a completely redesigned website, which provides comprehensive yet easy-to-access information supporting the seven domain identified by the president’s New Freedom Initiative: housing, education, information technology, transportation, health, employment, and community integration. In addition, there is information on advocacy, entitlements, and emergency preparedness, as well as numerous fact sheets on disability issues. For more information, visit www.hhs.gov/od.

Upcoming WI Health Care Reform Panels

Speakers at these panels will address the various proposed health care plans (The Wisconsin Health Security Act, The Wisconsin Health Care Partnership Plan, and Wisconsin Health Plan) and will answer questions from the audience. The following panels are now scheduled:

March 8, 7:00-9:00pm – Milwaukee area
(venue TBD)

March 15, 6:30-8:30pm – Beloit
(venue TBD)

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.)

March 26, 6:00-8:00pm – La Crosse

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

More panels are scheduled; you can find the dates and times in upcoming issues of the HealthWatch Wisconsin Update. If you have any questions about the panels, please contact Kristin Settle of the Institute for One Wisconsin at (414) 481-4323 or Kristin@onewisconsinnow.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 Trimmer at atrimberger@safetyweb.org.

■ CKSN Corner ■ Covering Kids with Special Needs



Two New Autism Support Groups

These support groups will be open to anyone interested in the opportunity to meet and share insight, questions, feelings, and concerns regarding autism spectrum disorders. There is no fee to attend.

La Crosse Area Autism Support Group – To be added to the e-mail/snail mail list, contact Steven or Rena Cash at lax-autismgroup@charter.net or (608) 519-0883.

Pierce County Area Autism Support Group – For more information, contact Katie Knutson at knubell@sbcglobal.net or (715) 273-4548.

Medication Management Resources

Follow the links below to three medication management resources:

[Practice standards and state government resources regarding management of medications in the school setting](#)

[Guide for Parents: Medication Management at School](#)

[The listing of state statutes protecting students' rights to carry and use prescribed asthma and anaphylaxis medications](#)

Materials on Health Care Transition

Follow the links below to four health care transition resources:

[Materials and resources developed by the University of Florida, including workbooks, an info booklet, and two videos](#)

[Web-based curriculum for families and youth](#)

High School Curriculum: What's Health Got To Do With Transition?

Transition to Adult Health Care: A Training Guide in Two Parts

ABC for Health to Present at 2007 Circles of Life Conference

ABC for Health staff will present the two following topics:

Finding Success in Applying for Katie Beckett and Children's Long Term Support Programs: Will discuss Medicaid/Children's Long Term Support programs for CYSCHN, their differing eligibility requirements, preparing for the Functional Eligibility Screen, and rules and legal strategies to appeal denials.

Medical Home Raising: Will orient attendees to Medical Home services and will gain insights on developing family and service provider partnership and events to promote the concept.

The conference will be held April 26 and 27 at the Madison Marriott West in Middleton. Visit www.wfv.org/circle for more information.

Mark Your Calendars Now: Four 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.

Kalahari Autism Safari: Journey Through the Spectrum – The conference will be held May 10-12 at the Kalahari Resort and Convention Center in Wisconsin Dells. Click here to download a registration form. For more information, visit www.asw4autism.org.

1st Annual Exceptional Parents EXPO – This event will be held May 17 from 4:30-8:30pm at the Ponzio Center, Northland College in Ashland. Please contact Deanna Yost at (715) 682-7171 ext. 35 or dyost@nhnorth.com with questions or for more information.

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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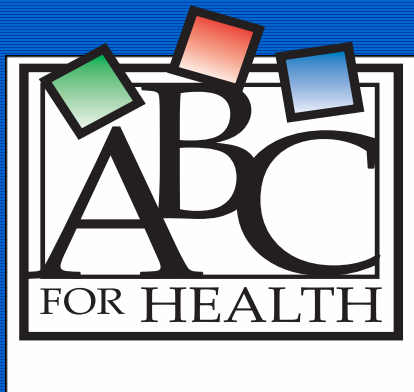
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ABC for Health, Inc. is a Wisconsin-based, nonprofit public interest law firm dedicated to linking children and families, particularly those with special health care needs, to health care benefits and services. ABC for Health's mission is to provide 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

Support Our Efforts!

Community Shares of WI'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.

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.
