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A Project of ABC for Health, Inc.  
[www.healthwatchwisconsin.org](http://www.healthwatchwisconsin.org)  
[info@healthwatchwisconsin.org](mailto:info@healthwatchwisconsin.org)

## HealthWatch Wisconsin Update

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

February 29 , 2008

Volume 4, Number 4

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

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### Meetings by Region

**Southern:** March 3, 9:00-11:00am. Harambee Center, 2202 S. Park St, Madison. Contact Nora Foshager at (608)261-6939 ext. 204 or [nfoshager@safetyweb.org](mailto:nfoshager@safetyweb.org) with questions.

**Southeastern:** March 12, 10:00am-12:00 pm. Aurora Family Services, 3200 W.

### Join Us at the HealthWatch Wisconsin Conference!

#### Our Conference Theme is BadgerCare Plus.

The 1st Annual HealthWatch Wisconsin Conference is coming up soon! Join advocates from across Wisconsin, as well as Medicaid representatives Jason Helgerson, Jim Jones and others, at the conference on Tuesday, March 11, 2008 from 8:30am-4:30pm at the Best Western Inn on the Park in Madison. A networking reception will be held from 6-8pm on March 10. [Click here](#) to view a draft agenda for the conference. As promised, HealthWatch Wisconsin members will receive a deep discount - more than 60% off the regular conference attendance fee!

If you are not yet a registered member of the HWW Organization, it's not too late. You can register for membership at the same time as you register for the conference and still qualify for the greatly reduced membership fee. If you are unsure of your membership status, feel free to call Nora at 1-800-585-4222, ext. 204.

You can register for the HWW Conference online at [www.healthwatchwisconsin.org](http://www.healthwatchwisconsin.org). Click on the 'Annual Conference' link to be directed. Payment is done through Paypal and requires a credit/debit card. If you would prefer to pay by check or have an invoice sent, please email [nfoshager@safetyweb.org](mailto:nfoshager@safetyweb.org) for the registration form.

#### Registration deadline is Wednesday, March 5, 2008!

Visit [www.healthwatchwisconsin.org](http://www.healthwatchwisconsin.org) for more information on the Annual Conference and HealthWatch Wisconsin.

### Vote for the HealthWatch Wisconsin Council!

Highland Blvd, Milwaukee.  
 Contact Leah Jepson at (414) 286-6608 or [ljepso@milwaukee.gov](mailto:ljepso@milwaukee.gov) or Tanya Atkinson at [Tanya.Atkinson@ppwi.org](mailto:Tanya.Atkinson@ppwi.org) with questions.

Children's Health Access for the Special and Equal (CHASE) Meeting – March 20, 11:30am–1:30pm. ARC of Milwaukee, 7203 W. Center St. Contact Brad Holman at (414)266-3189 or [bholman@chw.org](mailto:bholman@chw.org) with questions.

**Western:** March 11, 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](mailto:rmarsh@co.chippewa.wi.us) with questions.

### Coalitions Under Development

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

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

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

### Other Meeting Notices

**Milwaukee County Executive Candidate Forum - 7:00-8:30 pm,** March 4 at Summit Place, 6737 W. Washington St., West Allis (east of S. 70th St., north of Greenfield Ave.), in the 1st floor conference room. This forum is open to the public and free of charge. It will feature State Senator Lena Taylor and County Executive Scott Walker. The questions will focus primarily on

At the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual HWW Conference on Tuesday, March 11, 2008, HealthWatch Wisconsin members will vote for twelve representatives to serve on the HealthWatch Wisconsin Council (HWWC). A slate of nominees will be included in the conference packets that attendees will pick up when they arrive.

The Council will be comprised of representatives from local coalitions and other public health workforce members from around Wisconsin. HWW staff will seek one representative from each of the state's five Public Health Regions and at least five "at-large" members. In addition, per the terms of the grant, the HWW project director and faculty partner will be members of the council. Members attending the conference will have an opportunity to discuss nominations during the morning of March 11 and write in additional nominations on their ballots. All ballots will be collected by noon at the conference on March 11; after this point, no additional write-in candidates will be accepted.

HWW members unable to attend the conference will still be able to vote for Council members. All write-in votes received at the conference will be added to the ballot, which will then be sent to all members who are unable to attend the conference. These ballots must be completed and returned by Wednesday, March 26, 2008 or they will not be counted. HealthWatch Wisconsin Council election results will be announced on Friday, March 28, 2008.

**HealthWatch Wisconsin Council Goal Statement:** The HWWC will transform the public health landscape by increasing the capacity of the public health workforce to serve Wisconsin's un- and under-insured populations through improved collaboration and communication between the University of Wisconsin-Madison faculty partner, the public health workforce, and local HealthWatch coalitions.

If you are interested in nominating someone for the HWWC, please call Brynne McBride at 1-800-585-4222, ext. 210 or send an email with all relevant information (including your contact info) to [bmcbride@safetyweb.org](mailto:bmcbride@safetyweb.org).

### Submit Your BadgerCare Plus Questions

Send your BadgerCare Plus questions to [info@safetyweb.org](mailto:info@safetyweb.org) to be asked during two conference breakout sessions entitled "BadgerCare Plus Issues to Address."

Part I will include representatives from DHFS and the Milwaukee County Health Department and will address eligibility issues, including:

- Rules about access to insurance
- New deductible and backdate limits
- Allocating income

health and human services, with some time for questions from the audience. For more information, please contact Melinda Kiltz, ARC Milwaukee at 414-774-6255.

**Issues and Ideas: A Briefing Session and Dialogue with Milwaukee County Supervisor Candidates**

- 6:30-8:30 pm, March 11 at Summit Place, 6737 W. Washington St., West Allis. This forum is open to the public and free of charge. The questions will focus primarily on health and human services, with some time for questions from the audience. For more information, please contact Melinda Kiltz, ARC Milwaukee at 414-774-6255.

**ADAPT Youth Summit** - June 20-23 in Chicago. This summit is designed for people with disabilities between the ages of 18-30 who are looking for ADAPT direct-action style training or those who are interested in being more involved/starting their own ADAPT chapter. Click on the links to view [the outside](#) and [the inside](#) of the brochure. To receive an application or for more information, contact Rahnee Patrick at [rahneek@hotmail.com](mailto:rahneek@hotmail.com) or (312) 320-5111. Space is limited and applications will be reviewed by a selection committee. The deadline to apply is March 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

Part II will feature representatives from DHFS and Family Planning Health Services and will address coverage issues, including:

- The Benchmark Plan
- Premiums and co-payments
- Mental health parity/dental access
- Substandard and high deductible private insurance policies
- Family planning services

## Case Advisory: Disregard Earned Income of Minor Children

Previously, under old Family Medicaid eligibility rules, earned income of minors was typically counted as part of the household income in a family's financial eligibility determination.

Now, under BadgerCare Plus, earned income of minor children is no longer counted in the eligibility determination for a family. "Earned income of individuals under 18 years of age" is listed under "Income Types Not Counted" (see the [BadgerCare + Eligibility Handbook](#), Section 16.2, #6). For some families, this could make a difference between qualifying and not qualifying for medical assistance.

EXAMPLE (under current rules): Mary and Tom have a 16-year-old daughter, Leia. Leia earns \$500 per month on her paper route. Leia's \$500 in monthly income is **not** counted in the family's total monthly income when determining their eligibility for BadgerCare Plus.

## Featured Link: The BadgerCare Plus Handbook

Answers to many questions about BadgerCare Plus can be found in the program's handbook. You can view the handbook directly online, or you can click on the 'PDF Versions' link at the top of the screen to save a printable copy to your computer. To access, visit [www.emhandbooks.wi.gov/bcplus](http://www.emhandbooks.wi.gov/bcplus).

The new Medicaid Eligibility Handbook, which can be found at <http://www.emhandbooks.wi.gov/meh-ebd/>, contains elderly, blind and disabled policies, and became effective February 1, 2008.

## NEWS: Health Care in Wisconsin

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

- [Autism Compromise? - Zac Schultz for NBC 15, February 28](#)
- [SB 178 Passes State Senate with Strong Bipartisan Support - Press release from the Autism Society of Wisconsin, February 26](#)
- [Senate votes to require autism care - Steven Walters and](#)

– 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](mailto: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/](http://www.hdwg.org/)

**The Commonwealth Fund** – A private foundation working toward a high performance health

[Stacy Forster for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, February 26](#)




- [County Public Health Programs underfunded in Wisconsin - Press release from the Wisconsin Medical Society, February 20](#)
- [EDITORIAL: Bill would make health care costs more transparent - Appleton Post-Crescent, February 19](#)
- [Health care not easy to fix - Amy Olson for the Wausau Daily Herald, February 17](#)
- [Doyle's idea: Equalized insurance - Guy Boulton for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, February 2](#)

## NEWS: Health Care & the 2008 Election

Use the links below to navigate recent articles on health care in the 2008 election:

- [Democratic Health Plans More Alike than Different - Audrey Grayson for ABC News, February 26](#)
- [Simple Question Defines Complex Health Debate - Christopher Lee for the Washington Post, February 24](#)
- [EDITORIAL: Next president must tackle health care - the Wausau Daily Herald, February 20](#)
- [Clinton, Obama pit health care plans - Christina Bellantoni for the Washington Times, February 18](#)
- [Candidates get specific on health care - Guy Boulton for the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, February 16](#)

Audio pieces:

-  [NPR's "Morning Edition"](#): Discussion about whether to require individuals to have health care (Obama and Clinton's opposing views), February 25
-  [NPR's "News & Notes"](#): Discussion with Paul Ginsberg, president of the Center for Studying Health System Change, about the issue of health care in the presidential election, February 22
-  [NPR's "All Things Considered"](#): Discussion of the Clinton and Obama health care proposals, February 22

## NEWS: Health Care Reform

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

- [Coalition to examine health, poverty link - Amy Fagan for the Washington Times, February 29](#)
- [Rep. Obey says Congress will wait for next administration if Bush officials refuse to compromise on HHS Funding -](#)

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](http://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/](http://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](http://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](mailto:nfoshager@safetyweb.org).

[Kaiser Daily Health Policy Report, February 28](#)

## NEWS: Covering Children

Follow the links below to access recent news articles on children's care and coverage:

- [EDITORIAL: Rethinking Help for Children - the \*New York Times\*, February 29](#)
- [Governors Want Kids' Insurance Expanded - Kevin Freking for the \*Associated Press/Houston Chronicle\*, February 26](#)

## NEWS: Health Care Costs & Access

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

- [Farm Bill Will Disrupt Wisconsin Express Lane Eligibility and Women, Infant and Children Programs - Press release from Spectrum Science Communications, February 29](#)
- [Taxpayer health care spending to hit \\$4.3 trillion by 2017 - Kevin Freking for the \*Associated Press/Houston Chronicle\*, February 25](#)
- [Insurance Fears Lead Many to Shun DNA Tests - Amy Harmon for the \*New York Times\*, February 24](#)
- [States Redefine Family Health Policies - Kevin Freking for the \*Associated Press/Houston Chronicle\*, February 21](#)
- [EDITORIAL: A Rip-Off by Health Insurers? - the \*New York Times\*, February 18](#)
- [Study Finds Cancer Diagnosis Linked to Insurance - Kevin Sack for the \*New York Times\*, February 18](#)
- [EDITORIAL: A Fighting Chance? - the \*New York Times\*, February 16](#)
- [Wages and Benefits: A Long-Term View - Paul Jacobs for the Kaiser Family Foundation, February 2008](#)

## NEWS: Mental Health Issues

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

- [Mental health bill faces hurdle - Kathleen Masterson for the \*Capital Times\*, February 23](#)

## NEWS: Medicaid

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

- [Governors of Both Parties Oppose Medicaid Rules - Robert Pear for the \*New York Times\*, February 24](#)
- [New Medicaid Rules Will Hurt States During Economic Downturn, Critics Say - the Kaiser Daily Health Policy Report, February 20](#)

## ■ CKSN Corner ■

Covering Kids with Special Needs



### March Webinar Series on Transition

PEATC and the Virginia Commonwealth University- Rehabilitative Research Training Center is offering a webinar training series for families, youth and professionals: "Building Effective Partnerships and Assessing Resources - Year One of a Three Year Webinar Series." The dates and topics of the webinar series are:

- March 3: "Laying the Groundwork for Transition"
- March 10: "Exploring the Future and Creating a Timeline"
- March 17: "Challenging Tradition Through Lifelong Learning and Economic Empowerment"

Go to [www.peatc.org](http://www.peatc.org) for more information on this series or [click here](#) to register.

### Autism Series in Spanish

The Latino Autism Support Group from Milwaukee is hosting this series for parents of children diagnosed with autism, their relatives and caregivers. The goal is to inform and educate about what autism is and how it affects families. Information about therapies and treatments, autism waiver, in-home programs and strategies will also be provided.

- **Session 1:** "Understanding Autism": Introduction to

Autism, Saturday, March 29, 12:00pm - 4:00pm.

- **Session 2:** "Fortifying Families of Children with Special Needs": Parents as Caregivers - A Day for the Parents, Saturday, April 12, 12:00pm - 4:00pm.
- **Session 3:** Community Resources, Saturday, April 26, 12:00pm - 4:00pm.

All sessions will be held on the 2nd floor of the 16th Street Community Health Care Center, 1032 S. Cesar Chavez Drive in Milwaukee.

For more information or to register for this series, contact Nelsinia Ramos at [nramos@wifacets.org](mailto:nramos@wifacets.org) or (414) 374-4645 x124, or contact Martha Lechuga at (414) 383-5417.

## 2007-2008 Statewide Autism Training - Wisconsin DPI

- April 8-9, 2008: Advanced Level, Addressing Challenging Behavior - Madison

For more information, contact Jeanne Hook at [jeanne.hook@dpi.state.wi.us](mailto:jeanne.hook@dpi.state.wi.us) or 608-266-3928 or Lynn Boreson at [lynn.boreson@dpi.state.wi.us](mailto:lynn.boreson@dpi.state.wi.us) or 608-266-1218, or visit <http://dpi.state.wi.us/sped/autism.html>.

## Mark Your Calendars Now

### Seven Excellent Conferences in 2008!

- **2008 Rehabilitation and Transition Conference: Blast Off... To the Stars!** – This event will be held April 9-11 at the American Club in Kohler. This annual event is Wisconsin's premiere conference for rehabilitation and transition professionals. [Click here](#) for conference updates.
- **Wisconsin Long Term Care Conference** - This event will be held April 14-16 at the LaCrosse Center in downtown LaCrosse. Go to [www.uwlax.edu](http://www.uwlax.edu) to register by April 4, or you can register by fax or mail. The event is limited to the first 950 and it is expected to fill quickly.
- **ASW 2008 Annual Conference** - This event will be held May 1-3 at the Regency Suite/ KI Convention Center in Green Bay. [Click here](#) to view the conference program or [click here](#) to register by March 21.
- **Transitions Conference 4 - Participation: Building the Skills for Participating in the Adult World** - This event will be held May 21-23 at the Holiday Inn on King in Toronto, Canada. Health care professionals, community service providers, educators, researchers, caregivers, families and youth are invited to participate. With 51

presentations scheduled from speakers around the world, participants will gain knowledge about the latest information on adult living, health care, and recreation and socialization. [Click here](#) for more information or contact Kimberlea Jones-Galley, Transitions Conference Chairperson at 416-425-6220 ext. 3645, toll free at 1-800-363-2440 ext. 3645, or email [transitions2008@bloorview.ca](mailto:transitions2008@bloorview.ca). A detailed conference brochure will be available soon along with registration information.

- **International Conference on Self-Determination -**

This event will be held May 27-29 at the Renaissance Center in Detroit, Michigan. A pre-conference workshop will be held on Tuesday, May 27 from 9:00 am-4:00 pm. The topics will be: Income and Asset Development and International Communication and Information Sharing. This conference is dedicated to laying a foundation across disability and aging for moving publicly funded systems of support/care from the paternalism of the past to true equality in the future. It will feature international perspectives on progressive notions of recovery, family supports, community membership, ending forced impoverishment and system change requirements. Visit [www.self-determination.com](http://www.self-determination.com) for more information or [click here](#) to view an informative PDF. E-mail [info.icsd@gmail.com](mailto:info.icsd@gmail.com) with questions.

- **The Road to Work: Achieving High Performance in Supported Employment -** This event will be held October 6-8 at the Osthoff Hotel and Resort in Elkhart Lake. This conference, hosted by the Wisconsin APSE, is focused on integrated employment for people with disabilities. More information and the conference schedule will be posted soon at [www.wiapse.org](http://www.wiapse.org).

- **Midwest Autism Conference: Putting the Pieces Together -** This event will be held October 19-21 at the La Crosse Center in La Crosse, Wisconsin. To submit a proposal, please email the following items to Jan Olson at [olson.jani@uwlax.edu](mailto:olson.jani@uwlax.edu): 1. a 50-150 word abstract with 3-5 learning objectives listed as bullet points, 2. title of proposed presentation, 3. your name, job title, credentials, resume/vita, place of employment and address, phone number and email address. If there will be more than one presenter, please provide information for all those presenting. A complimentary conference registration will be awarded for each proposal accepted.

## 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](mailto: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 Update Staff

Bobby Peterson

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

Shelly Flanders  
[mflanders@safetyweb.org](mailto:mflanders@safetyweb.org)

## New address

ABC for Health, Inc. has moved.

ABC for Health, Inc.  
 32 N. Bassett St.  
 Madison, WI 53703-2606

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](mailto:info@safetyweb.org)

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

- Are you planning on doing training for your agency or membership?
- Do you have to share a message with lots of people, but can't find time (or money) to travel?
- Do you wish there were an easier way?



## There is: Web-cast your next training!

- **Speed:** Deliver a live message to a targeted audience of unlimited size in real time.
- **Value:** Educate many with cost effective methods, especially compared to travel.
- **Convenience:** Satisfy your audience with archived web casts, free of place or time constraints, accessible from any online terminal.

Agencies and organizations are now invited to rent ABC for Health's Web-casting studio with state-of-the-art technology.

The rental rate includes the use of studio space with equipment (laptops, camera, MediaSite Technology, microphones, mixing board, Sonic Foundry equipment, lighting, and backdrops) and a full time technician/IT specialist to help you with your production. ABC will also archive your training for your viewers to access online for up to 6 months after your live training. For more information or to rent the studio, please email [info@safetyweb.org](mailto:info@safetyweb.org) or call Brynne McBride at (608) 261-6939, ext. 210.

## Support Our Efforts!

You can 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, including HealthWatch Wisconsin. Thank you! [www.abcforhealth.org](http://www.abcforhealth.org)

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