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A Project of ABC for Health, Inc.
www.healthwatchwisconsin.org
info@healthwatchwisconsin.org

March 14 , 2008

Volume 4, Number 5

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Meetings by Region

Southern: April 7, 9:00-11:00am. Harambee Center, 2202 S. Park St, Madison. Contact Nora Foshager at (608)261-6939 ext. 204 or nfoshager@safetyweb.org with questions.

Southeastern: April 9, 10:00am-12:00 pm. Aurora Family Services, 3200 W. Highland Blvd, Milwaukee.

HealthWatch Wisconsin Update

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

HealthWatch Wisconsin Conference a Success!

Thank you to everyone who helped make the first annual HealthWatch Wisconsin Conference a success. 145 people joined us for this event, which featured presenters from several different organizations and areas of the state.

According to the post-conference evaluation, attendees really enjoyed the morning Legislative Panel and most respondents thought that the afternoon Plenary Session on Coordinated Statewide Advocacy was also interesting. Some of the most popular breakout sessions were BadgerCare Plus Issues to Address, BadgerCare Plus Outreach Tools, and Non-Qualified Immigrant Issues in BadgerCare Plus.

Here's what some people had to say about their experience:

- "There was more explanation of the programs than I've ever had before."
- "Very passionate presenters and interesting and important topics."
- "There is a lot of detail-very useful for people working 'on the ground' with this program."
- "Breakout sessions were very good; love that conference materials were put on CD!"
- "This was great! I hope we can continue with annual conference."

In fact, everyone who responded to the evaluation stated that they would be interested in attending future HWW Conferences and we are already looking forward to next year's event. Thank you to everyone who attended and made this conference possible.

At the conference, HealthWatch Wisconsin members were also given the opportunity to vote for members of the HealthWatch Wisconsin Council. Any HWW member who was unable to attend the conference should receive an email soon with a ballot so that

Contact Leah Jepson at (414) 286-6608 or ljepso@milwaukee.gov or Tanya Atkinson at 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 with questions.

Western: May 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.

Other Meeting Notices

Live Webcast: Tax Subsidies and Health Insurance - Thursday, March 20 at 11:30am. This webcast will be hosted by kaisernetwork.org's *Ask the Experts*. The experts will go over the current system of employer-sponsored insurance tax and address proposals to change that structure, including some currently being advocated by the presidential candidates. [Click here](#) to join the webcast.

they can vote- watch your inbox! **All ballots must be received by the end of the day on March 26.** The election results will be announced in the Update on **March 28.**

We are currently compiling all of the questions that attendees submitted during the conference. Stay tuned for a **Special Edition Update** in April featuring the answers to your questions.

Conference materials are available for purchase!

If you were unable to join us at the First Annual HealthWatch Wisconsin Conference and would like a copy of all the session power point presentations, information and tools on BadgerCare Plus, and ABC for Health publications and resources, you can now purchase a conference CD! Contents include: the 2008 Resources Guide, AdvoKit, "You and Your Medical Debt," HealthWatch Toolkit, and power points on BadgerCare Plus Basics, BadgerCare Plus Issues to Address, Child Support and Lying-In Costs, Non-Qualified Immigrant Issues, Katie Beckett Functional Screens and much more! For purchasing information, please call ABC for Health 608-261-6939 ext. 204. [Click here](#) to view a CD Table of Contents.

Case Tip: BadgerCare Plus Coverage for Families Applying for Katie Beckett

The Katie Beckett Program is a Medicaid program that allows certain children with long-term disabilities, mental illness, or complex medical needs, living at home with their families, to obtain a Wisconsin Medicaid card. In contrast, the new BadgerCare Plus program may cover the entire eligible family. BadgerCare Plus (BC+) offers access to health care to children, pregnant women, and some income-eligible families.

Good news! **Children can now apply for both Katie Beckett Medicaid and BC+ at the same time.** This means that eligible children can often secure BC+ coverage pending the determination of their Katie Beckett eligibility which can take up to six months. BC+ applications are required to be determined within 30 days. These children will also receive fee for service Medicaid instead of Managed Care or HMO plans pending the Katie Beckett determination. Families must notify the Katie Beckett program of their child's BC+ eligibility and exemption from requirements to enroll in managed care or HMO coverage, pending the determination for Katie Beckett eligibility. The Katie Beckett main office (608-266-3236) must also be provided with the child's name and BC+ identification number for the family to receive fee-for-services coverage under BC+ pending the Katie Beckett determination.

If Katie Beckett Program Medicaid eligibility is determined for the child, she has the option of disenrolling from BC+. In addition, the entire family (if previously eligible) can disenroll or just the child who is now eligible for Medicaid through the Katie Beckett Program. A child who is NOT approved for Medicaid through the

UW La Follette Spring 2008 Symposium: Health Care Payment Reform and Pay-for-Performance in Wisconsin-How to Promote System Transformation (and what not to do) - Tuesday, April 29, from 1:00pm-4:30pm at the Monona Terrace Convention Center, with reception to follow. RSVP by April 17 to Ceri Jenkins at cerijenkins@wisc.edu or call (608) 262-6318.

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

Katie Beckett Program will then be enrolled in a HMO but have continued BC+ eligibility (Standard or Benchmark based on family income) for health insurance coverage

Scenario: Jill's three year old daughter, Suzie, needs medical treatments for her cerebral palsy. The FPL for the family is 230%. Jill called the Katie Beckett program to get information about benefits for Suzie, but heard that it took a long time for those applications to be processed. Suzie's treatments couldn't be delayed that long. Therefore, Jill scheduled an appointment to complete a Katie Beckett application. She simultaneously filled out a BadgerCare Plus application. Even though Jill's income was above 200% of the FPL, Suzie was found eligible for BadgerCare Plus, and obtained fee-for-service benefits (Standard Plan) pending the determination of her Katie Beckett eligibility. If Suzie is found ineligible for Katie Beckett, she can still keep her BC+. However, based on her family's income, she will be placed in the Benchmark plan for her services.

Submit Your Case and Policy Questions

If you have a case or policy question that you would like answered by the staff at ABC for Health, please email info@safetyweb.org with your question and we will investigate it. If it is a common concern, we will report our findings in a subsequent issue of the HWW Update.

Featured Links: Listing of Impairments and the BadgerCare Plus Handbook

Listing of Impairments

The Social Security Office has an online listing of the medical criteria in the evaluation of impairments of both children and adults. Click on the links below to access these listings:

- [Childhood Listings](#)
- [Adult Listings](#)

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.

NEWS: Health Care in Wisconsin

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

- [BadgerCare Plus list of Benchmark Covered NDC's - from the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services](#)
- [Community Health Centers Support Hospital Assessment Plan - Press Release from the Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association, March 11](#)

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](#).

- [Doyle offers budget patch: \\$527 million plan includes hospital tax, transportation fund transfer - Patrick Marley and Stacy Forster for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, March 11](#)
- [Governor Doyle Announces Budget Repair Plan - Press release from the office of Governor Jim Doyle, March 10](#)
- [Support for Proposed Hospital Assessment - Press release from several hospitals, March 10](#)
- [WHA Statement on the Hospital Assessment and Budget Repair Legislation - Press Release from the Wisconsin Hospital Association, March 10](#)
- [Senate panel will consider health bill - Jason Stein for the *Wisconsin State Journal*, March 4](#)

NEWS: Health Care & the 2008 Election

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

- [Clinton role in health program disputed - Susan Milligan for the *Boston Globe*, March 14](#)
- [About Those Health Care Plans by the Democrats ... - Robert Pear for the *New York Times*, March 3](#)
- [Coming Soon: Health Care Debate, Part 2- Kevin Sack for the *New York Times*, March 2](#)

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 Week – CTUW 2008: April 27-May 3.

<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 Nora Foshager at nfoshager@safetyweb.org.

NEWS: Health Care Costs & Access

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

- [Drawing Lots for Health Care - William Yardley for the *New York Times*, March 13](#)
- [Faith-based groups offer health 'assurance' plans - Clay Barbour for the *Charlotte Observer*, March 11](#)
- [In Oregon, healthcare for the lucky - Stuart Glascock for the *LA Times*, March 10](#)
- [UNC asks patients to pay upfront - Jean P. Fisher for the *Raleigh News & Observer*, March 6](#)
- [Oregon Holds Health Insurance Lottery - Sarah Skidmore for the *Associated Press*, March 4](#)

NEWS: Mental Health Issues

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

- [House Bill mandates mental health coverage - Victoria Colliver for the *San Francisco Chronicle*, March 6](#)

Become a HealthWatch Wisconsin Member today!

It's easy! Use our online membership tool by going to www.healthwatchwisconsin.org and click on the link to register.

For only \$20, you gain future access to online and live trainings on health care coverage programs, access to detailed publications on advocacy strategies and tips, and a chance to meet your friends and peers for a **deep discount** each year at our annual conference! Members are all a part of our efforts to see that all people have access to affordable and comprehensive health care and coverage in Wisconsin.

- [Primary Care Doctors May Overlook Elderly Patients' Mental Health - The National Institute of Mental Health, February 25](#)

NEWS: Medicaid

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

- [Hospitals battle bid to rein in Medicaid - Barbara Barrett for the Raleigh News & Observer, March 9](#)
- [Administration's Medicaid Regulations will Weaken Coverage, Harm States, and Strain the Health Care System - Allison Orris and Judith Solomon for the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, March 4](#)
- [States: Medicaid Changes Costly - the Associated Press/Houston Chronicle, March 3](#)

■ CКСN Corner ■ Covering Kids with Special Needs



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 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 or 608-266-3928 or Lynn Boreson at lynn.boreson@dpi.state.wi.us or 608-266-1218, or visit <http://dpi.state.wi.us/sped/autism.html>.

Editorial: Autism coverage best in long run

[Click here](#) to read an editorial from the *Appleton Post-Crescent* about why it's important for Wisconsin insurance companies to cover autism therapy costs for young children.

DPI/DVR/DHFS Interagency Agreement Training

This training will be held April 23 from 8:30am-12:30pm at CESA #1, 19601 W. Bluemound Road, Suite 200 in Brookfield. The team will present the collaborative model developed by these three agencies to help successfully transition young adults to the work setting after school. Contact Leanne Pritzlaff at lpritzlaff@cesa1.k12.wi.us or 262-787-9556 for more information or to register by April 16. There is no cost to attend.

Mark Your Calendars Now

Eight 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 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.
- **Sensory Functioning in Children with Visual Impairment and Multiple Disabilities** - This event will be held May 6-7 at the Wintergreen Resort in Wisconsin Dells. This workshop is designed for people who are working with a child who has a vision loss with additional disabilities. For more information, go to www.sl.edu/wde and click on "Events" or email wideafblindedu@yahoo.com. [Click here](#) to view the brochure and registration form. The registration deadline is April 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. 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 for more information or [click here](#) to view an informative PDF. E-mail 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.
- **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

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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 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

bobbyp@safetyweb.org

Nora Foshager

nfoshager@safetyweb.org

Shelly Flanders

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

proposal, please email the following items to Jan Olson at 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.

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

- 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?



The solution is easy: 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.

ABC for Health has developed a web casting studio with state of the art technology to reach a mass audience in the comforts of their own homes or offices. Agencies and organizations are now invited to rent this studio space for a low, introductory rate. Conveniently located in downtown Madison on the corner of Bassett and Mifflin Streets, the ABC Studio offers web cast quality and value with a fully equipped studio rental, perfect for the technologically advanced and novices alike!

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. Contact ABC for Health for rental rate information at info@safetyweb.org.

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

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

ABC offers a secured, private entrance to the studio space for your privacy.

For more information or to rent the studio, please email 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

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