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A Project of ABC for Health, Inc.
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HealthWatch Wisconsin Update

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April 30 , 2008

Volume 4, Number 8

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Coalition Meetings by County

Barron: June 3, 1pm. Location TBA. Contact Mike Rust at (715) 485-8525 or miker@co.polk.wi.us with questions.

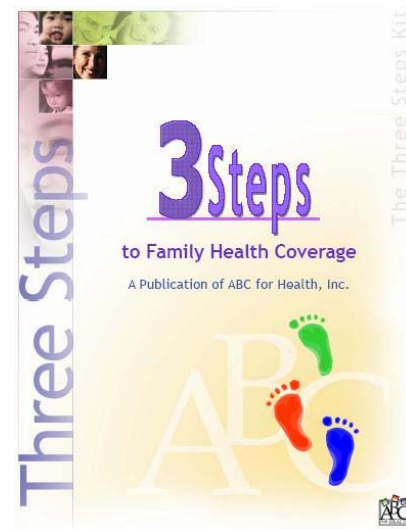
Chippewa: May 13, 10:45am-12:00pm. Chippewa County Courthouse, Room 121, 711 N.

ABC for Health Celebrates "Cover the Uninsured Week" April 27-May 3!

ABC for Health offers an important publication for FREE! (through Saturday, May 3)

Remember that the **3-Steps Kit** is still available to download for free through Saturday, May 3 at our website, www.healthwatchwisconsin.org under the "Publications" section.

Thousands of families and children in Wisconsin are eligible for health care coverage, but due to system complexity and lack of both appropriate outreach and advocacy assistance, many of these families go without the care and coverage they need. ABC for Health, Inc. has created a valuable publication to help. The **3-Steps Kit** is a family guide to obtaining, using and keeping public benefits. In celebrating the mission of this year's "[Cover the Uninsured Week](#)," ABC for Health is offering this electronic publication **free of charge** to interested individuals. ABC has also made other publications available for sale on its [website](#), such as the AdvoKit, 2008 Resources Guide, "You and Your Medical Debt," and the HealthWatch Toolkit.



Read ABC for Health's press release about the free document, which was featured in [The Wheeler Report](#) and [WisPolitics](#).

Bridge St., Chippewa Falls.
Contact Rose Marsh at 1-800-400-3678 or

rmarsh@co.chippewa.wi.us with questions.

Dane: May 5, 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.

Eau Claire: May 1, 12:00-1:30pm. Luther Hospital, Dining Room 1, 1221 Whipple St., Eau Claire. Contact Lou Kelsey at (715) 834-4455 or lkelseyefww@sbcglobal.net or Pat Perkins at (715) 839-4718 or pat.perkins@co.eau-claire.wi.us with questions.

Milwaukee: May 14, 10:00am-12:00 pm. Aurora Family Services, 3200 W. Highland Blvd, Milwaukee. Contact Kari Mattson at (414) 449-4777 ext. 145 or karim@communityadvocates.net with questions.

Milwaukee CHASE: Children's Health Access for the Special and Equal - April 17, 11:30am-1:30pm. ARC of Milwaukee, 7203 W. Center St., Milwaukee. Contact Brad Holman at (414) 266-3189 or bholman@chw.org with questions.

Polk: May 29, 10:45am. Polk County Health Department. Contact Mike Rust at (715) 485-8525 or miker@co.polk.wi.us with questions.

Coalitions Under Development

Dunn: Contact Patrick Rebman at (715) 233-7309 or rebman.patrick@mayo.edu with questions.

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

Other Meeting

Heard It Through the Grapevine...



ABC for Health has received several reports that clients and advocates are frustrated with delays in the BadgerCare Plus application process due to verification documentation issues. In multiple cases, sources claim that ESS workers received properly submitted verification documents, but, due to error or oversight, the documents were not entered into the CARES system. In each of the reported instances, advocates resubmitted copies of the verification documents to show that all proper information had been provided in timely manner to the ESS workers.

...What Have You Heard?

Please contact ABC for Health if you have recently learned something that bothers you and would like to find out if it is an isolated incident or a state- or region-wide problem. Also, let us know if you have some good news to share on a strategy or a tip to help people obtain the coverage and care they need. Contact Nora Foshager at nfoshager@safetyweb.org or (608) 261-6939, ext. 204 with information.

Case Tip: Create a Paper or Electronic Trail

Advocates can help families through the BadgerCare Plus application process by keeping copies of all the documents a family has submitted. An even better strategy, technology permitting, is to scan the family's application packet, as well as all the required verification forms and documents, and make electronic PDF versions of these items. These electronic versions can then be sent to the ESS worker as attachments via email along with a "read receipt." A "read receipt" informs the sender when the recipient opens the email, which serves as additional proof that the ESS worker has received the documentation.

Whether they are paper or electronic, copies of application materials and documents provide important "back-up" evidence to ensure continuation of the application process in the event that information submitted by the family is lost in the mail or misplaced by the ESS worker. Advocates should be sure to keep copies of any documents they submit on behalf of a client, along with the date and time they submitted them to the caseworker.

All HealthWatch Wisconsin Members: FREE TRAINING AVAILABLE!

HealthWatch Wisconsin members: follow the simple steps below to sign up for a **FREE** training on "3 Steps to Family Health Care Coverage!"



Web cast trainings on public and private health care programs as

Notices

State of Our Health: A Wisconsin Leadership Forum on Health Care Quality Measurement and Improvement

- Friday, May 2, from 8:00am-12:40pm at the Milwaukee Marriott West in Waukesha. This conference is intended to raise awareness of the value of initiatives underway to improve health care quality outcomes. There are no fees and complimentary breakfast and lunch will be provided. Go to www.emron.com/registration/620 to register. For more information, contact Tim Ross at 973-321-4418 or tross@emron.com.

Listening Session in Brown County with Senator Russ Feingold - Saturday, May 3, at 9:15 am in the Second Floor Common Council Chambers at the DePere City Hall, 335 South Broadway.

Community Forums on Wisconsin Partnership Program's Five Year Plan - Tuesday, May 6, from 10am-noon at UW-Stevens Point, Old Main Administration Building, 2100 Main St., Room 102. Registration is not required for these events. For more information, please [click here](#).

SAVE THE DATE: Mapping a New Road to Recovery: Addressing Mental Illness in the Criminal Justice System - June 30, from 8:30am-4:30pm at the Marquette University Alumni Memorial Union.

Resources

Energy Services, Inc. of Dane County: The home energy plus program can help with high

well as advocacy and strategies are just some of the many benefits of membership in HealthWatch Wisconsin. Although our comprehensive HealthWatch Wisconsin training curriculum is in testing and development, members can take advantage of several new trainings that will help HWW staff develop and evaluate the formal training program and process.

These web casts are FREE to HealthWatch Wisconsin members willing to take a few minutes to answer a pre-web cast questionnaire. The questionnaire will be used as an evaluation tool. You will answer the exact same questions *after* viewing the web cast to measure any changed understanding of the training content. This evaluation and review process will also help presenters modify the format or content of future presentations.

To sign up for the free training, follow these easy steps:

1. To view the first training on **"3-Steps to Family Health Care Coverage,"** please send an email to bmcbride@safetyweb.org. Request a copy of the pre-training questionnaire.
2. Upon completing the brief pre-web cast questionnaire, you will be emailed the web cast link for your viewing.
3. Click on the link at a time that is convenient for you. The first web cast is **"3-Steps to Family Health Care Coverage,"** run time: approx. 20 minutes.
4. After the webcast, please complete the same questionnaire that you received.

Questions? Email Brynne at bmcbride@safetyweb.org.

About the "3-Steps to Family Health Care Coverage" Training:

Thousands of families and children in Wisconsin are eligible for health care coverage, but due to system complexity and lack of both appropriate outreach and advocacy assistance, many of these families go without the care and coverage they need. The 3-Steps to Family Health Coverage is a guide to acquiring, using and keeping public benefits.

New Information on BadgerCare Plus!

Sponsor a 3-Steps Kit and AdvoKit Training in Your Area!

Thousands of families and children in Wisconsin are eligible for health care coverage, but due to system complexity and lack of appropriate outreach and advocacy assistance, many of these families go without the care and coverage they need. The **AdvoKit** is a tool that includes essential information for service providers to guide families toward



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](#).

Links of Interest

much-needed health care coverage and services. The **3-Steps Kit** is a guide to acquiring, using and keeping public benefits.

ABC for Health will be taking their training on the **AdvoKit** and the **3-Steps Kit** to an area near you! Training topics include:

- Acquiring, Using, and Keeping Public Benefits
- BadgerCare Plus, BadgerCare Plus Prenatal and Emergency Services,
- Elderly, Blind, and Disabled Medicaid, and
- Practical tips and information to help families negotiate the complex health care financing system.



For more information about sponsoring a training in your community, please contact Brynne at bmcbride@safetyweb.org or (608)261-6939 ext. 210.

Here's what individuals in Milwaukee had to say about a **3-Steps Kit** and **AdvoKit** training presented in March by ABC for Health:

- "Everything presented was very helpful"
- "Great presentation and hands-on tools"
- "Useful resources and insight. Thank you!"

NEWS: Health Care in Wisconsin

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

- [BadgerCare Plus off to a healthy start - Guy Boulton and Stacy Forster for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, April 29](#)
- [Growing BadgerCare Plus - Andrew Beckett for the Wisconsin Radio Network, April 28](#)
- [You lost your job - now what? - Avrum D. Lank for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, April 26](#)
- [Uninsured really feeling the pain - Eric Litke for the Sheboygan Press, April 24](#)
- [Hospital tax may be dumped - Jason Stein for the Wisconsin State Journal, April 19](#)
- [Talks to expand BadgerCare Plus to childless adults progressing well, Doyle says - Stacy Forster for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, April 7](#)

NEWS: Dental Access Issues

Use the links below to access current articles about access to dental care:

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.

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

- [Dental Clinics, Meeting a Need with No Dentist - Alex Berenson for the *New York Times*, April 28](#)
- [New clinic to help take a bite out of tooth decay - Erin Richards for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, April 26](#)
- [EDITORIAL: Junking the status quo - *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, April 21](#)
- [Legislative Audit Bureau confirms WDA concerns that state overpaying medical HMOs millions for dental care - Press release from the Wisconsin Dental Association, April 21](#)
- [Too few dental providers continues to be major issue, audit says - Stacy Forster for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, April 18](#)
- [Additional Dental and Dental Hygienist Services May Be Billed by HealthCheck Agencies - BadgerCare+ Update, February 2008](#)

NEWS: Health Care & the 2008 Election

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

- [Federal Money in Health Care Plan from McCain - Michael Cooper and Kevin Sack for the *New York Times*, April 30](#)
- [A closer look at candidates' health plans - Joe Fahy for the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, April 18](#)

NEWS: Health Care Reform

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

- [EDITORIAL: Get serious about health care reform - David Newby for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, April 20](#)
- [Warning on Storage of Health Records - Steve Lohr for the *New York Times*, April 17](#)
- [Former senators tackle health issues - Kevin Freking for the *Associated Press/Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, April 16](#)

NEWS: Covering Children

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

- [EDITORIAL: Hurdles to Insuring Children - the *New York Times*, April 25](#)
- [President is Rebuffed on Program for Children - Robert Pear for the *New York Times*, April 19](#)

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.

NEWS: Health Care Costs & Access

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

- [Getting married for health insurance - Ricardo Alonxo-Zaldivar for the *Los Angeles Times*, April 29](#)
- [Study Warns Job Losses Will Strain Government Health Programs - Kevin Sack for the *New York Times*, April 29](#)
- [Senate passes bill banning genetic discrimination - Ricardo Alonxo-Zaldivar for the *Los Angeles Times*, April 25](#)
- [Dems hedge on healthcare - Manu Raju for *The Hill*, April 23](#)
- [States Look to Tobacco Tax for Budget Holes - Kevin Sack for the *New York Times*, April 21](#)
- [Average drug co-pay declined in 2007 - Jim Salter for the *Associated Press/Philadelphia Inquirer*, April 17](#)
- [EDITORIAL: When Drug Costs Soar Beyond Reach - *New York Times*, April 15](#)
- [Lower Insurance Premiums and Better Care: Un-American Health Delivery - Mike Hale for the *New York Times*, April 15](#)
- [Modest number of uninsured families have sufficient assets to cover cost sharing in HSA-qualified plans - Press release from the Kaiser Family Foundation, April 15](#)
- [Grim statistics focus on uninsured as Catholics promote dialogue - Nancy Frazier O'Brien for the *Catholic News Service*, April 11](#)
- [Squeezed: How Costs for Insuring Families are Outpacing Income - a report done by the State Health Access Data Assistance Center at the University of Minnesota, April 2008](#)

NEWS: Medicaid

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

- [HHS Secretary Leavitt Says Bush Administration Would Accept Short-Term Moratorium on Two New Medicaid Regulations, While Five Others Would Take Effect - Kaiser Daily Health Policy Report, April 30](#)
- [House slaps down White House over slashes to Medicaid - Jim Abrams for the *Associated Press/Houston Chronicle*, April 23](#)
- [Committee brushes aside Bush veto threat - Kevin Freking for the *Associated Press/Austin American-Statesman*, April 16](#)

Featured Link: NAMI Wisconsin

One out of every five Wisconsin families is affected by mental

illness. The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI National) serves more than 200,000 people and NAMI Wisconsin has 34 affiliates throughout the state with a membership of nearly 5,000 people. NAMI provides information and serves as an advocate for people affected by mental illness.

Visit www.namiwisconsin.org for the Wisconsin division of the organization, or [click here](#) to view county-specific services available to residents with mental illnesses and their families.

■ CKSN Corner ■

Covering Kids with Special Needs



New data on CYSHCN in WI from the HHS Department

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has released the National Survey of Children with Special Health Care Needs Chartbook for 2005-2006. The information is available for the entire U.S., but you can [click here](#) to view Wisconsin's statistics and see how they compare to the rest of the country.

CYSHCN Map for Wisconsin

DHFS has recently updated the Wisconsin map of the Regional Centers for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs. [Click here](#) to view the interactive map on their website. Visit each Regional Center's website for contact information.

Medical Home and Transition topical phone conference

The National Healthy and Ready to Work Resource Center is hosting a toll-free topical call on how Title V can support pediatric and adult medical homes on May 7, from 2-3 pm. The toll free line

is 1-800-567-5900 and the pass code is 870036#.

To find out more information or to access resources prior to the call, please visit <http://www.hrtw.org/hrtwu/index.html>.

Mark Your Calendars Now

Seven Excellent Conferences in 2008!

- **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. View an [informational brochure](#) or visit the [conference website](#) 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.
- **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 the [conference website](#) for more information and to register. E-mail info.icsd@gmail.com with questions.
- **First Annual Wisconsin Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Conference- Early Relationships Matter: Building Networks** - This event will be held June 18-20 at the Concourse Hotel in Madison. Some conference topics include: general infant mental health concepts, professional development, screening and assessment and supporting parents. View an [informational brochure](#) or the [conference website](#) for more information and to fill out a registration form. The registration deadline is May 23.
- **2008 VENA Training and WIC/WNEP Conference** - This event will be held June 23-25 at the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton. Two pre-conference workshops will be offered Monday, June 23 from 9:30am-4:30pm. Attendees can choose from either *Welcome to WIC* or

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

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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

Infants and Children with Special Health Care Needs. [Click here](#) to register by May 30 and receive the reduced conference fee. For more information about the event, please contact Ann White at 414-227-4919 or whiteam@dhfs.state.wi.us or Jodi Klement at 414-227-4918 or klemejl@dhfs.state.wi.us.

- **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.
- **Brewing Best Practices in Transition** - This event will be held October 16-17 at the Hilton Milwaukee City Center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This workshop is held by the Division on Career Development and Transition (DCDT). More details will be available on their website soon. [Click here](#) to view a registration form. For more information, contact Cindi Nixon at cnixon@fmarion.edu.
- **Midwest Autism Conference: Putting the Pieces Together** - This event will be held October 19-21 at the La Crosse Center in La Crosse, Wisconsin. [Click here](#) for more information and to view the conference website.

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

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 invited to rent this studio space. [Click here](#) for more information.

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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