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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.

May 15 , 2009

Volume 5, Number 9

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### Coalition Meetings by County

**Barron:** TBA, 1:00-2:00pm.  
 Barron County Workforce Resource, Inc., 331 S. Main St., Ste. 6, Rice Lake. Contact Mike Rust at (715) 485-8525 or [miker@co.polk.wi.us](mailto:miker@co.polk.wi.us) with questions.  
**Chippewa:** July 14, 10:45am-12:00pm. Chippewa County Courthouse, Room 121, 711 N. Bridge St., Chippewa Falls. Contact Rose Marsh at 1-800-

### Save the Dates: ABC for Health Turns 15!

All HealthWatch Wisconsin members are invited to help ABC for Health celebrate our 15<sup>th</sup> Birthday! July 1, 2009, marks 15 years of working with Wisconsin's low-income, uninsured, and underserved health care consumers – especially children and youth with special health care needs, and we are eager to gather our friends and supporters in celebration! We have two special events planned, and we would like all HealthWatch Wisconsin members to join in the festivities:



#### **15<sup>th</sup> Birthday Potluck and Picnic**

**Date:** Wednesday, July 1, 2009  
**Time:** 11am-2pm  
**Place:** Burrows Park (near Maple Bluff)  
 25 Burrows Road  
 Madison, WI 53704 ([click here](#) to view a map)

Please join ABC staff and students in celebrating at a summer potluck picnic! Spend some time outside, enjoy a delicious cookout, and possibly toss a softball or Frisbee around. ABC will provide the meat (and non-meat) for grilling and some cool, refreshing beverages. Please add to the spread by bringing a dish to pass! Please RSVP to Brynne at 1-800-585-4222, ext. 210 or [bmcbride@safetyweb.org](mailto:bmcbride@safetyweb.org).

#### **15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Celebration and Fundraiser**

**Date:** October 2009 (specific date TBD)  
**Place:** Best Western Inn on the Park in Madison (details to follow)

Please watch future HWW Update newsletters for more information on this event.

400-3678 or

[rmarsh@co.chippewa.wi.us](mailto:rmarsh@co.chippewa.wi.us) with questions.

**Dane:** June 1, 9:00-11:00am. Campus Community Partnerships, 2300 S. Park St., Ste. 1B, Madison. Contact Nora Foshager at (608) 261-6939, ext. 204 or [nfoshager@safetyweb.org](mailto:nfoshager@safetyweb.org) with questions.

**Dunn:** September 9, 11:45am-1:00pm. Red Cedar Medical Center (Education Center), 2321 Stout Rd., Menomonie. Contact Patrick Rebman at (715) 233-7309 or [rebman.patrick@mayo.edu](mailto:rebman.patrick@mayo.edu) with questions.

**Eau Claire:** September 3, 12:00-1:30pm. Luther Hospital Cafeteria, Dining Room 1, 1221 Whipple St., Eau Claire. Contact Lou Kelsey at (715) 834-4455 or [lkelseyefww@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lkelseyefww@sbcglobal.net) or Pat Perkins at (715) 839-4718 or [pat.perkins@co.eau-claire.wi.us](mailto:pat.perkins@co.eau-claire.wi.us) with questions.

**Milwaukee:** June 10, 10:00am-12:00pm. Aurora Family Services, 3200 W. Highland Blvd., Milwaukee. Contact Kari Mattson at (414) 449-4777, ext. 145 or [karim@communityadvocates.net](mailto:karim@communityadvocates.net) or Tanya Atkinson at (414) 289-3749 with questions.

**Milwaukee CHASE (Children's Health Access for the Special and Equal):** May 21, 11:30am-1:30pm. ARC of Milwaukee, 7203 W. Center St., Milwaukee. Contact Brad Holman at (414) 266-3189 or [bholman@chw.org](mailto:bholman@chw.org) with questions.

**Polk:** TBA, 10:45am-12:00pm. Polk County Health Department, Conference Room A & B, 100 Polk County Plaza, Balsam Lake. Contact Mike Rust at (715) 485-8525 or [miker@co.polk.wi.us](mailto:miker@co.polk.wi.us) with questions.

**Coalitions Under Development**

Comments or questions? Contact Brynne at 1-800-585-4222, ext. 210, or [bmcbride@safetyweb.org](mailto:bmcbride@safetyweb.org).

## HWW Organizational Membership Option Debuts for 2009-10 Membership Year!

**New feature of HealthWatch Wisconsin for the membership year that runs from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010 - group membership!**

HealthWatch Wisconsin is excited to begin offering an additional membership option: organizational memberships! You can still join the statewide HealthWatch Wisconsin organization as an individual member, but now your workplace can join as a member agency!

In response to member requests, the HWW Council and its Executive Committee have voted to offer an organizational membership for groups that would be interested in becoming registered as member agencies under our statewide umbrella organization. You asked for this and we're excited to make it happen! If you have questions about your group or individual membership, please contact Brynne at 1-800-585-4222, ext. 210.

For only \$75 per year, your organization can become a member of this public health group dedicated to connecting people to health care and coverage options and strengthening the public health workforce!

Each HealthWatch Wisconsin member organization would select a representative, who would serve as the contact person for that organization. The representative will receive the emailed benefits of membership, such as detailed publications and notices for conferences and trainings, to share with others at the organization. For any training or event, the organization will be able to select ANY THREE INDIVIDUALS from their organization to attend at the discounted rate reserved for registered members. These individuals will not need to be the same three people for each event, but will need to volunteer for or be employed by the organization that holds the membership. No member organization or its employees/volunteers will be eligible for the Packers Tickets Prize Drawings, unless otherwise registered as an individual member for the current membership year.

The new membership year begins **July 1, 2009**, so register your organization **today** to get the most out of your membership!

## BC+ Core Plan "Advocate's Training"

**A Workshop on Health Care Coverage Options for Adults with No Dependent Children!**

**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.

## Other Meeting Notices

**Press Conference at the Capitol** - This press conference will be held at 9:30am on Tuesday, May 19 in the Senate Parlor in the Capitol. A network of groups, including representatives from the faith community, schools, disability organizations, senior groups and local government, has scheduled the conference to discuss revenue enhancements and spending cuts in the state budget.

### Senator Russ Feingold Listening Sessions -

- **Clark County:** Tuesday, May 26, at 11:00am at the Loyal City Hall, 301 North Main Street in Loyal

- **Chippewa County:** Tuesday, May 26, at 1:45pm at the Stanley Fire Department, 239 East 1st Avenue in Stanley

- **Dunn County:** Wednesday, May 27, at 8:15am in the County Board Room at the Dunn County Government Center, 800 Wilson Avenue in Menomonie

- **Eau Claire County:** Wednesday, May 27, at 10:45am in the Health Education Center at the Chippewa Valley Technical College - Clairemont Campus, 615 West Clairemont Avenue in Eau Claire.

For more information about Sen. Feingold's listening sessions, please [click here](#).

## Resources

**Energy Services, Inc. of Dane County:** The home energy plus

Enrollment in the BadgerCare Plus Core Plan starts June 1, 2009! Are you ready? Join Bobby Peterson of ABC for Health as we conduct an Advocate's Training!

We will cover:

- ◆ Introduction to the BC+ Core Plan
- ◆ Identifying Eligible Individuals
- ◆ Advocacy Strategies
- ◆ Screening for Benefits
- ◆ Enrollment Tips using ACCESS.gov
- ◆ ...and more!

Our last workshop will be held in Milwaukee on Thursday, May 28, 9:00am-10:30am at Aurora Family Services, 3200 W. Highland Blvd., in Sallie's Room.

There is a **substantial discount** for members of HealthWatch Wisconsin! Workshop attendees will receive a BC+ Core Plan Fact Sheet. Coffee and juice will be served.

To register, complete and return the [REGISTRATION FORM](#) or call the ABC for Health office at (608) 261-6939 ext. 210.

## Case Alert: BadgerCare Plus Core Plan still a go!

**As of press time at 4:00pm on Friday, May 15, we have not heard of any plans (yet) to delay the start of the BadgerCare Plus Core Plan (BC+ CP) for Adults with No Dependent Children. No news is good news, but things can change. Please stay connected to the HWW Update for late-breaking news!**

Also, should enrollment move forward on June 1, 2009 as expected, remember – BC+ Core Plan is **NOT** an entitlement program. Therefore, the program could reach an enrollment cap if financing is too limited to accommodate the need. Advocates should work quickly to assist people in applying for the program before the state initiates any potential enrollment/financial caps.

BC+ CP is not a standard Medicaid benefit, nor is it an entitlement program. Unlike Social Security or FoodShare, BC+ CP is **NOT** the kind of government program that provides services and coverage regardless of the need or enrollment numbers. And unlike Medicaid, BC+ CP enrollees **DO NOT** have a legal right to coverage under the program simply because they have met all eligibility conditions. Rather, BC+ CP benefits are subject to state and federal budgetary limits.

Therefore, adult individuals and couples who have no dependent children and who are interested in BC+ CP should apply as soon as possible. Advocates should work to identify potentially eligible people as close to June 1 as possible. Those who delay may risk missing out if the program reaches possible maximum enrollment

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](mailto:wispubhealth@mch-hotlines.org) or [visit their website](#).

## **Links of Interest**

capacities.

## **Shelly's Section: BC+ Core Plan Training Video**

In my everyday work as the HealthWatch Wisconsin Update editor, I talk with interesting people, discover exciting video and web content, and learn about helpful reminders for complicated programs. In this section of the Update, I share my findings with you!

This week, I'd like to share a link to a training done by Claire Smith, Senior Communications Specialist for the Department of Health Services. Claire's presentation discusses BadgerCare Plus Core Plan policy basics and how to help people apply for the program.

To view this presentation, please [click here](#).

## **NEWS: Health Care in Wisconsin**

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

- ['Discrimination against sick': Private health insurance out of reach for many - Shawn Doherty for the \*Capital Times\*, May 13](#)
- [At Issue with Ben Merens \(featuring Bobby Peterson\) - Wisconsin Public Radio, May 12, 4:00pm](#)
- [Pay, disagreements leave gap between needs and care - Guy Boulton for the \*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel\*, May 10](#)
- [Dental care in short supply for low-income Wisconsin children - Guy Boulton for the \*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel\*, May 9](#)
- [American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 - A Bulletin from the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance, May 4](#)
- [Wisconsin leads in online enrollment - Center for Children and Families](#)

## **NEWS: Health Care Reform**

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

- [Obama says single-payer health care not practical - \*The Associated Press\*, May 14](#)
- [Democrats to develop plan to sell health care - Robert Pear for the \*New York Times\*, May 13](#)
- [Obama, Dems press unified message on health care - Erica Werner for the \*Associated Press/Yahoo News\*, May 13](#)
- [EDITORIAL: Reminders on Health Reform - \*New York\*](#)

**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 system. <http://www.cmwf.org>

**Cover the Uninsured Week** – CTUW 2009: March 22-28.

<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).

## Previous Issues of the Update: (in PDF form)

[May 1](#)

[April 15](#)

[April 1](#)

[March 15](#)

[March 1](#)

[February 15](#)

[Times, May 12](#)

- [Health care, a lesson in pain - David Leonhardt for the \*New York Times\*, May 12](#)
- [EDITORIAL: A moderate plan for health care - \*New York Times\*, May 11](#)
- [Op-Ed: Harry, Louise and Barack - Paul Krugman for the \*New York Times\*, May 10](#)
- [Taxing those with insurance to pay for those without - Reed Abelson for the \*New York Times\*, May 7](#)
- [Healthcare reform is top U.S. priority: Sebelius - Matthew Bigg for \*Reuters\*, May 5](#)
- [Groups call on President, Congress to address health disparities in health reform - Press release from the AHA, May 4](#)
- [Small-biz divided on health-care reform - Kent Hoover for the \*American City Business Journals\*, May 3](#)

## NEWS: Health Care Costs & Access

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

- [Health care leaders say Obama overstated their promise to control costs - Robert Pear for the \*New York Times\*, May 14](#)
- [Proposal would require all to have health coverage - Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar and Erica Werner for the \*Associated Press/Yahoo News\*, May 14](#)
- [Cost, Not Coverage, Drive Health-Care Debate - Karen Tumulty for \*Time Magazine\*, May 13](#)
- [Health-care advocates skeptical of insurers' pledge - Diane Levick for the \*Hartford Courant\*, May 12](#)
- [Insurers offer Obama \\$2 trillion in healthcare cost savings - Ron Scherer for the \*Christian Science Monitor\*, May 11](#)
- [Obama push to cut health costs faces tough odds - Robert Pear for the \*New York Times\*, May 11](#)
- [For gay couples, obstacles to health insurance - Walecia Konrad for the \*New York Times\*, May 8](#)
- [Health insurers agree to end higher premiums for women - Robert Pear for the \*New York Times\*, May 6](#)
- [High healthcare costs taking toll on insured - Kay Lazar for the \*Boston Globe\*, May 2](#)
- [A Maze of Options on Health Insurance for College Students - Walecia Konrad for the \*New York Times\*, May 1](#)

## NEWS: COBRA

Visit the links below to read more about the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act:

- [COBRA Continuation Coverage Assistance under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act - Resources from](#)

[February 1](#)

[the Department of Labor](#)

[January 15](#)

[December 15](#)

[December 1](#)

All other issues can be viewed on our website at [www.healthwatchwisconsin.org](http://www.healthwatchwisconsin.org), under the "HWW Update" heading.

## HealthWatch WatchDog Episode Archive:

### Season 1:

Episode 1: ["Advocacy Strategies"](#)

Episode 2: ["HIRSP"](#)

Episode 3: ["ACCESS"](#)

Episode 4: ["Health Care Reform"](#)

Episode 5: ["Birth Cost Recovery"](#)

Episode 6: ["The Functional Screen"](#)

Episode 7: ["Back-to-School"](#)

Episode 8: ["Duplicative Service Denials"](#)

Episode 9: ["Private Health Insurance"](#)

Episode 10: ["Coalition Building"](#)

Episode 11: ["Economic Stimulus"](#)

Episode 12: ["COBRA"](#)

### Season 2:

Episode 1: ["Legislative Reform"](#)

## NEWS: The Uninsured

Visit the links below to read recent news articles about the uninsured:

- [Pfizer going to work for jobless by giving away medications - \*The Associated Press/Denver Post\*, May 15](#)
- [Out of college, out of coverage - Susan FitzGerald for the \*Philadelphia Inquirer\*, May 11](#)

## NEWS: Other Health News

Visit the links below for other health news and information:

- [Government reports criticize health care system - Kevin Sack for the \*New York Times\*, May 6](#)
- [New state-by-state report shows gaps in health strongly linked to education levels - Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, May 6](#)

## Featured Link: Oral Health Resources

The Children's Health Alliance of Wisconsin recently updated their oral health resources page to include information for all children, including those with special health care needs. This informative Web site includes numerous different resources including tools, educational resources, and recent reports on dental health.

This oral health resources page can be found at: [www.chawisconsin.org/oralhealth/resources.htm](http://www.chawisconsin.org/oralhealth/resources.htm).

## ■ CKSN Corner ■ Covering Kids with Special Needs



Episode 2: ["State of the State"](#)

Episode 3: ["Mondry vs. American Family Insurance"](#)

Episode 4: ["Cover the Uninsured Week 2009"](#)

HealthWatch WatchDog episodes are now available to everyone who receives the HealthWatch Wisconsin Update! Visit the HealthWatch WatchDog webpage at [www.healthwatchwisconsin.org](http://www.healthwatchwisconsin.org). Just click on "HW WatchDog" from the menu on the left.

## 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

[bobbyp@safetyweb.org](mailto:bobbyp@safetyweb.org)

Nora Foshager

[nfoshager@safetyweb.org](mailto:nfoshager@safetyweb.org)

Shelly Flanders

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

## Mark Your Calendars Now

### Four Excellent Events in 2009!

- **Medical Home Implementation Teleconference Series** - The American Academy of Pediatrics is hosting a teleconference series led by national experts. You must register separately for each conference call and space is limited; registration opens one month before each conference date. For more information, please visit [www.medicalhomeinfo.org](http://www.medicalhomeinfo.org) or email Brenda Amos-Lewis at [blewis@aap.org](mailto:blewis@aap.org). The remaining schedule of calls is:
  - May 21, 12:00pm: The Role of the Medical Home in Family-Centered Early Intervention
  - June 24, 11:00am: Incorporating Family Participation Practices into your Practice and Project
- **Community Building/Circles of Support Training** - This event will be held May 27-29 at the Ramada Inn, 1501 North Point Drive in Stevens Point. The training will cover Community Building, PATH, and Circles of Support. There is no cost, but registration is required. For more information and to register by May 20, please [click here](#); space is limited! Questions? Contact Nate Smith at [smith@eri-wi.org](mailto:smith@eri-wi.org) or 608-246-3444.
- **Wisconsin Community on Transition** - The next meeting will be held June 18, 9:30am-12:30pm, at the Madison Area Technical College Truax Campus, 3550 Anderson Street in Madison, Room 142 A&B. The topic for this event will be post-secondary education. To RSVP, please contact Sandy Hall at [sghall@matcmadison.edu](mailto:sghall@matcmadison.edu). For more information about the Wisconsin Committee, please visit [www.sharedwork.org](http://www.sharedwork.org) and look under Community on Transition, Wisconsin; you will need to register on the Web site.
- **16th Annual Statewide Institute on Best Practices in Inclusive Education** - This event will be held July 27-29 at the Westwood Conference Center in Wausau. The conference will cover many different topics, including best practices in inclusion, transition, AD/HD, and mental health issues. For more information or to obtain a registration form, please contact Dr. Kim Beloin at [Beloin@att.net](mailto:Beloin@att.net) or 414-881-8101.

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

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)

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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.

## Specialized Training Opportunities

Help HealthWatch Wisconsin develop a new web-based training format for Wisconsin's public health workforce! [Click here](#) for more information.

## Support Our Efforts!

You can donate to ABC through our website. Please visit [www.abcforhealth.org](http://www.abcforhealth.org), 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!

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 32 N. Bassett St.  
 Madison, WI 53703-2606 USA