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A Project of ABC for Health, Inc.
www.healthwatchwisconsin.org
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June 3 , 2008

Volume 4, Number 10

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Barron: June 3, 1:00pm. Workforce
 Resource, Inc., 331 S. Main Street,
 Suite 6 in Rice Lake. Contact Mike
 Rust at (715) 485-8525 or
miker@co.polk.wi.us with questions.

Chippewa: Sept. 9, 10:45am-

HealthWatch Wisconsin Update

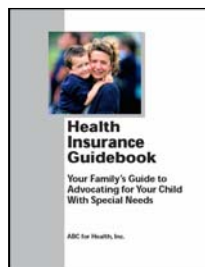
Please [click here](#) to view the PDF version on our Web site.

A new membership year is approaching: Renew or Begin Your HealthWatch Wisconsin Membership Today!

The new HealthWatch Wisconsin membership annual year
 begins on July 1, 2008.

**It's never been a better time to become a member of
 HealthWatch Wisconsin.** Whether you are joining for the first
 time or renewing your membership, you are teaming up with an
 impressive new effort in Wisconsin that will work to focus and
 amplify the voices of health care advocates across the state. And
 who can forget this BONUS - HealthWatch Wisconsin members
 qualify for regular prize drawings to win FREE deluxe indoor
 club seats for a **Green Bay Packer** home game at Lambeau
 field! [Click here](#) to register NOW!

Your membership fee is still only \$20.00 and ensures that you
 are lending your voice and passion toward developing a more
 comprehensive system of health care and coverage. You can be
 part of the solution by linking people to all available health care
 coverage options in Wisconsin. Visit
www.healthwatchwisconsin.org to read more about the great
 benefits of becoming a member.



NEW IN 2008 FOR MEMBERS (expected
 to be available at the end of summer 2008):
 By joining HealthWatch for the 2008-2009
 membership year, you will receive a **FREE**
 PDF copy of the 2008 Edition of the Health
 Insurance Guidebook. The comprehensive
 Health Insurance Guidebook (HIG) is
 designed to educate families and other
 service providers in Wisconsin about their
 legal rights related to health insurance and

managed care. How many times have the families you served
 heard "CLAIM DENIED." These two simple words can have a
 devastating effect on a family's budget and emotional wellbeing.
 A claim denial often means unpaid medical bills that can make
 recovery from an illness much more complicated and add an

12:00pm. Chippewa County Courthouse, Room 121, 711 N. Bridge St., Chippewa Falls. Contact Rose Marsh at 1-800-400-3678 or rmarsh@co.chippewa.wi.us with questions.

Dane: July 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.

Eau Claire: Sept. 4, 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: June 11, 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 with questions.

Milwaukee CHASE: Children's Health Access for the Special and Equal - June 19, 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: June 5, 10:45am-12pm. Polk County Health Department in Balsam Lake, conference room A & B. 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 Notices

The Economic Research

extra burden of stress on family members. Families are often too overwhelmed to fully understand their legal options to challenge these denials. The HIG includes information on:

- the major kinds of health insurance plans
- the legal protections afforded by state and federal health insurance law,
- how families can pro-actively avoid coverage denials,
- how to deal with coverage and claim denials,
- and special coverage strategies faced by families with children with special health care needs.

[Join HealthWatch today](#) to reserve your electronic copy of this valuable resource!

New Episode of the HealthWatch WatchDog tackles HIRSP

[Click here](#) to view the second episode of the "**HealthWatch WatchDog**." Watch this episode to hear commentary and suggestions for families transitioning from HIRSP to BadgerCare Plus's Benchmark Plan. Find out who's "in the dog pound" this week! Do you know the answer to the puzzler? Be the first to correctly email your answer to info@healthwatchwisconsin.org to get a certificate and your name mentioned on a future episode!

Do you have a topic you'd like to see discussed on the "**HealthWatch WatchDog**?" Email topic requests to info@healthwatchwisconsin.org.

HealthWatch Wisconsin's new talk show, "**HealthWatch WatchDog**," is a web program which is filmed semi-monthly at the ABC for Health, Inc., studio, opposite the publication of the HealthWatch Wisconsin Update. Watch each episode for: interviews with special guests, behind-the-scenes analysis and discussion of health coverage issues, and policy puzzlers to test your knowledge of key issues.



Case Tip: BC+ Proof of Identity and Citizenship

Individuals applying for BC+ must give proof of their identity and citizenship, and/or immigration status. Individuals who are citizens can do so by providing the county with a copy of their U.S. Passport, Certificate of U.S. Citizenship, or Certificate of

Initiative on the Uninsured (ERIU) Interactive Webinar About Changes in Health Care Reform Since 1994 - June 2, 12-1:30pm. [Click here](#) for more information about the Webinar. To register, send an email to Erica Garland at egarland@gymr.com with your name, organization, and telephone number. Contact Erica by email or at (202) 745-5119 with any questions.

Milwaukee Mental Health Summit III: Mapping a New Road to Recovery- Addressing Mental Illness in the Criminal Justice System - June 30, from 8am-4:30pm at the Marquette University Alumni Memorial Union at 1442 W. Wisconsin Ave. in Milwaukee. This summit will focus on addressing mental illness in Milwaukee's criminal justice system. To register, contact Angela Engel at aengel@unitedwaymilwaukee.org with the subject line: Summit Registration, so she can send you a form. You can also visit the [Milwaukee Mental Health Task Force website](#) for more information.

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

U.S. Naturalization. If none of these documents is available, the individual must supply two forms of identification, such as a driver's license and a birth certificate.

For children under 18, the best way to document identity is to submit a birth certificate and a signed "Statement of Identity" form (HCF 10154). This form is included with the paper BadgerCare Plus application packet as "Attachment 5"; to access the form online, please [click here](#).

EXAMPLE 1: Mary and her husband, David, have a 5-year-old daughter, Angie, and Mary is pregnant with a second child. They apply for BadgerCare Plus for the family and must provide proof of identity and citizenship (they are U.S. citizens). They submit a copy of David's U.S. Passport, but Mary does not have one, so they submit one copy each of Mary's birth certificate and driver's license. They also submit a copy of Angie's birth certificate and a signed Statement of Identity form for her, along with the family's completed BadgerCare Plus application.

If a pregnant U.S. citizen has BadgerCare Plus when she gives birth, she should not need to complete the Statement of Identity form when adding the baby (as a Continuously Eligible Newborn or CEN). According to [Chapter 8.2 of the BadgerCare Plus Handbook](#), "A citizenship and identity documentation for a CEN does not have to be obtained until the next review of eligibility, following the child's birth." In practice, however, it seems that some Economic Support workers are requesting the Statement of Identity form upon addition of the baby, rather than waiting until the next review following the birth.

EXAMPLE 2: Five months after she and her family qualify for BadgerCare Plus, Mary gives birth to a baby boy. She reports the birth to the Change Reporting Center and does not need to submit a birth certificate or signed Statement of Identity. However, she will be required to submit these documents at the family's next review.

Social Security Announces Improvements to Ticket to Work Program

The Social Security Administration has announced new improvements to the Ticket to Work program, which will go into effect on July 21, 2008. Some of the changes include:

- More beneficiaries are now covered by the program
- Increased incentive payments for Employment Networks (ENs)
- Increased value of the Ticket, and
- a new synergized effort among the Ticket to Work Program and several other work incentive initiatives.

[Click here](#) to read a news release from the Social Security Administration regarding the changes, or [click here](#) to view the new regulations.

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

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

NEWS: Health Care in Wisconsin

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

- [Health plans to make costs more transparent - Terry Rindfleisch for the *La Crosse Tribune*, May 28](#)
- [Health insurers will disclose cost estimates - Guy Boulton for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, May 27](#)
- [State ranks high in care for kids - Guy Boulton for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, May 27](#)
- [Innovative Partnership Paves the Way For Improved Quality and Affordable Health Care - Press release from DHFS, May 23](#)
- [What Healthy Wisconsin Should Cost \(And Almost Certainly Won't\) - David Dodenhoff, Ph.D., for the Wisconsin Policy Research Institute, May 22](#)
- [Switch to BadgerCare Plus not good for all - Guy Boulton for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, May 21](#)
- [Patients' hospital ratings hit the Web - Guy Boulton for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, May 20](#)
- [Good Health Starts with Health Insurance - Kathleen Vinehout's column, May 17](#)
- [High health costs due to power of care systems, study says - Guy Boulton for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, May 9](#)

NEWS: Health Care Technology

Use the links below to access recent news on health care technology:

- [Google offers online medical records service - Victoria Colliver for the *San Francisco Chronicle*, May 20](#)
- [U.S. ads push patients to shop for hospitals - Julie Appleby for *USA Today*, May 20](#)
- [EMR deadline does not compute: Falling short of 2014 goals - Dave Hansen for the *American Medical News*, May 19](#)
- [Performance Measures Using Electronic Health Records: Five Case Studies - JB Fowles, JP Weiner and KS Chan for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, April 2008](#)

NEWS: Health Care Reform

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

- [Study Finds State Gains in Insurance - Kevin Sack for the *New York Times*, June 3](#)

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 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.

Previous Issues of the Update:

[May 15](#)

[May 1](#)

[April 15](#)

[April 1](#)

- [Lipinski, Kirk seek life extension of COBRA - Monifa Thomas for the *Chicago Sun-Times*, May 30](#)
- [A bug in healthcare law - Tanya Perez-Brennan for the *Boston Globe*, May 29](#)
- [SEC Backs Health Care Balloting - Robert Pear for the *New York Times*, May 27](#)
- [Roll Call Profiles Health Care Issues for Next Congress - Kaiser Daily Health Policy Report, May 23](#)
- [Bipartisan Support Grows for Health Care Reform Bill - Legislative update from Senator Russ Feingold, May 22](#)
- [New Florida Law Allows Low-Cost Health Policies - Kevin Sack for the *New York Times*, May 22](#)

NEWS: Health Care & the 2008 Election

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

- [OPINION: Health Care and History's Hand - Geoffrey Colvin for the *Washington Post*, May 20](#)
- [Presidential Candidates' Health Care Advisers Discuss Role of Federal Government in Providing Coverage to U.S. Residents - Kaiser Daily Health Policy Report, May 20](#)
- [OPINION: The case against the McCain health care plan - Jonathan Cohn for the *Dallas Morning News*, May 19](#)
- [2008 Presidential Candidate Health Care Proposals: Side-by-Side Summary - prepared by the Kaiser Family Foundation.](#) Allows the user to compare the 3 remaining presidential candidates' positions on health care.

NEWS: Covering Children

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

- [States' Scorecard Finds Big Differences in Kids' Health Care - Steven Reinberg for the *Washington Post*, May 28](#)
- [Child health care varies widely among states - Julie Appleby for *USA Today*, May 27](#)
- [Covering All Children: Issues and Experience in State Policy Development - Maureen Hensley-Quinn, Catherine Hess, Barbara Ladon and Sharon Steadman for the *National Academy for State Health Policy*, May 2008](#)

NEWS: Health Care Costs & Access

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

- [After Caesareans, Some See Higher Insurance Cost -](#)

[March 15](#)[March 1](#)[February 15](#)[February 1](#)[January 15](#)[December 15](#)

All other issues can be viewed on our website at www.healthwatchwisconsin.org, under the "HWW Update" heading.

HealthWatch WatchDog Episode Archive:

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

Season 1, Episode 2: ["HIRSP"](#)

A new HealthWatch WatchDog webpage is currently under construction, so stayed tuned to www.healthwatchwisconsin.org in the near future.

[Denise Grady for the *New York Times*, June 1](#)

- [Bush signs genetic anti-discrimination bill - Ben Feller for the *San Francisco Chronicle/Associated Press*, May 22](#)
- [New Florida Law Allows Low-Cost Health Policies - Kevin Sack for the *New York Times*, May 22](#)
- [1,200 people to have canceled healthcare coverage restored - Lisa Girion for the *Los Angeles Times*, May 16](#)

NEWS: Medicaid

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

- [EDITORIAL: End Runs on Medicaid - *The New York Times*, May 28](#)
- [Judge Negates Medicaid Rules That Would Cut Hospital Payments - *Washington Post/Associated Press*, May 24](#)
- [Public hospitals get reprieve on Medicaid cuts - Sabin Russell for the *San Francisco Chronicle*, May 24](#)
- [Report Details How States Allocated Funds for K-12 Education, Higher Education, Corrections and Medicaid - Press release from the National Conference of State Legislatures, May 20](#)

Featured Link: Your Voice, New Vision initiative

Your Voice, New Vision is a national initiative that was launched in 2007 to listen to people's opinions about the health care system and their visions for improvement. The initiative will seek to integrate their suggestions into the health care reform debate.

This initiative, sponsored by the American Hospital Association and Mayo Clinic Health Policy Center, includes a coast-to-coast listening tour to gather ideas from across the nation, opinion research, focus groups, and a Web site. The site offers the opportunity to view and post videos and participate in discussions on bulletin boards covering a wide variety of topics related to health care, such as insurance, payment reform, and coordinated care.

Visit www.yourvoicewision.org to view the Web site and for more information about the initiative.

■ **CKSN Corner** ■
Covering Kids with Special Needs



Mark Your Calendars Now

Six Excellent Conferences in 2008!

- **Wisconsin Community on Transition Meeting** - This event will be held June 19 at the Sheraton Hotel, 706 John Nolen Drive in Madison. This meeting will focus on the work of the Youth Leadership Council with time for small group gatherings and a presentation by Jonathan Mooney as well. To register, send an email to Dorothy.cook@dpi.wi.gov with the words "I will attend the June 19, 2008, CoT meeting," along with your name, your role in transition and/or your organization's name. You can also call 608-267-3749 to register.
- **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 *Infants and Children with Special Health Care Needs*. [Click here](#) to register. 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.
- **Using Networks and Cooperatives to Create Opportunities for People with Disabilities and Their Families** - This event will be held throughout Wisconsin during the month of July. It will focus on the topic of creating local cooperatives to support people with disabilities and feature national speakers. For more information, please contact Shannon L. Munn at 608-318-0700 or shannonm@pcsdane.org. The events will be held:
 - July 9, from 9:30am-4pm, Bayfield Pavilion in Bayfield,
 - July 10, from 10am-4:30pm, Courthouse Annex in Stevens Point,
 - July 11 (12:30-8pm) & July 12 (8:30am-12pm), People's United Methodist Church in Oregon.

- **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 conference brochure and 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. To register, please call 608-785-6504 or toll-free 1-866-895-9233.

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 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.

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 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.

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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bobbyp@safetyweb.org
 Nora Foshager
nfoshager@safetyweb.org
 Shelly Flanders
mflanders@safetyweb.org



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

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

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

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!"

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.

Notice of Funding Available

The University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health Oversight and Advisory Committee (OAC) has announced available grants through the Community-Academic Partnership Fund to promote Healthiest Wisconsin 2010. Notice of Intent forms are due by June 30. Visit the Wisconsin Partnership Program's website at www.wphf.med.wisc.edu for more information and to download the complete 2008 Request for Partnerships (RFP) application.

Support Our Efforts!

You can donate to ABC through our website. Please visit 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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