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

HealthWatch Wisconsin Update

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

June 16 , 2008

Volume 4, Number 11

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Coalition Meetings by County

Barron: TBA. 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.

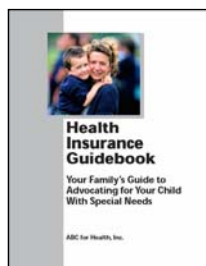
Chippewa: Sept. 9, 10:45am-

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 Packers** 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 extra

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: July 9, 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: TBA. 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.

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!

HealthWatch WatchDog: Another Benefit of HWW Membership!

Did you enjoy the first two episodes of the "HealthWatch WatchDog?" [Sign up](#) to become a HealthWatch Wisconsin member today to gain access to all future episodes only available to members!

This web program is filmed semi-monthly at the ABC for Health, Inc., studio, opposite the publication of the HWW Update. The show features interviews with special guests, behind-the-scenes analysis and discussion of health coverage issues, and policy puzzlers to test your knowledge of key issues. [Click here](#) to become a HealthWatch Wisconsin member today for only \$20!

Is there an issue you'd like to see discussed in a future episode? Email your topic requests to info@healthwatchwisconsin.org.



Case Tip: Charity Care

Most hospitals and clinics recognize their responsibility to provide care to low-income individuals or families who lack access to appropriate health care coverage. At most health care providers, Charity Care programs (sometimes called "Community Care" or "Uncompensated Care"), or even a payment plan, may help defray the cost associated with certain co-payments and deductibles for low-income individuals or cover expenses private insurance does not pay.

Inquire about Charity Care at your local health care provider and ask for the financial guidelines for the program. Guidelines may differ slightly by hospital. Most Charity Care policies, however, go

Other Meeting Notices

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 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

up to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), which is a monthly income of \$3,534 for a family of four. (To find your family's FPL, visit www.abcforhealth.org and click on "Tools" and then "Federal Poverty Level Calculator and Chart.") Keep in mind that some services, such as physician fees, anesthesiology fees, radiology interpretation, and outpatient prescriptions, are separate from hospital charges and may not be eligible for reduction through the hospital's Charity Care program.

NEWS: Health Care in Wisconsin

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

- [Rural Community Health Center Uses State Funds to Increase Dental Access - Press release from the Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association, June 13](#)
- [State fights health care inequities - Liz Welter and Ellyn Ferguson for the *Wausau Daily Herald*, June 13](#)
- [Baldwin, Ryan Lead Bipartisan Push for BadgerCare - Press release from the offices of Tammy Baldwin and Paul Ryan, June 10](#)
- [Walgreens will pay Medicaid \\$1.8 million - *The Capital Times*, June 5](#)
- [State group part of health-care initiative - Guy Boulton for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, June 4](#)
- [Uninsured face long waits at Madison's few free health clinics - Shawn Doherty for the *Capital Times*, June 4](#)
- [Advancing Accreditation and Quality Improvement in Public Health Agencies - Press release from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, May 20](#)

NEWS: Health Care Technology

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

- [Online medical records offer convenience, may limit privacy - Janet Kornblum for *USA Today*, June 11](#)
- [Microsoft, Kaiser in health data swap pilot: report - *Reuters/Washington Post*, June 9](#)

NEWS: Health Care Reform

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

- [EDITORIAL: The Massachusetts Model - the *New York Times*, June 16](#)
- [Aetna Proposes Insurance Reform - Diane Levick for the *Hartford Courant*, June 11](#)
- [Perspectives on State Health Reform - Drew Altman for the](#)

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

[Kaiser Family Foundation, June 11](#)

- [OPINION: Want Universal Health Care? The Operative Word is 'Care' - Michael L. Millenson for the *Washington Post*, June 8](#)
- [OPINION: As the health care reform debate moves to Washington...- Bruce Bodaken for the *San Francisco Chronicle*, June 4](#)
- [Study Praises Mass. Health-Care Program - Shankar Vedantam for the *Washington Post*, June 4](#)

NEWS: Health Care & the 2008 Election

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

- [Putting the Brakes on Health Care Costs: Would the Candidates' Plans Work? Are There Better Solutions? - Alliance for Health Reform and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#). This panel discussion is available in both video and podcast form, with a transcript coming soon.

NEWS: Health Care Costs & Access

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

- [EDITORIAL: The Plight of the Underinsured - the *New York Times*, June 12](#)
- [How Many are Underinsured? Trends Among U.S. Adults, 2003 and 2007 - Cathy Schoen, M.S., Sara R. Collins, Ph.D., Jennifer L. Kriss, Michelle M. Doty, Ph.D. for The Commonwealth Fund, June 10](#)
- [Ranks of Underinsured are Rising, Study Finds - Reed Abelson for the *New York Times*, June 10](#)
- [Ranks of underinsured U.S. adults increase 60% - Victoria Colliver for the *San Francisco Chronicle*, June 10](#)
- [Health decisions with an eye to the bottom line - Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar for the *Los Angeles Times*, June 9](#)
- [The cost of hospital care is difficult to pin down - Stacey Burling for the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, June 8](#)
- [A City Where the Hospitals are as Ill as the Patients - Jennifer Steinhauer for the *New York Times*, June 5](#)
- [Research Finds Wide Disparities in Health Care by Race and Region - Kevin Sack for the *New York Times*, June 5](#)
- [GOP lawmaker wants more options for uninsured - Mary Jo Layton for *The Record*, May 31](#)
- [Economic Burden of Health Insurance Increasing for Small Employers Providing Health Insurance - Press release from the RAND Corporation, April 4](#)

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: (in PDF form)

[June 1](#)

[May 15](#)

NEWS: Medicaid

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

- [Walgreens Settles Case Involving Overcharging Medicaid - Diane Levick for the Hartford Courant, June 5](#)
- [Q&A: HIPPA, Renumeration, and Medicaid Share of Cost - Jane Perkins for the National Health Law Program, April 2008](#)

Featured Link: Marquette Public Service Conference Web site

The 2008 Marquette University Law School Public Service Conference, titled "Leaping the Gaps for Children with Special Needs," now has materials available online. The conference Web site contains video and audio links and workgroup summaries. It also has several informational resources about transition, special education, and health & advocacy.

[Click here](#) to view the site.

CKSN Corner
Covering Kids with Special Needs



WINMILL Training of Trainers Seminar

This training, presented by WI FACETS, will be held on Friday, September 19, from 4-8:00pm, and Saturday, September 20, from 8:30am-4:00pm (attendance is expected both days) in Janesville (location TBA). It is free to attend and will cover transition and the Rehab Act.

WI FACETS is also looking for people to train others at the conference. The compensation is \$50 for a one-hour workshop, and participants can co-present with another trained person (both will receive \$50).

[May 1](#)[April 15](#)[April 1](#)[March 15](#)[March 1](#)[February 15](#)[February 1](#)[January 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](#)"

Visit the HealthWatch WatchDog webpage at www.healthwatchwisconsin.org. Just click on "HW WatchDog" from the menu on the left.

To register, call WI FACETS at 1-877-374-0511. For more information, call Charlotte A. Price at 1-877-374-4677.

Mark Your Calendars Now

Nine Excellent Conferences in 2008, and one in 2009!

- **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.
- **Disability Rights Wisconsin Listening Session** - This event will be held June 20 from 4:30-6:30pm, at the Radisson Hotel, 200 Harborview Plaza in La Crosse. The DRW Board is holding this session to gain input on the future of disability advocacy. They also want to learn what issues need to be addressed in special education, disability rights, and other areas. Call the DRW Madison office at 608-267-0214 or 800-928-8778 with any questions.
- **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.
- **Family Care Trainings** - The Survival Coalition is

sponsoring these trainings, which will be held in several cities throughout Wisconsin. The day session runs from 9am-4pm, and an abbreviated evening session will also be held from 5:30-7:30pm for those not able to attend the day session. Registration is required. Please contact Fil Clissa at 608-698-0333 or fil@tds.net with questions or to request a registration form. The first three sessions will be held:

- Sheboygan, July 22, at the Aviation Heritage Center at N6191 Resource Drive in Sheboygan Falls,
 - Eau Claire, August 5, at the Plaza Hotel & Suites at 1202 W. Clairemont Ave., and
 - Hudson, August 6, at the Hudson Golf Club at 201 Carmichael Road.
 - Sessions will also be held in Green Lake, Waukesha, Wausau, Ashland, La Crosse, Grant, and Racine in the next few months.
- **Montana Transition Webconference** - This free webconference will be held August 4 from 2-3:30pm and will focus on self-advocacy skills for transition-age youth. A detailed flier and registration information will be available in early July at www.ruralinstitute.umt.edu/transition.
 - **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.
 - **Save the Date: ASW 2009 Annual Conference** - This event will be held May 7-9 at the Kalahari Resort & Convention Center in Wisconsin Dells.

Now Hiring

The Independent Living Council of Wisconsin, Inc. (ILCW) is now hiring for the position of Peer Power Coordinator. This person will develop and coordinate the "Peer Power" program for high school students with disabilities who are in transition. For more information and a full description of the requirements and duties, please visit the ILCW website by [clicking here](#). To apply for the position, send a resume and cover letter by June 18, 2008, to hr@ilcw.org or to Executive Director, Independent Living Council of Wisconsin, 201 W. Washington Ave., Suite 110, Madison, WI 53703.

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. They are also offering two information sessions/grant writing workshops for applicants. Each workshop will feature an informational session in the morning, followed by a grant writing workshop in the afternoon. To register, please contact Shannon Sparks at sparks2@wisc.edu or 608-265-2284; lunch will be provided for those who pre-register. Maps to these sites are [available online](#). The two sessions will be held:
 - June 19 in Pewaukee at the Richard T. Anderson Education Center, Waukesha County Technical College, and
 - June 25 in Wausau at UW-Health Wausau Family Medicine.
- The UnitedHealthcare Children's Foundation (UHCCF) has announced available grants to help children who have critical health care needs which are not covered by their parents' health benefit plans (Medicaid/SCHIP recipients are not eligible). Parents and legal guardians may apply for as much as \$5,000, and the grants can be used to help pay for services such as physical therapy, prescriptions, and medical equipment such as wheelchairs and eyeglasses. Visit <http://uhccf.org> for more information or to fill out an online application.

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



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

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

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.



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!"

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. 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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