



A Project of ABC for Health, Inc.

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HealthWatch Wisconsin Update

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In This Issue

- State Senate Democrats Release "Healthy Wisconsin" Bill
- ABC for Health on the Move
- Health Reform Forum on July 23
- Case Tip: The Hill-Burton Act – Another Avenue to Reduced-Price Health Care
- Call for Nominations for the HealthWatch Wisconsin Council
- Stay Tuned and Get Ready: HealthWatch Wisconsin Mini-Grant Program!
- HealthWatch Wisconsin Seeking Funding for Statewide Health Advocacy Network
- NEWS: Health Care in Wisconsin
- NEWS: Covering Children
- NEWS: Health Care Reform
- NEWS: Health Care Costs and Access
- NEWS: The Uninsured
- Featured Link: Health Affairs
- CKSN Corner:
 1. New Resource: "Learning Opportunities for Your Child Through Alternate Assessment"
 2. Mark Your Calendars Now: 3 Excellent Conferences in 2007!
- Notice of Funding Available
- ABC for Health Is Hiring
- Support Our Efforts!

State Senate Democrats Release "Healthy Wisconsin" Bill

On Monday, June 25, 2007, Wisconsin State Senate Democrats released "Healthy Wisconsin: Your Choice, Your Plan," a statewide universal health care plan, as an amendment to the proposed state biennial budget. "Healthy Wisconsin" is The Wisconsin State Senate has since approved the budget, which will be considered by the State Assembly on July 3, 2007. If the State Assembly and Governor Doyle approve the budget, "Healthy Wisconsin" would go into effect in 2009.

Recent news has been full of articles and opinion pieces on both the "Healthy Wisconsin" plan and the state budget. Follow the links below to read more:

NEWS ARTICLES

- [Parties differ on state budget; Health care plan, private sector funds cited as barriers](#) - Ben Jones for the Appleton Post-Crescent, July 2
- [Budget is next hurdle for Democrats](#) - Greg J. Borowski for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, July 1
- [Doyle, Democrats diverge on health plan](#) - Steven Walters and Tom Held for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, June 30
- [Leibham, Lasee rip Senate budget](#) - the Manitowoc Herald Times, June 28
- [Health plan guarantees teacher benefits](#) - Stacy Forster for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, June 28
- [Lehman says new state budget favors middle class](#) - Janine Anderson for the Racine Journal Times, June 28
- [Health plan could drastically reduce uninsured](#) - Andrew Hellpap for the Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune, June 28
- [Democrats advance state budget; Senate plan includes universal health care](#) - Steven Walters and Stacy Forster for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, June 27
- [Senators push universal health care; Payroll-tax plan likely to falter in Assembly](#) - Stacy Forster and Patrick

Marley for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, June 25

OPINIONS – 'FOR'

WMC Uses Faulty Logic in Latest Attack on Healthy Wisconsin - Citizen Action of Wisconsin, June 29
League Supports Senate Comprehensive Healthcare Reform - League of Women Voters of Wisconsin, June 29

Johnson praises Senate action on state budget - Wisconsin Education Association Council, June 28

Assembly Republican Leadership Won't Even Consider Giving Their Benefits to Constituents - Russ Decker, State Senator, June 28

EDITORIAL: A matter of timing - the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, June 28

Health plan reform better late than never - Milwaukee Journal Sentinel columnist Jim Stingl, June 27

EDITORIAL: Management, workers align on health care - the Wausau Daily Herald, June 26

OPINIONS – 'AGAINST'

Democrats' health plan a huge risk - Milwaukee Journal Sentinel columnist John Torinus, July 1

Memo to the Wisconsin Legislature Re the Senate Budget, "Healthy Wisconsin," and Wisconsin's Tax Ranking - Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce Director of Tax & Corporate Policy Jeff Schoepke, June 29

Rep. Suder Blasts Senate Democrat's \$15.2 Billion Universal Health Care Tax Hike - Scott Suder, State Representative, June 28

Costly Universal Health Care Must Be Rejected - Mary Lazich, State Senator, June 26

HealthWatch and Covering Kids and Families – Meetings by Region

Southern: July 9, 9:00-11:00am.

Harambee Center, 2202 S. Park St, Madison. Contact ABC for Health's Annie Trimberger at (608)261-6939 ext. 203 or atrimberger@safetyweb.org with questions.

Southeastern: July 11, 10:00am-

12:00 pm. Aurora Family Services, 3200 W. Highland Blvd, Milwaukee. Contact Tracy Wymelenberg at (414) 449-4767 ext. 144 or tracyw@communityadvocates.net with questions.

Children's Health Access for the Special and Equal (CHASE) Meeting – July 19, 11:30am-1:30pm. ARC of Milwaukee, 7203 W. Center St. Contact Brad Holman at (414)266-3189 or bholman@chw.org with questions.

Northeastern: July 12, 9:00-10:30am.

Allouez Prevea Building – St. Vincent Conference Rm. (3rd Flr.), 1821 S. Webster Ave., Green Bay. Special Topic: Children's Mental Health Access and Coverage. Contact Steve Gerczak at (920)433-8154 or sgerczak@stvgb.org with questions.

Western: July 10, 10:45am–12:00pm.

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

Coalitions Under Development

Barron: Contact Mike Rust at (715) 485-8525 or MikeR@co.polk.wi.us with questions.

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

Polk: Contact Mike Rust at (715) 485-8525 or MikeR@co.polk.wi.us with questions.

ABC for Health on the Move!

ABC for Health is moving July 16! Please update your records to note our new address:

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

Also, ABC for Health will be closed Friday, July 13 and Monday, July 16. A shortened issue of the HWW Update will go out on Thursday, July 12 (instead of on Monday, July 16).

Health Reform Forum on July 23

DATE: Monday, July 23

TIME: 10:00am-12:00pm

LOCATION: State Capital room, TBA

Other Meeting Notices

- **Barron County Coalition – AdvoKit Training**: July 24, location TBA. Please contact Mike Rust at (715) 485-8525 or MikeR@co.polk.wi.us for more information.

HealthWatch Wisconsin is organizing efforts to host a public forum about the various health care reform plans that are under review in the legislature, including BadgerCare Plus and recently released Healthy Wisconsin. The goal of the forum is to educate advocates and public health professionals on the aspects of the plans and allow them to weigh in, debate, raise issues, and form opinions.

The forum will consist of presentations of the plans and a panel, which will include Wisconsin State Senators and Assembly Representatives from both parties, Jason Helgeson of the state Medicaid office, Bobby Peterson of ABC for Health, and a representative from the University of Wisconsin-Madison's School of Medicine and Public Health. Panelists will weigh the pros and cons of the programs and discuss timelines and hurdles of the legislative process.

Case Tip: The Hill-Burton Act – Another Avenue to Reduced-Price Health Care

The Hospital Survey and Construction Act (also, the Hill-Burton Act), is a federal law passed in 1946 and designed to provide federal grants and guaranteed loans to improve the physical condition of hospitals.

Hill-Burton-sponsored hospitals were required to offer free or reduced-charge care to a “reasonable volume” of people who could not afford health care. Once Medicare and Medicaid were enacted in 1965, participation in those programs was added to the list of requirements for access to Hill-Burton funding. Additionally, the federal money was only provided if the state and local municipality were willing and able to match the federal grant or loan so that the federal portion only accounted for one third of the total construction or renovation cost.

Current Hill-Burton Facilities and Obligations

Hill-Burton facilities must:

- Give written notice to each individual indicating the types of Hill-Burton free or reduced-charge services provided;
- Provide a specific amount of free or reduced-charge care each year, but may stop after they have reached that amount;
- Make a determination of an individual's eligibility within a set timeframe; and
- Provide an individual with a written statement explaining either which services s/he is eligible for at a free or reduced charge or why s/he has been denied.

There are five remaining Hill-Burton-obligated health care

Resources

- **Energy Services, Inc. of Dane County:** The home energy plus program can help with high energy costs. To apply for energy assistance, call (608) 267-8601. Grants are available, as well as home weatherization. For those who are homebound due to physical disability, a worker will visit the home. ESI also provides emergency after-hours assistance – just call! Call ESI for more information on qualifying and applying.
- **Kaiser’s Consumer-Directed Health Care (CDHC) Resources:** A narrated slide tutorial on principles and different models of CDHC ([click here](#)), its companion issue module on the latest research and policy analysis on CDHC ([click here](#)), and the results of Kaiser’s Health Poll Search on CDHC ([click here](#)) are all available from the Kaiser Family Foundation.
- **Knowledge Path** is a web-based guide from the Maternal and Child Health Library at Georgetown University that points to current, high-quality resources on caring for CYSHCN. Separate sections list resources on specific aspects of care and development, such as adolescent transition, advocacy, financing, and screening. To access this 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 at www.mch-hotlines.org.

facilities in Wisconsin:

- Moundview Memorial Hospital & Clinic, Friendship
(608) 339-8371
- N.E.W. Curative Workshop, Green Bay
(920) 468-1161
- Anna John Nursing Home, Oneida
(920) 869-2797
- Milwaukee Co. MHC Rehabilitation Center, Wauwatosa
(414) 257-7483
- Tri-County Memorial Hospital, Whitehall
(715) 538-4361

For more information, call the toll-free hotline at 1-800-638-0742 or visit www.hrsa.gov/hillburton/default.htm.

Call for Nominations for the HealthWatch Wisconsin Council

HealthWatch Wisconsin seeks nominations for members of the HealthWatch Wisconsin Council (HWWC). HWWC is seeking public workforce representatives from around the state who work at the local, regional, and/or statewide level.

The HWWC will transform the public health landscape by increasing the capacity of the public health workforce to serve Wisconsin’s un- and under-insured populations through increased collaboration and communication between the University of Wisconsin-Madison faculty partner, the public health workforce, and local HealthWatch coalitions.

If you are interested in nominating an individual, please contact Annie Trimberger at 1-800-585-4222 ext. 203 or send an email with all relevant information (including your contact info) to info@healthwatchwisconsin.org.

Stay Tuned and Get Ready: HealthWatch Wisconsin Mini-Grant Program!

Later this summer, HWWC will announce the availability of small grants to fund the development of two to three new local HealthWatch coalitions. (To view a map of existing coalitions, please [click here](#) and then click on ‘Affiliated Coalitions.’)

Here is what you can do to be ready for the announcement: Our process will involve letters of intent, which must include information on geographic location, intended membership, sustainability efforts, and potential to obtain matching funds. If you and a cadre of others in your community are interested in creating a coalition under HealthWatch Wisconsin’s umbrella organization, please start

thinking and organizing now! Stay tuned for the call for letters of intent, coming soon from HealthWatch Wisconsin. For more information, please send an email info@healthwatchwisconsin.org.

Links of Interest

Catalyst Center – A national center dedicated to improving health care insurance and financing for CYSHCN. www.hdwg.org/projects/catalyst.htm

The Commonwealth Fund – A private foundation working toward a high performance health system. <http://www.cmwf.org>

Cover the Uninsured Week – CTUW 2007: April 23-29. <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 Annie Trimmer at atrimberger@safetyweb.org.

HealthWatch Wisconsin Explores Funding to Develop a Statewide Consumer Health Advocacy Network

HWW is investigating options to prepare a proposal for a grant that would strengthen Wisconsin's consumer health advocacy networks. Under HWW's proposed idea, organizations throughout the state would work together to advance state-level health policy change and expand health insurance coverage. The initiative is sponsored by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) and Community Catalyst

If there are other individuals or organizations that would be interested in collaborating with HWW to obtain RWJF funding for these purposes, please contact Lilly Shields at 1-800-585-4222 ext. 222 (voicemail only) or lshields@safetyweb.org. For more information on the grant, please [click here](#).

NEWS: Health Care in Wisconsin

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

[Who has staff using health care safety net?; Firms with workers using BadgerCare to be listed on Web site](#) - Stacy Forster for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, June 21

[EDITORIAL: Getting treatment early; A Senate bill requiring health insurers to cover the cost of autism is the right thing for families with autistic children and, in the long run, for society as well](#) - the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, June 20

[Universal health care makes gains in political arena](#) - Guy Boulton for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, June 17

NEWS: Covering Children

Follow the links below for recent news related to children's health care and coverage:

[Bush criticizes children's health plan](#) - Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar for the *Los Angeles Times*, June 28

[OPINION: Insurance legislation critical for keeping youngsters healthy](#) - Karen Crompton for the *Salt Lake Tribune*, June 23

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 atrimberger@safetyweb.org or call (800) 585-4222 ext. 203. If you would like to submit news and information for future HWW Updates, please send it to the attention of Annie Trimberger. All submissions should be limited to 150 words.

[Deeds conflict with words on children's health program - Kevin Freking for the Associated Press/*Houston Chronicle*, June 21](#)

NEWS: Health Care Reform

Use the links below to navigate recent health care reform-related news articles:

[Clinton Cautious on Health Care Reform - Beth Fouhy for the Associated Press/*Long Island Newsday*, June 25](#)

[For Filmmaker, 'Sicko' Is a Jumping-Off Point for Health Care Change - Kevin Sack for *The New York Times*, June 24](#)

[EDITORIAL: Where's national plan to address health care? - the *Des Moines Register*, June 19](#)

[Nurses offer aid to 'Sicko' - Anthony Breznican for *USA Today*, June 14](#)

[Proposal would change health, pension coverage - Julie Appleby for *USA Today*, June 12](#)

NEWS: Health Care Costs and Access

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

[Home base for services boosts quality of health care - Tyeesha Dixon for the *Orlando Sentinel*, June 28](#)

[Kaiser Health Security Watch Finds Disparities in Worries About Health Care Access and Costs, With Minorities and Low-Income People Much More Likely To Be Worried than Whites and Higher-Income People - the Kaiser Family Foundation, June 28](#)

[Scant Drug Benefits Called Costly to Employers - Milt Freudenheim for *The New York Times*, June 27](#)

[Community Health Clinics Flourish, but Doctors Are Few - Christopher Lee for the *Washington Post*, June 19](#)

[What does a health crisis look like? See Houston - Richard Wolf for *USA Today*, June 18](#)

NEWS: The Uninsured

Use the following links to access recent news articles on the uninsured:

[Survey Finds 43.6 Million Uninsured in U.S. - REUTERS for *The New York Times*, June 26](#)

[CDC: About 2M More Americans Uninsured - Mike Stobbe for the Associated Press/*Long Island Newsday*, June 26](#)

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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.

Featured Link: Health Affairs

Published by [Project HOPE](#), Health Affairs is one of the nation's leading journals of health policy. It reports on a broad range of health issues and the site holds both the [current issue](#) and [archive](#) copies of back issues. For more information, please visit www.healthaffairs.org.

■ CKSN Corner ■

Covering Kids with Special Needs



New Resource: "Learning Opportunities for Your Child Through Alternate Assessment"

The National Center on Educational Outcomes and the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services has released a new publication entitled "Learning Opportunities for Your Child Through Alternate Assessment," developed to inform parents about the school improvement efforts being implemented as a result of the No Child Left Behind Act and IDEA. Additionally, the publication provides parents with the pertinent information needed to ensure that their child becomes one of the children who benefits from these improvement efforts.

To view the report, please [click here](#).

Mark Your Calendars Now: Three Excellent Conferences in 2007!

18th Annual National APSE Conference – Show Me the Future~It's Bigger than You Think! This event will be held July 16-18 at the Hyatt Regency Crown Center in Kansas City, MO. To view the brochure, visit www.apse.org.

Care in the Community Conference – This event will be held September 19 from 8:00am-4:00pm at the Radisson Hotel, Milwaukee West, 2303 N. Mayfair Rd, Wauwatosa, WI. Parents, nurses, educators, social workers, and others can learn strategies to support children and youth with special health care needs. For more information, call toll-free: 1-800-234-5437.

Wisconsin APSE Conference – This event will be held October 3-5 in Elkhart Lake. More information to come.



(608) 261-6939

info@safetyweb.org

ABC for Health Is Hiring!

ABC for Health is currently seeking work study candidates who are interested in the following positions:

Administrative Assistant
Financial Assistant
Legal Interns
Education/Outreach Assistant

For more information and job descriptions, please visit www.abcforhealth.org and click on 'Employment.'

Notice of Funding Available

Below are links to various notices of available funding:

[The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#)

[The National Center of Medical Home Initiatives](#)

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