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A Project of ABC for Health, Inc.  
[www.healthwatchwisconsin.org](http://www.healthwatchwisconsin.org)  
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## HealthWatch Wisconsin Update

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

June 30 , 2009

Volume 5, Number 12

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### Special BC+ Core Plan Updates!

Scroll down for the latest updates on Core Plan registration and policy, including the latest on

- Defining "access to insurance"
- College student eligibility
- COBRA complications

### ABC for Health Turns 15!

#### **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 as we celebrate ABC for Health's 15th Birthday! We'll enjoy a potluck picnic. ABC will provide the meat (and non-meat) for grilling and beverages. Please bring a dish to pass!



We will also be holding the first **Green Bay Packers** ticket drawing of the year!

Please RSVP for the picnic to Brynne at 1-800-585-4222, ext. 210 or [bmcbride@safetyweb.org](mailto:bmcbride@safetyweb.org).

### A New HealthWatch Wisconsin Membership Year Starts Soon! Renew or Begin Your Membership Today!

The new HealthWatch Wisconsin membership annual year begins on July 1, 2009 and runs through June 30, 2010.

## 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 1-800-400-3678 or [rmarsh@co.chippewa.wi.us](mailto:rmarsh@co.chippewa.wi.us) with questions.

**Dane:** August 3, 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:** July 14, 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**

**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. By becoming a member of HealthWatch Wisconsin, you will receive:

- Access to detailed publications on advocacy strategies and tips,
- Discounted registration for conferences, events and trainings, including a HUGE discount for the annual HealthWatch Wisconsin Conference,
- Access to online and live trainings on health care coverage programs
- And much more!

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!

The first Packer ticket drawing of the season will be held at the HealthWatch Wisconsin Picnic on July 1! Be sure to get your membership application in by 11:59pm on June 30, 2009, to ensure your eligibility to win FREE deluxe indoor club seats for the Green Bay Packers vs. Cleveland Browns pre-season game on Saturday, August 15! You do not need to be present to win.

**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](http://www.healthwatchwisconsin.org) to read more about the great benefits of becoming a member.

## 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

**for the Special and Equal):**

July 15, 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**

**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**

**ForwardHealth Portal Training for Providers:** From June-November 2009, DHS is conducting trainings on the ForwardHealth Portal Fundamentals. Registration is required, but there is no fee to attend. There will also be a webcast posted online at the end of July for those who cannot attend the trainings. Several trainings will be held in Madison, Hayward, Appleton, Waukesha, Eau Claire, Wausau and Minocqua. For more information, including specific dates and times, please [click here](#).

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: The First Two Weeks**

Registration for the BadgerCare Plus Core Plan began on June 15. As of June 24, over 12,000 people had registered, in addition to the 12,000 members moved from the GAMP program in Milwaukee. Here's just some of what we've observed in the first two weeks:

**Observations**

- Online applications take between 20-40 minutes to complete. There are still relatively long waits when phoning the Enrollment Center.
- COBRA coverage is creating a lot of questions. If a client's employment ended through no fault of his own and he could have taken COBRA but chose not to, he can enroll in the Core Plan now. If the client did elect COBRA coverage, he cannot enroll in the Core Plan until 12 months after the COBRA coverage ends, or until after the COBRA continuation period expires, whichever comes first.
- Access to Health Insurance is a barrier to enrolling in the Core Plan. Clients cannot enroll in the Core Plan if they:
  - Could have signed up for insurance, regardless of the cost, through a current employer in the last 12 months.
  - Can sign up for insurance, regardless of the cost, through a current employer during the month of application, or in any of the three months following

## 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

the month of application.

- Exceptions: Clients may still enroll if:
  - They didn't sign up for coverage through a current employer because they were already enrolled in Medicaid, BadgerCare Plus, GAMP, or HIRSP
  - They were denied coverage through a current employer because of pre-existing conditions.
  - They receive services through the Family Planning Waiver.
  - They are covered under indemnity plans or limited benefit plans such as vision, dental, or cancer-only. Plans limited to "hospitalization only" will have to be reviewed to determine if they meet the definition of "health insurance coverage."
- The Department of Health Services has clarified which students are eligible for Core Plan.
  - College students whose school offers a student health plan but have not enrolled in that plan (and meet all other eligibility rules) **can** apply for Core Plan now.
  - College students whose school offers a student health plan and have enrolled in that plan **cannot** apply for Core Plan until 12 months after their coverage ends.
  - College students covered under a parent or guardian's plan **cannot** apply until 12 months after they age out of coverage or are dropped from coverage
- What about 19-year-olds who aren't students? DHS has clarified that applicants who lose health insurance coverage because they age out of a parent's plan are not eligible for the Core Plan until 12 months after their coverage ended.

## Quick Tips for Advocates

- When helping an individual apply for Core Plan, make sure to screen for more appropriate benefits: EBD Medicaid, MAPP, BC+, etc.
- Consider promoting enrollment in FoodShare, since clients can apply for these benefits at the same time they apply for Core Plan.
- Be clear when asking individuals if they have had private insurance in the last 12 months, and review situations that count as access to insurance.
- When helping a client apply online, remember to write down the tracking number assigned to each individual—this number will need to be written on checks, verifications, and communications with the State.
- Track the number of people who indicate they cannot afford the \$60 enrollment fee, and suggest the option of paying the fee in installments (see detailed Case Tip below).
- Just as important as the initial application is the follow-up: devise a strategy to check back with applicants to ensure they paid the fee, submitted verifications, and don't have any

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

**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 Web site** – Organization that sponsors annual Cover the Uninsured Week. <http://covertheuninsured.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 Brynne McBride at [bmcbride@safetyweb.org](mailto:bmcbride@safetyweb.org).

remaining questions.

## BC+ Core Plan: DHS Resources

### Online Resources

- [To Apply Online \(ACCESS\)](#)
- [Core Plan Publications Page](#)
- [ForwardHealth Enrollment and Benefits Booklet](#)
- [BadgerCare Plus Policy Handbook \(Core Plan is Ch. 43\)](#)

### Phone Support

- For questions from **applicants: The Enrollment Services Center: 1-800-291-2002**
- For questions and coordination issues from **Advocates/Professionals: (608)261-9305 or 1-888-415-2116**. (DHS has asked that this number not be shared with the public).
- For questions on **policy: Call Claire Smith at (608) 266-1334**. If there is no answer, **press 0 for assistance**. You can also email Claire at [Claire.smith@wi.gov](mailto:Claire.smith@wi.gov)

**Policy on the \$60 non-refundable fee:** DHS has issued specific rules on what types of agencies may pay the \$60 application fee on behalf of enrollees. [Click here](#) for more information.

## Case Tips: Core Plan Edition

In honor of the BC+ Core Plan expansion, we bring you 2 case tips this issue:

- **Case Tip: Paying the Core Plan's \$60 Application Fee in Installments:**

Even \$60 dollars is quite a barrier to care for many low-income individuals or couples. The good news is that individuals that face financial challenges but are interested in the Core Plan can pay the \$60 fee in installments. However an individual will be required to re-apply for the Core Plan if the entire fee is not received within 30 days of a submitted application. Time is of the essence, however. The complete \$60 fee must be received by the state before an application is processed

Example: On June 15, Jill applied for the Core Plan by completing the online application at [www.access.wisconsin.gov](http://www.access.wisconsin.gov). She did not have the ability to pay the full \$60 all at once, so she wrote a check payable to the Enrollment Services Center for \$25.00. She wrote her

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

[June 15](#)

[June 1](#)

[May 15](#)

[May 1](#)

[April 15](#)

[April 1](#)

[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](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"](#)

online tracking number on her check to make sure the payment corresponded to the correct application. The following week, Jill wrote out a second check, this one for \$35.00. Again, Jill wrote her tracking number on the check. As long as the Enrollment Services Center receives this second check by July 15, the state will consider Jill's fee paid in full, and begin processing her application.

### • Case Tip: Researching Covered Rx under the Core Plan:

The Core Plan provides limited coverage for pharmaceuticals, but covers most generic drugs. Individuals interested in learning which medications are covered can follow these quick steps:

- Download the PDF file of the [quick reference sheet](#) and the [full listing](#) of covered drugs from the BC+ Core Plan [Covered Services](#) webpage.
- First check to see if the client's medication is listed on the quick reference sheet. (This sheet lists limited brand medications)
- If not, look up the generic name of the client's medication. (Usually a quick Google search).
- Type the name of the medication into the search bar in the Preferred Drug List document. Usually the first name will do.
- If the medication is covered, the name will be highlighted. The listing will also tell different dosages and forms of that drug. (i.e. milligrams, capsules vs. tablets, liquid). NOTE: All medications have scientific, or generic names. This does not mean all medications are available in generic form.
  - Example 1: Julie Smith calls your agency and is interested in the Core Plan. However, Julie wants to know if her medication, Zoloft, will be covered. You check the quick reference and don't see the brand name. You search "Zoloft" in Google and find that the generic name is "sertraline." You enter "sertraline" into the search bar on the PDL (making sure you spell it correctly). The document highlights "sertraline" in blue. Therefore, her medication is covered.
  - Example 2: Leo Anderson wants to know if his heart medication, Plavix, will be covered under Core Plan. You check the quick reference and don't see the brand name. You do a Google search and find the generic name for Plavix is "clopidogrel." You search the name in the document are told no matches are found. Leo's medication is not covered by the Core Plan.

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"](#)

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

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

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

Episode 5: ["BadgerCare Plus Core Plan Moves Forward!"](#)

May 26: Special Edition: [Slight Delay in BC+ Core Plan Implementation](#)

June 11: Special Edition: [ABC for Health Unveils Universal Health Care Plan](#)

Episode 6: [The First Days of the Core Plan](#)

HealthWatch WatchDog episodes are now available to

## Updates from DHS

Click below for links to updates from the Department of Health Services:

- Updates were made to the [BC+ Handbook](#) on June 18, 2009
  - The Wisconsin Well Woman Medicaid Plan has been moved from Ch. 42 to the [Medicaid Eligibility Handbook](#), Ch. 36
  - Updates to Ch 43: The BC+ Core Plan, including Verification Requirements and Methods relating to income, social security number, citizenship or immigration status, health insurance access, health insurance coverage, good cause exceptions regarding insurance coverage, migrant workers, and power of attorney/guardianship.

## Save the Date: 15th Anniversary Gala 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Celebration and Fundraiser

**Date:** October 22, 2009

**Place:** Best Western Inn on the Park in Madison (details to follow)

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! Please join us for our 15th Anniversary Gala Celebration this October, at the Best Western Inn on the Park.

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

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

## Marysa's Section: Protecting your job while coping with a chronic illness

In this section, I'll continue to bring you interesting links, news, and stories from around the health care community. For people with chronic or complex health care needs, the difficulty is not only in managing medical treatment, but in protecting their jobs, privacy, and way of life. Getting sick can threaten income, raise debts, and even mean the loss of a job, which for many means loss of benefits and access to care. [This article](#) from *The New York Times'* "Patient Money" series details common conflicts in the American workplace facing employees who fall ill, and offers tips for protecting patients' jobs and privacy.

## NEWS: Health Care in Wisconsin

Use the links below to access recent news on health care and

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.

coverage in Wisconsin:

- [Press Release: Madison, Beloit Area Health Centers Receive Federal Funds - Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin, June 29](#)
- [Wisconsin ranked first in healthcare quality by federal agency - WTN News, June 28](#)
- [Local Group Rallies Support for Health Care Reform - Channel 3000, June 28](#)
- [Hospitals expand in uncertain climate - by Guy Boulton for The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, June 27](#)
- [Mission of Mercy dental care event helps 700 - by KJ Lang for The La Crosse Tribune, June 27](#)
- [Doyle discusses health care at Obama meeting - by Larry Bivins for The Green Bay Press-Gazette, June 25](#)
- [State Lawmakers Generate Ideas For Health Care Change - WISN, June 24](#)
- [Hopes, fears mix as federal health plan forms - by Guy Boulton of The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel June 24](#)
- [Advocate: State should have health plan ready - by Tom Giffey for The Eau Claire Leader-Telegram, June 24](#)
- [Report on the BC+ Core Plan - WORT radio, June 23 \(2:27 in\), featuring Erin McBride of ABC for Health and Jennifer Lord of South Madison Health and Family Center-Harambee](#)
- [Guaranteeing health care coverage for all Americans - by Russ Feingold for WisOpinion.com, June 23](#)
- [Report: Health premiums double in state in 9 years - By Terry Rindfleisch for The La Crosse Tribune, June 23](#)
- [Wisconsin's uninsured adults get a lift with BadgerCare Plus Core Plan - By Shawn Doherty for The Capitol Times, June 23](#)
- [Press Release: Immediate Need for Health Care Reform - Congressman Ron Kind, June 22](#)
- [Hospital wins governor's award - by Jake Miller for the Marshall News-Herald, June 22](#)
- [Help Is Coming: These humanitarians provide services to Madisonians in need \(featuring Bobby Peterson of ABC\) - Isthmus, June 19](#)
- [Press Release: State Kicks Off Health Information Exchange Planning Project - Dept. of Health Services, June 18](#)
- [New BadgerCare health coverage plan targets childless adults - by Diana Montano for The Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, June 17](#)

## NEWS: Health Care Reform

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

- [Obama Steers Health Debate Out of Capital - by Sheryl Gay Stolberg for The New York Times, June 30](#)
- [Wal-Mart Backs Employer Health Insurance Mandate - Kaiser Health News, June 30](#)

- [Health-Care Activists Targeting Democrats - by Ceci Connolly for \*The Washington Post\*, June 28](#)
- [Axelrod: No ultimatum on public plan - by Mike Allen and Harry Siegel for \*Politico\*, June 28](#)
- [Advertising wars escalate in health care fight - by Richard Wolf for \*USA Today\*, June 26](#)
- [Obama and Congress Clash on How to Pay for Health Care - by Jackie Calmes for \*The New York Times\*, June 26](#)
- [Senate Democrats Say Cost of Health-Care Bill Can Be Trimmed - by Robert Pear for \*The New York Times\*, June 26](#)
- [States Assert Place in Health-Care Debate - by Michael A. Fletcher for \*The Washington Post\*, June 25](#)
- [Senators Worry That Health Overhaul Could Erode Employer Insurance Plans - by Robert Pear and Jeff Zeleny for \*The New York Times\*, June 25](#)
- [Health Reform's Benefits for Middle Class Under Scrutiny - by Eric Pianin for \*Kaiser Health News\*, June 25](#)
- [Obama leaves door open to tax on health benefits - by David Epso for \*Associated Press\*, June 24](#)
- [Obama Open to Health Overhaul Without Public Plan - by Laura Meckler and Greg Hitt for \*The Wall Street Journal\*, June 24](#)
- [Baucus Grabs Pacesetter Role on Health Bill - by David M. Herszenhorn for \*The New York Times\*, June 24](#)
- [Business Groups Note Faults In House Democrats' Overhaul Plan - \*Kaiser Health News\*, June 24](#)
- [Obama Says Government Health Coverage Plan Would Not Hurt Private Insurers - by Jeff Zeleny and Robert Pear for \*The New York Times\*, June 24](#)
- [Obama, Health Insurers Clash on Public Plan - \*Kaiser Health News\*, June 24](#)
- [Most Americans Want Health Reform but Fear Its Side Effects - by Ceci Connolly and Jon Cohen for \*The Washington Post\*, June 24](#)
- [Transcript: President Obama's Remarks on Health Care During Press Conference - \*Kaiser Health News\*, June 23](#)
- [Some Governors Oppose Medicaid Expansion Proposals - \*Kaiser Health News\*, June 23](#)
- [Dental Health Advocates Want to Sink Teeth Into Health Care Reform - \*Kaiser Health News\*, June 23](#)
- [Drug deal valid as Congress overhauls health care - By David Epso for \*Associated Press\*, June 23](#)
- [Democrats may go it alone on gov't insurance plan - by Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar, \*Associated Press\*, June 22](#)
- [Wyden's Third Way - by Collin Levy for \*The Wall Street Journal\*, June 22](#)
- [In Poll, Wide Support for Government-Run Health - by Kevin Sack and Marjorie Connelly for \*The New York Times\*, June 21](#)
- [Wide support for government health plan: poll - \*Reuters\*, June 21](#)
- [Primary-Care Doctor Shortage May Undermine Reform Efforts - by Ashley Halsey III for \*The Washington Post\*, June 20](#)

- [Policy Brief: A Public Health Insurance Plan - from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation/Health Affairs, June 19](#)
- [Democrats Scramble to Cut Costs from Health Plan - by Robert Pear for The New York Times, June 19](#)
- [House Democrats unveil health care bill - by Noam N. Levey for The Los Angeles Times, June 19](#)
- [On Health Care, Obama Tries to Seize the Moment - by Kevin Sack for The New York Times, June 19](#)
- [Key Challenges in the Health Care Debate - New York Times Interactive Tool, June 18](#)
- [Senate Begins Work On Health Care Overhaul - by Mara Liasson for Morning Edition, NPR, June 18](#)
- [AMA Straddles the "Public Plan" Option - by Emily Walker for ABC News, June 17](#)
- [US doctors signal they'll work with Obama - by Lindsey Tanner for Associated Press, June 17](#)
- [Health Insurers refuse to limit rescission of coverage - by Lisa Giron for The Los Angeles Times, June 17](#)
- [HHS Secretary: Public health plan will survive - by Ricard Alonso-Zaldivar and Erica Werner, Associated Press, June 16](#)
- [Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: June: finds stability in public opinion on health reform - Public Opinion and Survey Research Program, The Kaiser Family Foundation, June 16](#)
- [Obama's counterattack on healthcare - by Jeffrey Young and Sam Youngman for The Hill, June 15](#)

## News: Opinion

Click below for editorials and opinion pieces about health care reform:

- [Op-Ed: Myths on Health Care - by Steven Findlay for USA Today, June 30](#)
- [Editorial: Rehabilitating Healthcare: Focus on results, not treatments - The Los Angeles Times, June 29](#)
- [Op-Ed: Not Enough Audacity - by Paul Krugman for The New York Times, June 26](#)
- [Op-Ed: Easing the Shortage in Adult Primary Care--Is It All about Money? - by Robert Steinbrook, MD for The New England Journal of Medicine, June 26](#)
- [Op-Ed: The Only Public Health Plan We Need - by David Riemer and Alain Enthoven for The New York Times, June 25](#)
  - [Op-Ed: ABC for Health Responds to Riemer/Enthoven Article - by Bobby Peterson, June 25](#)
- [Editorial: Health-care reform in America: This is going to hurt - The Economist, June 25](#)
- [Editorial: The Drug Industry's Offer - The New York Times, June 25](#)
- [Op-Ed: ObamaCare Isn't Inevitable - by Karl Rove for The Wall Street Journal, June 25](#)
- [Op-Ed: The Prescription From Obama's Own Doctor - by Nicholas D. Kristof for The New York Times, June 25](#)

- [Editorial: Public option? Insurance executives make definitive case - \*The Tomah Journal\*, June 24](#)
- [Op-Ed: Something for Nothing - by David Brooks for \*The New York Times\*, June 23](#)
- [Op-Ed: Bipartisan health reform is possible - by Tom Daschle for \*Politico\*, June 19](#)
- [Op-Ed: Health Care Rationing Rhetoric Overlooks Reality - by David Leonhardt for \*The New York Times\*, June 17](#)
- [Editorial: Malpractice and Health Care Reform - \*The New York Times\* June 17](#)

## NEWS: Health Care Costs & Access

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

- ['Frequent Fliers' Add Billions to Hospital Bills - by Joanne Kenen for \*The Washington Post\*, June 30](#)
- [Sometimes Insurance No Match for Health Costs - \*Kaiser Health News\*, June 29](#)
- [Press Release: Secretary Sebelius Releases New State by State Reports Highlighting Urgent Need For Health Reform - Dept. of Health and Human Services, June 26](#)
- [Report: New Snapshots Show States Vary Widely in Providing Quality Health Care - AHRQ report, June 26](#)
- [Senate Panel Hears of Health Insurers' Wrongs - by David S. Hilzenrath for \*The Washington Post\*, June 25](#)
- [Senator: Use of faulty insurance data 'pervasive' - by Matthew Perrone for \*Associated Press\*, June 24](#)
- [Update: Lawmaker Lashes Out at Health Insureres for Hiding Info - by Fawn Johnson for \*The Wall Street Journal\*, June 24](#)
- [Report: Hidden Costs of Health Care: Why Americans are Paying More and Getting Less - Healthreform.gov, June 23](#)
- [Federal Saving From Lowering of Drug Prices Is Unclear - by Robert Pear for \*The New York Times\*, June 23](#)
- [Advocates Help Patients Navigate Health Care Maze - by Richard Knox for \*Morning Edition\*, NPR, June 22](#)
- [Insurers Revoke Policies to Avoid Paying High Costs - By Joanne Silber for \*Morning Edition\*, NPR, June 22](#)
- [Press Release: New Poll Finds Americans Concerned About Alcohol and Drug Addiction, Access to Treatment - Milwaukee Addiction Treatment Initiative, Community Advocates, June 18](#)
- [Report: Health care costs to rise 9 percent in 2010 - By Tom Murphy for \*The Associated Press\*, June 18](#)

## NEWS: Covering Children

Click below for news links on covering children:

- [Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan settles class-action autism](#)

[lawsuit - by Jay Greene for \*Crains Detroit Business\*, June 19](#)

- [Press Release: HHS Secretary Sebelius Announces Release of \\$6 Billion in New CHIP Funds to Insure Children - Dept. of Health and Human Services, June 19](#)

## **NEWS: Supporting the Disabled**

Click below for links to news stories on supporting those with disabilities:

- [Supreme Court victory for parents of disabled students - by David G. Savage for \*The Los Angeles Times\*, June 23](#)
- [Press Release: President Obama Commemorates Anniversary of Olmstead and Announces New Initiatives to Assist Americans with Disabilities - The White House, June 22](#)
- [Press Release: HHS Announces Initiatives in Support of the "Year of Community Living" - Dept. of Health and Human Services, June 22](#)
- [Judge orders search for MPS students in need to special education - by Alan J. Borsuk for \*The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel\*, June 21](#)

## **Medicaid and Medicare in the News**

Click below for links to news stories about Medicare and Medicaid:

- [Press Release: Medicaid and CHIP coverage of HIV testing - Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, June 24](#)
- [Feds: Miami-based Medicare fraud ring busted - by Jay Weaver for \*The Miami Herald\*, June 24](#)
- [More Problems Than Solutions in Medicare Report - by David St. Hilzenrath for \*The Washington Post\*, June 16](#)

## **NEWS: Other Health News**

Visit the links below for other health news and information:

- [Health Centers Get \\$850 million for Infrastructure Improvements - \*Kaiser Health News\*, June 30](#)
- [Doctors Increasingly Perform Online Visits - \*Kaiser Health News\*, June 30](#)
- [Press Release: Process Begins to Define "Meaningful Use" of Electronic Health Records - Dept. of Health and Human Services, June 16](#)

## **Events and Trainings**

Check out upcoming Events, Trainings and Conferences:

- **Understanding and Overcoming Poverty in Wisconsin - Aug. 6-7, 2009:** Westwood Conference Center, Wausau. A collaboration between the Wisconsin Institute for Public Policy and Service (WIPPS), UW Colleges, UW-Extension and other organizations. Conference focus areas include Community Approaches to Ending Poverty, Education Matters, Health and Food Insecurity, Housing and Shelter, and the Unbanked and Underbanked. Contact Jean Greenwood at (715)261-6234 or [jean.greenwood@uwc.edu](mailto:jean.greenwood@uwc.edu) for more information or visit [www.wiscpoverty.org](http://www.wiscpoverty.org) to register.

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



## Mark Your Calendars Now

### Check Out These Excellent Events in 2009!

- **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.
- **WI-Healthy and Ready To Work FREE Training:** Aug. 5-6, Chippewa Falls, WI. Partnering for Employment: How Individuals, Families and Professionals Work Together to Customize Employment. Space is limited to 50 people. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.
- **9th Annual Dylan's Run and Walk for Autism to Indian Summer Festival - Sept. 13.** Registration now open! A time competitive run with prizes, and a fun run for families, to support families touched by autism. The event takes place on the Summerfest Grounds and follows the Lake Michigan lakefront. All registered participants receive a t-shirt and free entrance to Indian Summer Festival. Online registration is

available through [www.dylansrun.com](http://www.dylansrun.com). Call 414-427-9345 or email [info@assew.org](mailto:info@assew.org) for more information. Sponsored by the Autism Society of Southeastern WI.

- **Wisconsin Community on Transition** - The next meeting will be held Oct. 22, 2009 9:30am-12:30pm, location TBA. The topic for this event will be family involvement. To RSVP, please contact Sandy Hall at [sghall@matcmadison.edu](mailto:sghall@matcmadison.edu). The parking code is 3111. 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.
- **ASW Fall Conference - November 4 and 5**, Hotel Sierra, Green Bay. Presenters Breanda Smith Myles, Ruth Aspy and Barry Grossman will speak on "The Ziggurat Model: A Framework for Designing Comprehensive Interventions for Individuals with High-Functioning Autism and Asperger Syndrome." Contact Jane Pribek at [jpribek@asw4autism.org](mailto:jpribek@asw4autism.org) or at 920-973-4080 for more information.
- **20th Children Come First Conference - November 16 and 17**, Kalahari Resorts and Convention Center, Wisconsin Dells, WI. Theme this year: Ready, Set, Relationship! Featuring keynote speakers Barry Duncan, PsyD., a therapist, trainer, and Co-Director of the Institute for the Study of Therapeutic Change. He has over one hundred publications and fourteen books, and has appeared on *Oprah* and *The View*. Lucille Eber, Ed.D, is the State Director of the Illinois Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Network. Dr. Eber coordinates technical assistance and evaluation in over 900 IL schools, and regularly publishes articles and chapters on wraparound, interagency systems of care and school-wide behavior supports. For more information, check [www.wifamilyties.org](http://www.wifamilyties.org) after July 15.
- **Youth In Partnership with Parents for Employment (YIPPE)** - This is a FREE five-part leadership training for youth with disabilities ages 15-20 and their parents. The training focuses on transition issues for youth entering the workforce and emphasizes building leadership skills. Families should enroll by Sept. 10 and commit to all five sessions. Location: Wintergreen Resort and Conference Center, Wisconsin Dells, WI. The training will be held on one weekend per month beginning Oct. 9-10, 2009 and ending April 23-24, 2010. Contact Phyllis Voelker at (877)844-4925 or [Phyllis@banbury.com](mailto:Phyllis@banbury.com) to apply. Read the program brochure [here](#).

## New Training Materials

- **The Wisconsin Community on Transition Health Practice Group** has developed a set of health-related training materials that can be used with schools, health providers, families and youth to help youth with disabilities learn to more effectively manage their health care concerns. The kit is available for \$35, which includes shipping and handling. All materials can also be downloaded for free at

<http://www.waisman.wisc.edu/wrc/pub/html>. Materials include 1) Health and IEP cd-rom, containing 3 powerpoint presentations and handouts on medical and health transition issues in the IEP process; 2) Transition to Adult Health Care: A Training Guide in Three Parts (2nd ed.); 3) The Workbook for Youth; 4) My Health Pocket Guide; 5) The Transition to Adult Health Care Checklist: Preparing for Life As An Adult. [Click here](#) to order.

## Call for Submissions and Volunteers

The following publications and events are seeking participants:

- Anyone interested in contributing to the August issue of the MCH/CYSHCN Update may submit items electronically to Amy Whitehead at [Amy.Whitehead@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:Amy.Whitehead@dhs.wisconsin.gov) by July 10.
- The Autism Society of Wisconsin invites proposals for presentations at the 2010 Annual Conference, to be held Thursday through Saturday March 18-20, 2010, at the Hotel Sierra/KI Convention Center in Green Bay, WI. Conference planners try to provide information to people new to autism at a beginner level to those with more advanced experience. Concurrent sessions will be offered; presentations will be one and one quarter hours each. 700-1250 people have attended previous conferences. Find the application form in the Spring 2009 newsletter, available on the [website](#), and submit completed applications no later than Sept. 30 to ASW Conference, P.O. Box 165, Two Rivers, WI 54241 or fax to 888-836-4082. You may also email your application to [jpribek@asw4autism.org](mailto:jpribek@asw4autism.org)
- The Waisman Center at UW-Madison seeks children, adolescents and adults who have been diagnosed with autism to help train Waisman Center staff on how to conduct the The Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS), one of the best assessments for diagnosing autism spectrum disorders. They are looking for individuals who use full sentences to communicate and can volunteer 1 visit to the Waisman Center that will last under one hour. The sessions will be videotaped to evaluate the interviewer's techniques. Please note this ADOS is being administered for research training purposes only. Contact Sheri Stronach at (608)263-3123 for more information.

## Now Hiring

- WI FACETS has 3 vacancies:
  - Parent Leadership Hub Specialist for State Personnel Development Grant (20 hrs)

For more information, contact Jan Seark at [jserak@wifacets.org](mailto:jserak@wifacets.org) or 414-374-4645 or WI FACETS' SPDG Coordinator, Dawn Wians at

## 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.

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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.



[dwians@wifacets.org](mailto:dwians@wifacets.org) at 608-827-5234. Please submit resumes to Jan Serak by Monday, June 29.

- Transition Coordinator, Youth Information, Training, and Resource Center grant (10 hrs)
- Transition Coordinator, Milwaukee Country Transition Advocacy Contract (5 hours)

These positions will ideally be combined. Both are based in the Milwaukee Office of WI FACETS. For more information, contact Jan Serak at 414-374-4645 ext. 102 or [jserak@wifacets.org](mailto:jserak@wifacets.org)

- Executive Director, Wisconsin Council on Children and Families. The Wisconsin Council on Children and Families is seeking a seasoned leader to assume the Executive Director role of this 128-year-old statewide nonprofit that promotes the well-being of Wisconsin's children, youth and and families. Candidate should have at least five years senior leadership experience, preferably in a non-profit. To apply, email cover letter, resume, and salary requirements to [WCCF@transitionguides.com](mailto:WCCF@transitionguides.com). See a full job profile [here](#)
- Automated Health Systems is seeking Customer Service Representatives. Part time and full time needed for Madison office. Knowledge of BadgerCare Plus and Forward Health Programs desired. HS Diploma/GED required, Associates degree preferred. Bilingual Spanish a plus. For more information, contact Katie Stewart, HR Specialist/Recruiter, at (800)506-3032 ext. 2361. \$12/hr. Apply to [hr@automated-health.com](mailto:hr@automated-health.com) or online at [www.automated-health.com](http://www.automated-health.com), or fax resumes to 412-367-1131.

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## 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.

## Specialized Training Opportunities

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



(608)261-6939

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

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

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