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A Project of ABC for Health, Inc.  
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## Coalition Meetings by County

**Barron:** TBA, 1:00-2:00pm. Barron County Workforce Resource, Inc., 331 S. Main St., Ste. 6, Rice Lake. Contact Mike Rust at (715) 485-8525 or [miker@co.polk.wi.us](mailto:miker@co.polk.wi.us) with questions.

**Chippewa:** September 8, 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

## HealthWatch Wisconsin Update

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

### BC+ Updates In This Edition

Scroll down to learn the latest on the BadgerCare Plus programs, including

- Can clients obtain coverage through both the Core Plan and HIRSP?
- Do transitional housing residents qualify for the Core Plan application fee homeless waiver?
- What is the future of Medicaid Managed Care in Southeast Wisconsin?

### A New HealthWatch Wisconsin Membership Year Has Begun!

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

**It's not too late 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 individual members qualify for regular prize drawings to win FREE deluxe indoor club seats for a **Green Bay Packers** game at Lambeau Field! Congratulations to **Jane McCauley**, our first winner this year! [Click here](#) to register NOW!

### Your individual 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.

### And new for the 2009-2010 HealthWatch Wisconsin membership year - group membership!

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

In response to member requests, the HWW Council and its Executive Committee have voted to offer an organizational membership for groups that would be interested in becoming registered as member agencies under our statewide umbrella organization. You asked for this and we're excited to make it happen! 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 will select a representative to serve as primary contact person. 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

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

**Milwaukee CHASE (Children's Health Access for the Special and Equal):** August 20, 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-Nichols 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](#).

#### 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

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.

If you have questions about your group or individual membership, please contact Brynne at 1-800-585-4222, ext. 210.

#### 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 marked 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).

#### Case Tips

##### **Case Tip: Individuals Enrolled in HIRSP are not Barred from Applying for Core Plan**

The BadgerCare Plus Core Plan began accepting applications for coverage on June 15, 2009. Among the eligibility requirements for this new program is a rule that individuals who have health insurance or had access to health insurance over the past year are not eligible to apply. The program defines "health insurance coverage" as group health insurance coverage, individual health insurance coverage and short-term, limited duration insurance. This access to coverage rule does *not* apply to individuals who were recently covered by Medicaid or BadgerCare Plus.

Additionally, individuals currently enrolled in the Health Insurance Risk Sharing Plan (HIRSP) are able to apply for the Core Plan. ([BadgerCare Plus Handbook, Ch. 43.6.5](#)). Please note that this is the only instance where an individual would have Core Plan coverage in addition to another form of health insurance.

Example: Jim suffers from Diabetes and Bi-Polar disorder. He is interested in applying for the Core Plan but knows the mental health benefits offered through the program are extremely minimal. He therefore enrolls in HIRSP and pays a monthly premium for that coverage. On June 15 Jim applies online at [www.access.wisconsin.gov](http://www.access.wisconsin.gov) for the Core Plan. If he is approved for benefits, he will use both Core Plan and HIRSP coverage to obtain the range of medical services he needs.

##### **Case Tip: Core Plan Applicants Living in Transitional Housing do not Need to Pay the \$60 Fee**

According to Theresa Fosbinder at DHS, individuals living in transitional housing qualify for the homeless application fee waiver. These individuals do not need to pay the \$60 fee to apply for Core Plan coverage.

#### 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)**

applying.

**Kaiser's Consumer-Directed Health Care (CDHC)**

**Resources:** A narrated slide tutorial on principles and different models of CDHC (click here), its companion issue module on the latest research and policy analysis on CDHC (click here), and the results of Kaiser's Health Poll Search on CDHC (click here) are all available from the Kaiser Family Foundation.

**Knowledge Path** is a web-based guide from the Maternal and Child Health Library at Georgetown University that points to current, high-quality resources on caring for CYSHCN. Separate sections list resources on specific aspects of care and development, such as adolescent transition, advocacy, financing, and screening. To access this resource, please click here.

**Wisconsin First Step** can help you find resources for children birth to 21 with special needs. Staff are on-hand 24 hours a day to answer calls and can provide follow-up and materials on specific diseases or conditions. Call (800) 642-7837 with questions. Language interpretation and TTY services are available. You can also email [wispubhealth@mch-hotlines.org](mailto:wispubhealth@mch-hotlines.org) or [visit their website](#).

**Links of Interest**

**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

**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.

**New Ops Memos**

Click below for links to new DHS Ops Memos:

- [09-45](#) Child Care Program Integrity Enforcement System (PIES)
- [09-44](#) Vehicle Safety Alarm Requirement - Wisconsin Act 19 and 28

**Grapevine Issue: Medicaid Managed Care to go to bid in Southeast Wisconsin**



HealthWatch Wisconsin has learned that the Medicaid Managed Care contracts for BadgerCare Plus Standard and Benchmark plans will be put out for bid for Milwaukee, Waukesha, Ozaukee, Racine and Kenosha Counties. A separate contract will be developed for BadgerCare Plus Core Plan and SSI recipients. Stay tuned for future developments on the Managed Care scene in SE Wisconsin.

**...What Have You Heard?**

Please contact ABC for Health if you have recently learned of an issue and would like to find out if it is an isolated incident or a state- or region-wide problem. Also, let us know if you have some good news to share on a strategy or a tip to help people obtain the coverage and care they need. Contact Brynne McBride at [bmcbride@safetyweb.org](mailto:bmcbride@safetyweb.org) or (608) 261-6939, ext. 210 with information.

**Marysa's Section: Veterans' Health**

In this section, I'll continue to bring you interesting links, news, and stories from around the health care community. The effects of war can be deep and long-lasting, and service members and veterans often require a range of health care and support. Veterans' benefits have come under increased scrutiny recently, as more and more men and women have difficulty accessing care. [The New York Times](#) reports a surge in VA disability claims, resulting in long delays for services in some cases. Stigma and lack of treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental health concerns can make it [harder to find a job](#) and return to civilian life. And recent [GAO investigations](#) found many VA facilities do not comply with federal guidelines that protect the privacy and safety of female patients. Political pressure over these concerns may have led to this month's passage of [new legislation](#) to provide additional funding for veterans programs.

**NEWS: Health Care in Wisconsin**

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

- [BadgerCare Plus expansion means adults without children are eligible - by Stacy Forster for The Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, July 14. Featuring Bobby Peterson of ABC for Health.](#)
- [State Poll: Businesses Should Be Required to Pay Health Coverage - by J.E. Espino for Appleton-Fox Cities Post-Crescent, July 14](#)
- [In Our Backyard - WORT Radio Madison, July 13. Featuring an interview with ABC's Bobby Peterson on the BC+ Core Plan. Interview begins approx. 20 minutes into program.](#)
- [Backers call BadgerCare Plus 'lifesaving,' but costs mount - by David Wahlberg for The Wisconsin State Journal, July 11](#)
- [Interest high in new Medicaid program - by David Wahlberg for The Wisconsin State Journal, July 11](#)
- [Wisconsin health workers, lawmakers, want more equitable Medicaid reimbursements - by Danielle Kaeding for Wisconsin Public Radio, July 11](#)
- [Press Release: Evaluation shows BadgerCare Plus improves access to health insurance for Wisconsin children - Dept. of Health Services, July 9](#)
- [Maybe he should have kept the hernia - by Bill Leuders for Isthmus, July 9, featuring Bobby Peterson of ABC](#)
- [Madison getting \\$800,000 in fed funding to combat](#)

you have found helpful, please send them to Brynne McBride at [bmcbride@safetyweb.org](mailto:bmcbride@safetyweb.org).

### Events and Trainings

Check out upcoming Events, Trainings and Conferences:

**The Partnership for Prescription Assistance Bus - July 17, 2009:** South Madison Health and Family Center-Harambee, 2202 S. Park St., Madison, from 10:00am to 1:00pm. Staff on the bus will be available to help low-income people without health insurance apply for free or low-cost prescription medications. Contact Jennifer Lord at (608)261-9614 for more information.

**U.S. Senator Russ Feingold Listening Sessions, Crawford and Richland Counties - July 18, 2009:** Crawford County session will be held at Gays Mills Community Building, 212 Main St. Gays Mills, at 9:30 a.m. Richland County session will be held at the Large Group Instruction Room, Richland Center High School, 1996 Highway 14 West, Richard Center, at 12:15p.m. Each session will last up to an hour and will explore issues such as IDEA, Community Choice Act, Rehabilitation Act, housing, health care, voting and campaign finance, and ethics reform. Visit the senator's [website](#) for more information. Constituents in need of special accommodations should contact Senator Feingold's Middleton office at (608)828-1200.

**Forum: Milwaukee Women Speak Out on Health Care Reform - July 22, 2009:** Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, Bradley Pavilion, 929 N. Water St., Milwaukee, 5:30-8:30 PM. Sponsored by Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health. Contact Sarah Finger at [sara.finger@wiawh.org](mailto:sara.finger@wiawh.org) for more information, or see the [website](#).

**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.

- [homelessness - The Capital Times, July 9](#)
- [421 lucky Dane County residents picked for federal report card on Americans' health - by David Wahlberg for The Wisconsin State Journal, July 8](#)
- [Press Release: Commissioner Releases Consumer Grievance Information - Office of the Commissioner of Insurance, July 8](#)
- [Wis. secretary to gather info on medical records - Associated Press, July 7](#)
- [Press Release: New Report: Progressive Funding Proposals Would Finance Health Care Reform by Asking Wealthy Wisconsinites to Pay Their Fair Share - Citizens for Tax Justice, July 7](#)
- [Waukesha health system ProHealth Care cuts 50 jobs - by Guy Boulton for The Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, July 6](#)
- [Birth control access gets boost in Wisconsin's budget - by Shawn Doherty for The Capital Times, July 5](#)
- [Business owners, public speak out on need for health care reform - by Joe Knight for the Eau Claire Leader-Telegram, July 2](#)

### NEWS: Health Care Reform

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

- [How Much Healthcare for \\$1 Trillion? - by Susan Page for USA Today, July 15](#)
- [Healthcare Reform Advances - by Jeffrey Young and Mike Soraghan for The Hill, July 14](#)
- [House Democrats Unveil Health Care Reform Plan - CNN, July 14](#)
- [Poll: Americans want health care bill, but not the cost - by Susan Page for USA Today, July 14](#)
- [Abortion Issue Could Derail Health Care Overhaul - by Julie Rovner for Morning Edition, NPR, July 14](#)
- [AP Sources: Obama wants Senate health bill quickly - by David Espo and Erica Werner for Associated Press, July 14](#)
- [Obama prods lawmakers in meeting on health bill - by Sheryl Gay Stolberg and Robert Pear for The New York Times, July 14](#)
- [Obama Challenges on Health Care - by Erica Werner and Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar for Associated Press, July 13](#)
- [Leaders in House Seek to Tax Rich for Health Plan - by David M. Herszenhorn for The New York Times, July 11](#)
- [Exchanges may play key role in an overhauled health system - by Julie Appleby for Kaiser Health News, July 10](#)
- [Senators Consider Curtailing Hospitals' Tax Breaks - by Barbara Martinez for The Wall Street Journal, July 10](#)
- [Retail group opposes Wal-Mart on health care - Reuters, July 9](#)
- [Discord on Health Care Dulls Luster of New Pacts - by Ceci Connolly and Michael D. Shear for The Washington Post, July 9](#)
- [Democrats Divide Over a Proposal to Tax Health Benefits - by David M. Herszenhorn for The New York Times, July 9](#)
- [Policy Brief: Exploring Both Sides of the Debate Over Taxing Health Insurance Benefits to Pay for Expanded Coverage - Health Affairs and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, July 9](#)
- [Payment Reform: A Trend In White House Thinking - Kaiser Health News, July 9](#)
- [Health Care Overhaul Ignores Illegal Immigrants - by Jennifer Ludden for Morning Edition, NPR, July 8](#)
- [Health Deals Could Harbor Hidden Costs - by David M. Herszenhorn and Sheryl Gay Stolberg for The New York Times, July 8](#)
- [Emanuel Reassures Democrats On Public Insurance Option - Kaiser Health News, July 8](#)
- [Support Slips for Tax on Employee Health Benefits - by Greg Hitt and Janet Adamy for The Wall Street Journal, July 8](#)
- [Hospitals, White House Reach Accord On Cuts To Pay for Reform - Kaiser Health News, July 7](#)
- [Health Co-op Offers Model for Overhaul - by Kevin Sack for The New York Times, July 7](#)
- [Senate Dems Eye August Timeline, Search For Savings - Kaiser Health News, July 7](#)
- [White House Open to Deal on Public Health Plan - by Laura Meckler and Janet Adamy for The Wall Street Journal, July 7](#)
- [Short-Timer Whitehouse Has His Say - Kaiser Health News, July 7](#)
- [Need for federal insurance czar is questioned - by Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar for Associated Press, July 7](#)
- [Report: An Emerging Middle Ground? An Analysis of Health Reform Positions - Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, July 6](#)
- [A look at health care plans in Congress - The Associated Press, July 6](#)
- [Obama Urges Groups to Stop Attacks - Kaiser Health News,](#)

**Organizing for America  
Public Meetings:**

**Organizing for America  
Health Care Canvass - July  
18, 2009:** If you are interested  
in attending a canvass, events  
will be posted [here](#). Find a  
canvass near you and sign up.

**Green Bay Public Meeting -  
July 19, 2009 :** Harmony Cafe,  
1660 West Mason, Green Bay,  
2p.m. Contact Deb Stover at  
[pdstover@msn.com](mailto:pdstover@msn.com) for more  
information.

**Eau Claire Public Meeting -  
July 23, 2009:** Eau Claire  
Health Education Building,  
Chippewa Valley Tech College,  
615 West Claremont Ave., 7  
PM. Sponsored by Eau Claire  
Democratic Party, Organizing for  
America, Citizen Action of  
Wisconsin, WI Farmer's Union,  
and People United for Health  
Care Reform. Contact Jo Rudrud  
at [jorudrud@yahoo.com](mailto:jorudrud@yahoo.com) or JD  
Stier at  
[jd.stier@obamaalumni.com](mailto:jd.stier@obamaalumni.com) for  
more information.

**Madison Public Meeting -  
July 25, 2009:** UW Library  
Mall, 728 State St., Madison.  
2:30 PM. Contact Darcy Haber  
at [dchaber@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dchaber@sbcglobal.net) or  
Dan McMahon at  
[drm3000@hotmail.com](mailto:drm3000@hotmail.com) or (608)  
516-3682 for more information.

**Racine Public Meeting - July  
26, 2009:** Masonic Center,  
1012 Main St., Racine. 3:00  
PM. Contact: Kelly Gallagher at  
[kkgallagher@hotmail.com](mailto:kkgallagher@hotmail.com)

**Milwaukee Public Meeting -  
July 26, 2009:** Serb Hall, 5101  
W Oklahoma Ave., Milwaukee,  
4:00 PM. Contact: Terrell Martin  
at [tfmartin824@msn.com](mailto:tfmartin824@msn.com)

**New Materials Available**

**The Wisconsin Public Health  
Association** has updated their  
website to include all materials  
and slides from their 2009  
Annual Conference, including  
HealthWatch Wisconsin's  
presentation, **Public Health  
Uniting for Better Access to  
Health Care and Coverage**.  
You can see those presentation  
slides and much more [here](#).

**Policy Brief: Economic  
Benefits of Investing in  
Early Learning - Wisconsin  
Council on Children and  
Families.** The brief explores  
the importance of early brain  
development, research on the  
positive effects of high-quality  
early childhood programs,  
strong returns on investment  
from early childhood  
interventions, and implications  
for public policy in Wisconsin.  
[Click here](#) to read the brief.

**The Wisconsin Community**

[July 6](#)

- [Reality check: Canada's government health care system - CNN, July 6](#)
- [Revisions to Health Bill Are Unveiled by Democrats - by Jackie Calmes for \*The New York Times\*, July 3](#)
- [Hospitals Close to Agreeing to \\$150 Billion-\\$170 Billion in Cuts for Health Reform - by Laurie McGinley and Phil Galewitz for \*Kaiser Health News\*, July 2](#)
- [President Pushes Health Plan as an Economic Boon - by Jeff Zeleny for \*The New York Times\*, July 2](#)
- [Is Wal-Mart Using Health Reform to Target Target? - by Jeffrey Young for \*The Atlantic Monthly\*, July 2](#)
- [McCain rips Democrats over health care - \*The Associated Press\*, July 1](#)
- [Report: Building Medical Homes in State Medicaid and CHIP Programs - by Neva Kaye and Mary Takach for \*The Commonwealth Fund\*, June 23](#)

**News: Opinion**

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

- [Editorial: The Bill for Health Reform - \*The Boston Globe\*, July 15](#)
- [Op-Ed: Right is Wrong to Attack Obama's Health Plans - by Matt Miller for \*Financial Times\*, July 13](#)
- [Op-Ed: How health-care reform could hurt doctor-owned hospitals - by Kate Pickert and Ken Stier for \*Time\*, July 13](#)
- [Editorial: Not So Generous - \*The New York Times\*, July 12](#)
- [Op-Ed: A Loophole Worth Closing - by Jonathan Gruber for \*The New York Times\*, July 12](#)
- [Op-Ed: Don't Tax Benefits - by Roger Hickey for \*The New York Times\*, July 11](#)
- [Op-Ed: Liability=Responsibility - by Tom Baker for \*The New York Times\*, July 11](#)
- [Op-Ed: The Cap Doesn't Fit - by Michelle Mello and Amitabh Chandra for \*The New York Times\*, July 11](#)
- [Op-Ed: Keep Hospitals Whole - by Nancy Kane for \*The New York Times\*, July 11](#)
- [Op-Ed: Cut Medicare With a Scalpel - by Paul B. Ginsburg for \*The New York Times\*, July 11](#)
- [Op-Ed: Medicaid: Uniquely prepared to deliver on health care reform - by Stephen Somers and Michael Sparer, \*Health Affairs Blog\*, July 10](#)
- [Op-Ed: Health Care Reform Isn't Dead - by Marc Ambinder for \*The Atlantic Monthly\*, July 10](#)
- [Op-Ed: Health Care's Low-Hanging Fruit - by Michael Kinsley for \*The Washington Post\*, July 9](#)
- [Op-Ed: Can Democrats Pass Health Care Reform on Their Own? - by Karen Tumulty for \*Time\*, July 9](#)
- [Op-Ed: How platinum health care can be rotten health care - by Stephanie Losee for \*San Francisco Chronicle\*, July 9](#)
- [Op-Ed: A Strategy for Health Reform--Toward a Value-Based System - by Michael E. Porter, Ph.D. for \*The New England Journal of Medicine\*, July 9](#)
- [Editorial: Why It's Easy to Steal From Medicare - \*The Wall Street Journal\*, July 9](#)
- [Op-Ed: In Health Reform, a Cancer Offers an Acid Test - by David Leonhardt for \*The New York Times\*, July 8](#)
- [Op-Ed: 'Comparative Effectiveness': A dose of common sense for health care - \*The Chicago Tribune\*, July 7](#)
- [Op-Ed: Going Public, Quietly - by John Dickinson for \*Slate\*, July 7](#)
- [Editorial: Financing Health Care Reform - \*The New York Times\*, July 7](#)
- [Op-Ed: Efficiency is the key for health care - by Jeremiah Tucker for the \*Sauk Prairie Eagle\*, July 7](#)
- [Op-Ed: HELP Is on the Way - by Paul Krugman for \*The New York Times\*, July 6](#)
- [Op-Ed: AMA doesn't speak for all doctors on health reform - by Harold Pollack and Rahul Rajkumar for \*The Capital Times\*, July 4](#)
- [Letter: Core Plan Lacks Mental Health Parity - by Marysa LaRowe for \*The Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel\*, July 2](#)
- [Op-Ed: The Individual Mandate--An Affordable and Fair Approach to Achieving Universal Coverage - by Linda J. Blumberg, Ph.D and John Holahan, Ph.D for \*The New England Journal of Medicine\*, July 2](#)

**NEWS: Health Care Costs & Access**

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

- [Sick and Getting Sicker: Rising health care costs are pushing](#)

**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**

Call for Papers: Medical Care Research and Review is preparing a special issue entitled "Implementation and Outcomes Associated with the Patient-Centered Medical Home." Deadline is Sept. 30, 2009. Contact Timothy Off, Ph.D, at [thoff@albany.edu](mailto:thoff@albany.edu) for more information.

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 [jpriebek@asw4autism.org](mailto:jpriebek@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

- [entrepreneurs to the limit - by Simona Covel for \*The Wall Street Journal\*, July 13](#)
- [We Cared About Numbers, Not People: Former CIGNA PR Chief Comes Clean - by Alison Rose-Levy for \*The Huffington Post\*, July 13](#)
- [For many Americans, health cover is key to a job - by Ed Stoddard for \*Reuters\*, July 9](#)
- [When All Else Fails: Forcing Workers Into Healthy Habits - by Anna Wilde Mathews for \*The Wall Street Journal\*, July 8](#)
- [Poor Working Conditions For Docs May Affect Quality of Care - \*Kaiser Health News\*, July 8](#)
- [Insurers Open Storefronts, Raise Rates To Adjust To New Reality - \*Kaiser Health News\*, July 7](#)
- [Veterans: Services still inadequate - by Jennifer Chambers for \*The Detroit News\*, July 7](#)
- [Big Health Firms Underpay Claims - by Fawn Johnson for \*Dow Jones\*, July 2](#)
- [Government moves to staunch massive Medicare fraud - by Jane Sutton for \*Reuters\*, July 1](#)
- [Insured, but Bankrupted by Health Crises - by Reed Abelson for \*The New York Times\*, July 1](#)
- [Report: Cross-Systems Financing Project Report - The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, June 20](#)

**NEWS: The Uninsured**

Click below for the latest news coverage about the Uninsured:

- [Press Release: New Data Say Uninsured Account for Nearly One-Fifth of Emergency Room Visits - Dept. of Health and Human Services, July 15](#)
- [Alzheimer's Patients Struggle Without Insurance - by Joseph Shapiro for \*All Things Considered\*, NPR, July 6](#)
- [CDC: Private health care coverage at a 50-year-low - by Mike Stobbe for \*Associated Press\*, July 1](#)

**NEWS: Covering Children**

Click below for news links on covering children:

- [Press Release: Secretary Sebelius Announces Availability of \\$40 Million in Grants to Help Insure More Children - Dept. of Health and Human Services, July 6](#)
- [Group sues Calif. regulators over autism care - \*The Associated Press\*, July 1](#)

**NEWS: Mental Health and AODA**

Click below for links to news stories on Mental Health and AODA Issues:

- [UW Gateway Manager Named Advocate of the Year - UW School of Medicine and Public Health, July 14](#)
- [Mentally Ill Immigrants Have Slim Chance of Getting Care When Arrested - \*Kaiser Health News\*, July 14](#)
- [Military Kids Seeking More Mental Health Care - by Janice Gibbs for \*Temple Daily Telegram\*, July 12](#)
- [Suicide Prevention on Campus: Keeping Students Connected - by Kristin Blank for \*SAMHSA Newsletter\*, June 2009](#)

**NEWS: Other Health News**

Visit the links below for other health news and information:

- [Surgeon General Pick Boosts Primary Care - by Alicia Mundy and Jane Zhang for \*The Wall Street Journal\*, July 15](#)
- [Obama Names Regina Benjamin as Surgeon General - by Amanda Ruggeri for \*U.S. News and World Report\*, July 13](#)
- [Press Release: States eligible to receive \\$350 million for H1N1, seasonal flu preparedness efforts - Dept. of Health and Human Services, July 10](#)
- ['Double failure' at USA's hospitals - by Steve Sternberg and Jack Gillum for \*USA Today\*, July 9](#)
- [Obama Administration Releases Final Rules On Stem Cell Research - \*Kaiser Health News\*, July 7](#)
- [Press Release: AHRQ Launches Monthly Health Advice Column and Enhanced Web Site in Spanish - Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, July 6](#)
- [Which treatment works best? Top study needs listed - by Lauren Neergaard for \*The Associated Press\*, Jun 30](#)



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.



## Mark Your Calendars Now

### Check Out These Excellent Events in 2009!

#### Employment Opportunities

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 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](#)

Research Associate, Wisconsin Council on Children and Families. WCCF seeks a part-time (0.6 FTE) Research Associate to work as part of an evaluation and management team, do data analysis, and report development related to contract-for-service evaluation for WrapAround Milwaukee (a community-based service system for children with serious emotional and mental health concerns). Qualifications include a Master's degree in social work, public policy or other relevant field; strong analytical and quantitative skills; spreadsheet and database software skills; excellent interpersonal skills and writing skills. Salary negotiable. Interested applicants should forward a cover letter, resume, and at least two writing samples to Jim Moeser, Acting Executive Director, 555 W. Washington Ave., Suite 200, Madison, WI 53703 or [jmoeser@wccf.org](mailto:jmoeser@wccf.org) by July 24, 2009.

Customer Service Representatives, Automated Health Services. 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

- **National TA Conference Call: Making Services and Supports Work for Youth and Young Adults with Mental Health Needs Who Are Transitioning to Independence - July 16, 2009:** 12pm-1:30pm central time. Representatives from a community program in Allegheny County, PA will share elements of cross-agency system of transition services and lessons learned from implementation. Register online [here](#). For more information, contact Marisa Irvine at [marisairvine13@hotmail.com](mailto:marisairvine13@hotmail.com).
- **Webinar: Autism Identification and Management - July 22, 2009:** 11:00 a.m. central time. Hosted by the American Academy of Pediatrics. Information and practical strategies for child health professionals on providing a medical home to children with autism spectrum disorders. Free copies of the AAP Autism Toolkit will be given away to 200 randomly selected care providers. [Click here](#) to reserve a free webinar seat. Contact Eran Wade at [ewade@aap.org](mailto:ewade@aap.org) for more information.
- **16th Annual Statewide Institute on Best Practices in Inclusive Education - July 27-29, 2009:** 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, 2009:** 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, 2009:** 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 - 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 4-5, 2009:** 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 16-17, 2009:** 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

online at [www.automated-health.com](http://www.automated-health.com), or fax resumes to 412-367-1131.

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

[July 1](#)

[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](#)"

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!](#)"

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](#).

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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.

### Support Our Efforts!

You can donate to ABC through our website. Please visit [www.abcforhealth.org](http://www.abcforhealth.org), then click on the button in the lower left-hand corner of our homepage that says "Make a Donation." We greatly appreciate your generous donations, which go towards helping to maintain ABC for Health, Inc. and our many projects, including HealthWatch Wisconsin. Thank you!

### We're on Facebook and Twitter!

Look for ABC for Health and Health Watch Wisconsin on [Facebook](#), and become a follower of ABC for Health on [Twitter!](#)

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