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A Project of ABC for Health, Inc.
www.healthwatchwisconsin.org
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Volume 4, Number 16

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Coalition Meetings by County

Barron: Sept. 9, 1:00pm. Barron County Workforce Resource, Inc., 331 S. Main Street, Suite 6 in Rice Lake. Contact Mike Rust at (715) 485-8525 or miker@co.polk.wi.us with questions.

Chippewa: Sept. 9, 10:45am-12:00pm. Chippewa County Courthouse, Room 121, 711 N.

HealthWatch Wisconsin Update

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

It's not too late to join HealthWatch Wisconsin!

CLICK HERE to Join HealthWatch Wisconsin **now** for the 2008-09 membership year and qualify for the next **Packer ticket prize drawing!**



The third Green Bay Packers ticket drawing of the season will be held on September 15! (Official Rules)

Would you like to win a pair of FREE deluxe indoor club seats for the Packers' game vs. the Atlanta Falcons on October 5 at Lambeau Field? Our **third prize drawing** will be held at **11:00am on Monday, September 15,** and all HealthWatch Wisconsin members are eligible to win! Watch the September 15 edition of the Update to see who the lucky HWW member is!



Bobby presents Brenda with tickets to the August 11

Bridge St., Chippewa Falls.
Contact Rose Marsh at 1-800-400-3678 or rmarsh@co.chippewa.wi.us with questions.

Dane: Sept. 8, 9:00-11:00am. Harambee Center, 2202 S. Park St., Madison. Contact Nora Foshager at (608) 261-6939 ext. 204 or nfoshager@safetyweb.org with questions.

Eau Claire: Sept. 4, 12:00-1:30pm. Luther Hospital, Dining Room 1, 1221 Whipple St., Eau Claire. Contact Lou Kelsey at (715) 834-4455 or lkelseyefww@sbcglobal.net or Pat Perkins at (715) 839-4718 or pat.perkins@co.eau-claire.wi.us with questions.

Milwaukee: Sept. 10, 10:00am-12:00pm. Aurora Family Services, 3200 W. Highland Blvd, Milwaukee. Contact Kari Mattson at (414) 449-4777 ext. 145 or karim@communityadvocates.net with questions.

Milwaukee CHASE: Children's Health Access for the Special and Equal - Sept. 18, 11:30am-1:30pm. ARC of Milwaukee, 7203 W. Center St., Milwaukee. Contact Brad Holman at (414) 266-3189 or bholman@chw.org with questions.

Polk: Sept. 25, 10:45am. Polk County Health Department in Balsam Lake, conference room A & B. Contact Mike Rust at (715) 485-8525 or miker@co.polk.wi.us with questions.

Coalitions Under Development

Dunn: Contact Patrick Rebman at (715) 233-7309 or rebman.patrick@mayo.edu with questions.

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

Packers vs Bengals game. Congratulations, Brenda!

Here's what one of our previous winners had to say about her experience:

"Thank you very much for the great tickets to the Packer game... [We] had a really wonderful time at the game and loved the seats. It was great to be inside on a rainy, cool evening and the view was awesome!"

Become a member today to have your name entered in this drawing and to receive all of the additional benefits of being a member in this ground-breaking organization. Don't forget that additional Packer Ticket prize drawings will be held throughout the season!

The HealthWatch Wisconsin membership year runs from July 1, 2008, to June 30, 2009. **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. Visit www.healthwatchwisconsin.org to read more about the great benefits of becoming a member.

Are you interested in special group pricing membership options? Contact Brynne at bmcbride@safetyweb.org or (608) 261-6939, ext. 210 for more information.

*Remember: Joining HealthWatch Wisconsin will not affect your membership or participation in your local coalition.

Heard It Through the Grapevine...

"Co-pays for No-pays"

ABC for Health has recently heard that, due to a glitch in the CARES computer system, all pregnant women receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) are being assessed co-pay charges. According to the Department of Health Services, there is no way to override or manually correct this error. The state anticipates the problem will be solved by "Interchange," the new computer program expected to debut in October 2008.

Has this happened to you or a client/patient you are helping? Contact ABC for Health for information about filing a Fair Hearing Request or other strategies to help fix this co-pay problem.



...What Have You Heard?

Please contact ABC for Health if you have recently learned something that bothers you 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 Nora Foshager at nfoshager@safetyweb.org or (608) 261-6939, ext. 204 with information.

Other Meeting Notices

2008 MCH Regional Forums:

Why focus on data? - This year's fall regional forums will focus on the role of data and will introduce participants to various kinds of data, teach them how to evaluate it, and help them learn how to find meaning in data for their local community health improvement. A complete agenda will be emailed to all participants. To register, please visit <http://wi.train.org> and enroll as a Train user. The regional forums will be held:

-Western Region - Sept. 18, Ramada Convention Center in Eau Claire,

-Southern Region - Sept. 19, Dane County Extension in Madison,

-Southeast Region - Sept. 30, West Allis Women's Pavilion,

-Northeast Region - Oct. 10, Menasha City Library, and

-Northern Region - Nov. 5, AmericInn-Minocqua.

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

New Ops Memo: Medicaid Eligibility Handbook (MEH) Release

A new DHS Operations memo has been released to describe policy changes and additions to the Medicaid Eligibility Handbook. The updated book can be viewed at www.emhandbooks.wi.gov/meh-ebd/. A description of the changes can be found in this memo:

[Ops Memo 08-03](#)

What Do You Know (About Health Care Coverage?)

Please help HealthWatch Wisconsin develop a new web-based training format to educate Wisconsin's public health workforce!

Individuals are needed to take part in an exercise to help measure the level of knowledge on a variety of public and private health care coverage programs. By participating, here's what you can expect:

1. Each person will complete a pre-training evaluation form. Questions will span issues across public benefits, private insurance and advocacy strategies.
2. We will compile your answers and use them to assess topics or issues which may require more training.
3. We will then create and invite you to watch a web cast on a training topic most suited to you!

Join us in this exciting project available FREE to HealthWatch Wisconsin members!

If you would like a copy of the pre-training evaluation form, email Brynne at bmcbride@safetyweb.org. If you would like to become a member of HealthWatch Wisconsin to have access to these custom web casts, please [click here](#).

Sample Pre-Training Evaluation Questions:

- I am familiar with the concepts of a Medical Home,
- I can identify some differences between Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI),
- I am familiar with the BadgerCare Plus Benchmark Plan,
- I know the role of the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance for private insurance-related complaints.

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](#).

Links of Interest

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

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

Cover the Uninsured Week – CTUW 2008: April 27-May 3. <http://covertheuninsuredweek.org>

Family Voices– Speaking on behalf of CYSHCN. www.familyvoices.org

Kaiser Family Foundation – A

NEWS: Health Care in Wisconsin

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

- [Family planning program saved state \\$487 million - Guy Boulton for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, August 29](#)
- [Business owners want affordable health plans - Amy Olson for the *Wausau Daily Herald*, August 27](#)
- [Council votes to put health care referendum on ballot - *The Northwestern*, August 27](#)
- [New Census Bureau data shows Wisconsin families are still struggling - WKOW 27, August 26](#)
- [Some Wisconsin Democrats retreating from health-care reform plan - Jason Stein for the *Wisconsin State Journal*, August 25](#)
- [BadgerCare Plus attracts 77,000 - Andrew Beckett for the *Wisconsin Radio Network*, August 22 - OR, check out the TYPO of the month - "\[BadgerCare Plus ATTACKS 77,000\]\(#\)"](#)

NEWS: Health Care Reform

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

- [EDITORIAL: The Massachusetts Way - *The New York Times*, August 30](#)
- [OPINION: Unfinished business from 20th century: fixing healthcare - Sen. John Kerry for *The Hill*, August 25](#)
- [439,000 more get health coverage - Kay Lazar for the *Boston Globe*, August 20](#)
- [Health coverage boon for young adults - Ray Long and Monique Garcia for the *Chicago Tribune*, August 19](#)

NEWS: Health Care & the 2008 Election

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

- [Health care gains status as an election issue - Guy Boulton for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, August 26](#)
- [Plans to cut health costs may not pay off - Joanne Silberner for NPR's "Morning Edition," August 22](#)
- [Obama Touts Single-Payer System for Health Care - "Washington Wire" from *Wall Street Journal*, August 19](#)

NEWS: Health Care Costs & Access

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

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 Nora Foshager at nfoshager@safetyweb.org.

- [Companies offering on-site health care - Stacy Burling for the Philadelphia Inquirer, September 3](#)
- [Report: Hospital costs slow under pressure by insurers - Avram Goldstein for Bloomberg/Denver Post, August 27](#)
- [Blue Cross Plans Feeling Pressure to Consolidate - Dinah Wisenberg Brin for the Wall Street Journal, August 25](#)
- [EDITORIAL: A fairer way to assess costs - Beloit Daily News, August 25](#)
- [Uninsured to spend \\$30 billion, study says - Jane Zhang for the Wall Street Journal, August 25](#)
- [OPINION: Report warns that costs, inefficiency affect patients - The Tennessean, August 21](#)
- [Lack of Insurance, High Medical Costs Put More in a Bind: Debt Mounts, Care Forgone, Study Says - Sopan Joshi for the Washington Post, August 20](#)
- [More Health Insurers Competing in Individual Coverage Market - Diane Levick for the Hartford Courant, August 18](#)

NEWS: The Uninsured

Visit the links below to read recent news articles about the uninsured:

- [A Decline in Uninsured is Reported for 2007 - Ian Urbina for the New York Times, August 26](#)
- [Statement regarding release of census estimates on number of uninsured Americans - from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, August 26](#)

NEWS: Covering Children

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

- [Kentucky urged to sign up more kids for health plan - Deborah Yetter for the Courier-Journal, August 19](#)
- [Insurance Matters When It Comes to Kids' Health Care - Washington Post, August 14](#)
- [States won't be sanctioned over kids' health insurance - USA Today/Associated Press, August 14](#)

Featured Link: Health Policy Center

The Urban Institute's Health Policy Center, located at www.healthpolicycenter.org, contains a wealth of information and resources about health care coverage and access, insurance, and the use of health care services in the U.S.

The site includes a "Health Policy Fact of the Day," recent news, commentary, and up-to-date research on many aspects of the

Previous Issues of the Update: (in PDF form)

[August 15](#)

[August 1](#)

[July 15](#)

[July 1](#)

[June 15](#)

[June 1](#)

[May 15](#)

[May 1](#)

[April 15](#)

[April 1](#)

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

health care field. You can also sign up to receive a monthly email newsletter. Please visit www.healthpolicycenter.org or www.urban.org/center/hpc/index.cfm for more information.

HealthWatch WatchDog Episode Archive:

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

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

The following episodes are available for HealthWatch Wisconsin members only. Join today to gain full access! To become a member, please visit www.healthwatchwisconsin.org.

Season 1, Episode 3 "ACCESS"

Season 1, Episode 4 "Health Care Reform"

Season 1, Episode 5 "Birth Cost Recovery"

Season 1, Episode 6 "The Functional Screen"

Season 1, Episode 7 "Back-to-School"

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

Calling all Volunteers!

Are you a student looking for some valuable, hands-on experience? Are you a professional looking to work on policy issues and health care reform? Contact Brynne at bmcbride@safetyweb.org for more information!

■ CKSN Corner ■ Covering Kids with Special Needs



Thank you to Mark Hanson and the UW Med Flight Crew!

On Monday, August 25, ABC for Health and UW Hospital's Med Flight team made a little boy's wish come true! Zev Mondry, an 8-year-old boy with aspirations of becoming a helicopter pilot, was treated to a tour of an actual helicopter, launch pad and hanger by flight nurse Sarah Larson (with assistance from Program Manager Mark Hanson). ABC for Health first met Zev shortly after his diagnosis with Autism when his speech therapy sessions were denied by his mother's insurance company. After numerous communications and litigation, ABC for Health took his case to the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals. The decision is still pending. To view a slideshow of pictures from the tour, [please click here](#).





Ethics & Boundaries: Training and Conversation

These 4-hour trainings, sponsored by The Bureau of Long Term Support and coordinated by the DD Network, will be held throughout the state of Wisconsin from Sept. 9 to Nov. 12. They are designed for family members and human service professionals involved with elders and people who have physical or mental disabilities and illnesses and will act as forums for conversation.

The exact dates and locations of the trainings can be found in [this informational PDF and registration form](#). The form can be mailed to: DD Network, Inc., PO Box 8335, Madison, WI, 53708. No registrations will be accepted by phone, fax or email. Visit www.ddnetworkinc.org for more information and email registrations@ddnetworkinc.org with any questions.

WINMILL Training of Trainers Seminar

This training, presented by WI FACETS, will be held at Marshall Middle School, 25 S. Pontiac Drive in Janesville, on Friday, September 19, from 4-8:00pm, and Saturday, September 20, from 8:30am-4:00pm (attendance is expected both days). It is free to attend and will cover Transition and the Rehab Act.

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

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

Wisconsin CoT Meetings

The Wisconsin Community on Transition includes parents, youth, educators, agency representatives and others interested in improving transition services and outcomes for youth with disabilities.

The next WI CoT meeting will be held October 23 at the Sheraton on 706 John Nolen Drive in Madison and will feature the Employment Practice Group. If you are interested in attending, please contact Ellen Cook at Dorothy.cook@dpi.wi.gov. For more information about the WI CoT, please register on www.sharedwork.org.

Mark Your Calendars Now

Six Excellent Conferences in 2008, and Two in 2009!

- **Family Care Trainings** - The Survival Coalition is sponsoring these trainings, which will be held in several cities throughout Wisconsin. The day session runs from 9am-4pm, and an abbreviated evening session will also be held from 5:30-7:30pm for those not able to attend the day session. Registration is required. Please contact Fil Clissa at 608-698-0333 or fil@tds.net with questions or to request a registration form. Upcoming sessions will be held in:
 - Waukesha, September 18, at the Country Springs Hotel, 2810 Golf Road,
 - Stevens Point, September 23, at the Ramada Hotel, 1501 North Point Drive, and
 - Wautoma, September 24, at Pine Ridge of Wautoma, N3387 State Road 73.
 - Sessions will also be held in the Ashland and La Crosse areas in October and Grant/Richland and Racine/Kenosha in the next few months. Stay tuned for details.
- **Care in the Community: Building bridges, creating options for families and providers** - This conference will be held from 8:00am-4:00pm, September 24 at the Radisson Hotel, Milwaukee West, 2303 N. Mayfair Road in Wauwatosa. Sponsored by Children's Hospital of Wisconsin and the SE Regional Center for CYSHCN, this event is designed to give families and providers useful information and tools they can use to work together in their efforts to provide coordinated, community-based care. To register online, please visit www.maxishare.com/conferences. For more information, please contact Meg Steimle at 414-266-3192.
- **Wisconsin Special Smiles Program: Improving the Oral Health of CYSHCN: A Team Approach** - This event

Wisconsin-based, nonprofit public interest law firm dedicated to linking children and families, particularly those with special health care needs, to health care benefits and services. ABC for Health's mission is to provide information, advocacy tools, legal services, and expert support needed to obtain, maintain, and finance health care coverage and services.



(608)261-6939
info@safetyweb.org

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

health care coverage, but due to system complexity and lack of appropriate outreach and advocacy assistance, many of these families go without the care and coverage they need.

You can help! Request a training for your staff on the following:

- Acquiring, Using, and Keeping Public Benefits,
- BadgerCare Plus, BadgerCare Plus Prenatal and Emergency Services,
- Elderly, Blind, and Disabled Medicaid, and
- Practical tips to help families negotiate the complex health care financing system.



(608) 261-6939 ext. 210.

For more information about sponsoring a training in your community, please contact Brynne at bmcbride@safetyweb.org or

Produce your own webcast! Rent the ABC for Health Studio!

ABC for Health has developed a web casting studio with state of the art technology to reach a mass audience in the comforts of their own homes or offices. Agencies and organizations are invited to rent this studio space. [Click here](#) for more information.

Support Our Efforts!

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

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