



HealthWatch Wisconsin Strategic Planning Session for the Western Region
Chippewa Falls, 9am-11am July 18th at the Chippewa County Courthouse

Introductions, what brings people to HealthWatch Wisconsin?

- Autism is a growing concern and turning into an epidemic;
- Systematic change is needed and services need to improve;
- Access to mental health and dental services;
- Need dental health providers in the Northern areas;
- Access to all health services is lacking in the rural areas;
- Lack of adequate and competent providers;
- Families need help navigating the healthcare system;
- Need to network amongst ourselves;
- Access for farm families.

Goals, what do we want HWW to achieve and how?

- Work on respite care issues, need to help work locally to increase training and compensation so that families can have providers that they trust. Budget was just cut for personal care workers; we need to work for the opposite;
- Increase Medicaid reimbursement rate; which currently are dismal and affecting quality and access;
- Recruit and retain providers to northern Wisconsin;
- Find a way to allow parents to stay home with children who have special needs, like working as personal care givers;
- Work for more dental providers and better Medicaid reimbursement rates. Maybe we should push reimbursements for dental graduates who work in rural areas or take MA patients;
- Need better providers in the area and more choice; some areas have so few providers that children have to be exempted from the mandatory network;
- Improve access to and amount of local diagnostic services and mental health providers in the area, especially important for the growing amount of children who need mental health services;
- Need more school services for therapies and disabilities to create better communicational and social skills at a young age;
- Support school system provided therapies; they are the continuation of Birth to Three;
- Improve access to care by fixing fragmented transportation system
- Educate healthcare consumers and providers about rights, responsibilities, and benefits
- Increase access to primary health and dental care to decrease misuse of emergency rooms
- Ultimate goal: universal health care including dental, mental, and physical health.

Organizational Governance:

- Could function like the DAWN program and help with local issues and provide an information clearinghouse;
- Make trainings available to counties;
- Need a system of rapid response to hot issues with easy slogans for people to repeat and reinforce;
- Families need constant communication and reinforcement to be active; their lives are already too full;
- Help mobilize people to contact legislators and to lobby as an organization;
- Should have local representatives, balance of regions and rural and urban;
- Should do yearly surveys on issue and best practices;
- Two meetings a year, one should be legislative and set platform and one educational and with trainings;
- Put together workgroups and develop priorities as a unified group;
- Elevate health care coverage and access to a level of statewide discussion and debate

Membership:

- Membership fees should be nominal and not prohibitive;
- Very concerned about corporate membership/ sponsorship, not a great idea;
- Only allow big groups to sponsor that are not involved in Healthcare delivery or services;
- Vary cost and allow everyone to be a member, should have any financial impediments.