

**HealthWatch Meeting  
July 9, 2008**

<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>
<p><b>Approval of Minutes</b></p>	<p>Introductions Approval of June minutes-no changes <b>Announcements:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Question regarding the re-organization of the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services- what are the new roles? Answer: there are now 30 areas/departments (ie: BMCW, W2, child care/support, etc...) under one agency as of July 1<sup>st</sup>; unsure of any new roles or changes; e-mails will remain the same for the next two years (will change to <a href="mailto:name@wisconsin.gov">name@wisconsin.gov</a>) after that time period expires.</li> <li>• THANK YOU to Leah Jepson for her past/current role for HealthWatch.</li> <li>• THANK YOU to Paula Roberts for attending our meeting today.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Agency of the Month</b> <b>Barb Wesson, CORE El Centro</b> location : 611 W. National Ave. phone: 414-384-CORE (2673)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevention-based program that uses regular, alternative medicine and counseling to teach body-awareness and for people to take care of themselves.</li> <li>• Open to all city residents regardless of income</li> <li>• Founded 6 ½ years ago by reki/massage therapists to help low-income/underserved populations to have access to alternative medicine and exercise.</li> <li>• Part of a Healing Collective with Walker’s Point Community Clinic and The Healing Center (sexual abuse/assault cases-offer free activities, regular/alternative medicine and counseling)</li> <li>• Bilingual services</li> <li>• Looking to expand model/location to 27<sup>th</sup> &amp; Wells area</li> <li>• Sliding fee for volunteers ( 2-8 hrs/month) and based upon income</li> <li>• One month waiting list for massage and acupuncture, otherwise there is no waiting list for classes or group acupuncture (6-8 people), or a participant in “Healing With Heart” where full price is paid</li> <li>• Individuals may receive a treatment plan for chronic pain or other problems and may be passed on to other services upon treatment plan completion</li> <li>• The classes address mind, body, spirit and range from \$5-\$30/month, they are offered 6 days/week days and evenings</li> <li>• Provision of childcare activities for parents during class time</li> <li>• The fees may be paid month to month or class to class; 1<sup>st</sup> class is free; services such as massage last 1 hour; ZUMBA-Latin aerobics-very fast paced!</li> <li>• GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LOOKING FOR ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEERS</li> </ul>
<b>AGENCY REPORTS</b>	
<b>EDS Report</b>	No one present
<b>DHHS Report</b>	<p>( <b>Paula Roberts</b> )</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Milwaukee county budget not yet approved, still getting feedback</li> <li>• Outsourcing goal is to give staff the ability to perform many tasks</li> <li>• 20,000 flood applications (some only affidavits needed), 8, 000 new applications for Foodshare=back-log of ALL cases</li> <li>• 10-12 other counties are helping to process applications</li> <li>• Goal is to process all applications by July 18<sup>th</sup></li> <li>• Individuals without established appointments need to register</li> <li>• Ways cases establish might cause a variation in times for receipt of benefits</li> <li>• There have been performance standards for workers since May of 2008, studies have revealed that a worker can update approximately 40-50 cases daily and processing is still behind</li> <li>• Intake documentation should go to Intake not Verification-might delay the process</li> <li>• Inbox technology-advocates and consumers will eventually be able to enter a Social Security number or case number to view/update all documents/cases</li> <li>• The state updates ACCESS as needed to reflect county changes</li> <li>• Problems expressed with newborns having no coverage after 2-3 weeks and needing care</li> <li>• Paula will send information about inbox technology and intake process so HW members may have them</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Miscellaneous Reporting/Issues</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Milwaukee County outsourcing for customer service unit/call center</li> <li>• Is this advocating or adding another step for our clients to receive benefits? Barrier to advocacy?</li> <li>• Talks about outsourcing to IMPACT 211</li> <li>• Legal Action is suing the count/state for exceeding 30 days from the time of application to receipt of benefits</li> <li>• HW should assist with the planning process for outsourcing- possible focus group?</li> <li>• Infrastructure questions</li> </ul>
<b>GAMP Report</b>	No one present
<b>COALITION REPORTS</b>	<p><b>HASSR (Masiel Gomez via e-mail &amp; present)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HASSR did meet last month and one of the topics of discussion was whether or not the Social Security representatives were mandatory reports of undocumented people. They are not I.C.E. nor are</li> </ul>

they required to report anyone to immigration. (DMV workers commonly did this prior to the new Driver's License and State ID law that was implemented in July of 07).

- The case was brought to HASSR's attention when a child who was born in Milwaukee WI and was seen at CHOW and the SW of the hospital recommended that the child apply for SSI. Mom went to apply she took the father's pay stubs which were under a false SSN. When the rep learned of this he told the family that he would be reporting them. Being that he had all the currently demographics of the family they became afraid. They were so afraid that they did not wish to take the child to the doctor for treatment. In this case the child has BC+ and is a US Citizen. The child would not be turned away due to their status.
- HASSR discussed the case and concluded that the undocumented community needs to be educated and informed on what they are actually applying for when asking for benefits. Under normal circumstances this type of referral to SSI is a good one but those of the undocumented population need to be mindful of what they are applying for. They can apply for SSI for the child who is a US Citizen however rather than taking pay stubs with the false ID they could have presented a letter from the employer with the salary information for the working parent.
- Who can vote ? flyer by ACLU ( e-mail flyer will also be forwarded to HW members ) , Please see handout regarding opportunities for organizing outreach at the Mexican Fiesta Health Fair Event.

**Voices Against Hunger/ Hunger Task Force ( Laura Richard via e-mail)**

- Fueling Young Minds – Summer Meals is underway. There are approximately 170 sites throughout the city, 77 of which are Milwaukee Public Schools.
- Unfortunately, there are only 7 dinner sites this year. We have dropped off petitions at the MPS sites, which will hopefully help us to make some changes for next year. We will continue to monitor the sites. Encourage the use of 211 for site locations.
- If you witness any problems or have concerns, please feel free to contact me. 414-238-6471 or [laura@hungertaskforce.org](mailto:laura@hungertaskforce.org)

**EPIC ( Laura Kerecman via e-mail)**

- Questions about kids taken out of HIRSP to be put into BC+ : According to Disability Rights Wisconsin attorney Ellen Escalera, HIRSP has made some policy changes. Most likely these changes were due to the new requirement that folks had to apply for Badger Care Plus. If a person who was formerly enrolled in HIRSP, then is eligible for BC+, then loses BC+ (for any reason including increased income or aging out), reapplies for HIRSP; HIRSP must take them back and the requirement for creditable coverage is waived and the person will not be put into a pre-existing condition period.
- Ellen also suggests that the 18 turning 19 year olds apply for HIRSP at the beginning of the month that they turn 19, giving HIRSP nearly a full month to process the application.

- There are also some changes to the income qualifications for emergency services for non-qualified immigrants. New FPL guidelines can be found in Chapter 39.1 in the BC+ handbook.

**Mental Health Task Force (Brad by e-mail)**

- Our 3rd Summit "Mapping a New Road to Recovery: Addressing Mental Illness in the Criminal Justice System" was just held on June 30th.
- We in the process of compiling all of the ideas and strategies learned throughout the day and in the afternoon breakout sessions to be used to create an action plan in order to make the necessary changes to our criminal justice and mental health system. We will be hosting quarterly action plan meetings in order to ensure and track the implementation of our work.
- After many discussions and a tour of the former St. Michael's Hospital, we have decided we would endorse Milwaukee County 's Department of Health and Human Services proposal to relocate Milwaukee County 's Mental Health Complex to the former St. Michael's Hospital. We will be submitting a Statement of Endorsement to the County Board .
- Our endorsement is with the understanding that: (NOTE: The below language and content has not been finalized): A commitment from leadership to the involvement of mental health consumers, family members, and advocates throughout the planning and implementation process. A commitment from the county to the use of all of the proceeds from the sale of the current mental health complex and the land it is currently on to fund the new facility and mental health community supports and services.

**Health Task Force (Tanya)**

- Listing of community hearings to attend, if you cannot attend please contact your county appropriate supervisor ( e-mail list will be forwarded to HW members)

**SSI Managed Care ( Julie by e-mail)**

- The External Advocacy Project is looking for women who are willing to participate in a focus group discussion on problems accessing mammograms and /or pelvic exams due to various disabling conditions. Women can call Julie Dixon\*Seidl at 773-4646 ext. 11.The EAP is also looking for an Advocacy Specialist whose duties would be split between SSI Managed Care and Assistive Technology issues. Resumes are due at Disability Rights Wisconsin by Friday July 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Make It Work Milwaukee! (Kari)**

	<p>Our meeting took place this past Monday to discuss changes in the county human services budget for 2009, all department head have submitted their budgets, asking to contact new county board to let them know who we are and what we do; concerns with para-transit (disabled) transportation funding</p> <p><b><u>Ongoing Issues and Action (Tanya)</u></b>  Corey Hoze will be at the August meeting regarding HW's input with the planning process for county outsourcing</p> <p><b><u>Pharmacy Carve-Out Panel</u></b>  Cancelled due to low response</p>
<b>LEGISLATIVE UPDATES</b>	none to report
<b>Next Meeting:</b>	<b>Wednesday, August 13 from 9:30-11:30; at Aurora Family Services located at 3200 W. Highland Ave.</b>