



A Project of ABC for Health, Inc.

Background and Significance: HealthWatch Wisconsin (HWW), envisioned and planned for since 2001, despite having a logo and letterhead, exists only as a shell of a project at ABC for Health. Our extensive planning process, supported in 2005 by a Partnership Fund planning grant, focused and shaped the mission, vision, and programmatic architecture of HWW. ABC staff conducted multiple strategic planning events and listening sessions in 2005 and 2006 that identified a need to coordinate and communicate strategies that address state and local barriers to accessing quality health care coverage and services.

Goal: Through a strong academic-community partnership, HWW will transform the public health system by assuring a more sufficient, competent, and coordinated public health workforce that will assist people to access health care coverage and services.

Intervention: HWW will achieve this goal by following five strategies: 1: Establish HealthWatch Wisconsin Council (HWWC) comprised of faculty partner and local, regional, and statewide representatives of the public health work force from around the state to facilitate coordination and a flow of information between faculty partner, local coalitions, and public health workers. 2 – Promote, develop, sustain and empower local HW coalitions through technical assistance, leadership training, and funding. 3: Training and education: This is the core of the project. HWW develop and conduct live and web-based training, and pre- and post-testing to measure improvements in competency of the public health work force’s capacity to assist the un/underinsured. The trainings will be coordinated through local coalitions. Through the HWWC, community and academic partners will communicate additional training recommendations to address emerging local and statewide barriers to accessing coverage and care. Strategy 4: Issue identification and tracking: HWW staff will mine aggregate client encounter data from ABC for Health and input from local coalitions to identify emerging health care access issues and barriers. Strategy 5: Convene an annual statewide conference with key stakeholders for networking, training, and to develop and promote a focused 2008 training agenda.

Outcome: By 2010, the statewide HWW organization, through training, technical assistance, collaboration and coordination, will increase the capacity and competency of at least 600 members of the public health work force to assure access to health care coverage and services for Wisconsin’s under and un-insured populations. HWW will measure outcomes by developing a competency tool to evaluate the pre- and post- training competencies of 600 members of the public health work force regarding access to health care coverage and services.

Difference: HWW, comprised of our community and academic partners, will create a measurable, consistent, coordinated and current flow of training information on health access and coverage issues for the public health workforce to serve the needs of Wisconsin’s under- and uninsured populations, especially minorities, rural and low-income families, the disabled, and others who struggle in accessing and navigating the health care system.

Priorities/Mission, Vision, Guiding Principles: Through our community-academic *collaboration*, HWW will work proactively to identify and promote educational strategies, thus *transforming the health care system* by assuring a sufficient, competent, and coordinated public health workforce.