



PRESS ADVISORY

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ABC for Health Plan Responds to Proposed Cuts to BadgerCare

The Pathway Plan 2012 Exposes Weakness of Wisconsin's DHS Proposed BadgerCare Cuts

Madison- On Thursday, November 3, ABC for Health will unveil a plan that responds to Secretary Dennis Smith's proposal to gut Wisconsin's nationally recognized BadgerCare Plus program. The proposal called "The Pathway Plan 2012," contrasts sharply with Wisconsin's Department of Health Service's proposal to cut \$550 million from BadgerCare Plus. Bobby Peterson, Public Interest Attorney and Executive Director of ABC for Health, says the Pathway Plan will eventually cover all Wisconsin residents while providing high-quality care, continued choice, and strong consumer protections. "While building from a solid foundation, the Pathway Plan will use private and public partnerships to expand health care coverage, significantly lower costs, and ensure that all Wisconsinites have access to both coverage and quality medical services."

The Pathway Plan will be unveiled at HealthWatch Wisconsin's "5 Things to Watch" workshop. Registration is required for the workshop. Press are invited to attend, but encouraged to call in advance to secure a press pass and an embargoed copy of the plan, available after 3:00pm on Wednesday, November 2.

If You Go:

What: HealthWatch Wisconsin's "5 Things to Watch" Fall Workshop

When: Thursday, November 3, 2011, 9:30am-12:00pm

Where: Boys & Girls Club of Dane County Allied Family Center, 4619 Jenewein Rd, Madison

For Press Pass or To Register: 800-585-4222 ext. 204

On September 30th, Secretary Smith and the Walker administration proposed drastic eligibility and coverage limits to the BadgerCare Plus program and the possible termination of over 53,000 adults. "Mr. Smith proposes to model BadgerCare on a free market system that is badly misaligned with Wisconsin's values. Despite strong bi-partisan roots of BadgerCare Plus, the program is now in the hands of highly partisan ideologues. The proposed cuts will force thousands into emergency room care and could lead to the largest redistribution and socialization of uncompensated care and medical debt I have seen in over 20 years of patient advocacy. In effect, Smith proposes a bailout to a failed small group and individual marketplace and must be stopped," Peterson continued. The Pathway Plan builds upon elements of Wisconsin's popular BadgerCare Plus program: risk pooling and purchasing leverage by reshaping our current system into combined large purchasing pools. In addition, the Pathway Plan includes the vital components of outreach, education, and advocacy through the use of Health Benefits Counselors and Health Care Navigators.



Peterson concludes, “The Pathway Plan is the route for Wisconsin to follow. Many industries have retooled during this recession including the media, auto makers and others. The small group market with risk puddles and highly segregated risk is no longer viable. The large profit margins for these small groups of the past are gone and cannot be resurrected by destroying the large Badger Care pool. We need to give public and private partnerships and the Pathway Plan a try.”

ABC for Health, Inc. is a 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.

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