



PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Interview:

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Workshop Kicks Off With Analysis of Proposed BadgerCare Cuts, Discussion of Alternate Proposal

Madison, WI – On Thursday, November 3, HealthWatch Wisconsin will host a very timely workshop called “5 Things to Watch.” Headlining the event is a discussion with local experts on the Wisconsin Department of Health Services federal waiver request to cut \$550 million of state and federal dollars from Wisconsin’s Medicaid and BadgerCare programs. ABC for Health Public Interest Attorney Bobby Peterson will also highlight an alternative plan, “The Pathway Plan for 2012” that responds to “The Smith Plan.” Peterson says, “We welcome input and ideas for the Pathway Plan for 2012, a working proposal that 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 for 2012 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.”

Panels will preview four other important public health topics during the event including a new possible factor in Wisconsin’s troubling statics for infant mortality in the African American community. “Wisconsin leads the nation in birth cost recovery actions and certain data suggests a link to rising levels of infant mortality. In addition, we will also revisit the status of contested public health money.” Peterson is referring to the Blue Cross Blue Shield conversion fund, held in trust by the two medical schools in Wisconsin. “The medical schools have side-stepped many of the Legislative Audit Bureau Report recommendations and we need to investigate the impact on the health of the public in Wisconsin,” continues Peterson. The program will also examine health reform implementation in Wisconsin including Health Care Exchanges and new Rate Review Proposals. The “watch list” includes the following:

1. Wisconsin’s Federal Waiver Request-A Critical Review of the Smith Plan & New Ideas
2. Implementing Health Reform in Wisconsin-Health Exchange Marketplace or Flea Market
3. Infant Mortality Rates & Birth Cost Recovery-Is Birth Cost the Missing Piece of the Puzzle?
4. Managing Managed Care-Wisconsin Oversight Questioned
5. The Status of Public Health Money in Wisconsin-Opportunity Lost?

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

HealthWatch Wisconsin is a project of ABC for Health, Inc. ABC 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.

