



A Project of ABC for Health, Inc.  
[www.healthwatchwisconsin.org](http://www.healthwatchwisconsin.org)  
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## Coalition Meetings by County

**Barron:** Next Meeting February 2010, date TBA, 1:00-2:00pm. Barron County Workforce Resource, Inc., 331 S. Main St., Ste. 6, Rice Lake. Contact Mike Rust at (715) 485-8525 or [miker@co.polk.wi.us](mailto:miker@co.polk.wi.us) with questions.

**Chippewa:** TBA, 10:45am-12:00pm. Chippewa County Courthouse, Room 121, 711 N. Bridge St., Chippewa Falls. Contact Rose Marsh at 1-800-400-3678 or [rmarsh@co.chippewa.wi.us](mailto:rmarsh@co.chippewa.wi.us) with questions.

**Dane:** February 1, 9:00-11:00am. Harambee Center, 2202 S. Park St.,

# HealthWatch Wisconsin Update

Please [click here](#) to view the PDF version on our Web site.

## Conference Registration Deadline FEBRUARY 1!

- 2010 HealthWatch Conference Registration Deadline!!
- Renewing State Benefits Just Got Easier!
- Covering your 27-year old with Private Insurance
- Expanding COBRA Subsidies in Wisconsin
- and More!

## The 3rd Annual HealthWatch Wisconsin Conference!

It's time for the [3<sup>rd</sup> Annual HealthWatch Wisconsin Conference!](#) Join us February 8 & 9 in Madison, WI. We are eager to engage in conversations about access to health care and coverage in Wisconsin. Hot topics for these two days include: **National Health Reform's Impact on Wisconsin & BadgerCare Plus Enrollment, Retention and Expansion.** Join workshops such as the following:



- New Mental Health Coverage Options & Proposals with guests: Shel Gross, David Reimer, and Rep. Sandy Pasch (invited);
- New Wisconsin Private Health Insurance Reforms with Commissioner of Insurance Sean Dilweg;
- The Fixers: Troubleshooting BadgerCare Plus Eligibility and Coverage Issues;
- Maximizing Coverage through Health Check Other Services;
- Health Reform Update 2010: Wisconsin Legislative Perspectives with invited guests Rep. Donna Seidel, Rep. Jon Richards; Sen. Dave Hansen; Rep. Leah Vukmir; Sen. Kathleen Vinehout; and Sen. Alberta Darling;
- Working with the Media with Shawn Doherty, The Capital Times; Guy Boulton, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel; Shamane Mills, Wisconsin Public Radio; and Sarah Carlson, NBC Morning Show;

Madison. Contact Erin McBride at (608) 261-6939, ext. 211 or [emcbride@safetyweb.org](mailto:emcbride@safetyweb.org) with questions.

**Dunn:** Next Meeting TBA. Red Cedar Medical Center (Education Center), 2321 Stout Rd., Menomonie. Contact Patrick Rebman at (715) 233-7309 or [rebman.patrick@mayo.edu](mailto:rebman.patrick@mayo.edu) with questions.

**Eau Claire:** March 11, 12:00-1:30pm. Luther Hospital Cafeteria, Dining Room 1, 1221 Whipple St., Eau Claire. Contact Lou Kelsey at (715) 834-4455 or [lkelseyefww@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lkelseyefww@sbcglobal.net) or Pat Perkins at (715) 839-4718 or [pat.perkins@co.eau-claire.wi.us](mailto:pat.perkins@co.eau-claire.wi.us) with questions.

**Milwaukee:** February 10, 9:30am-11:30am. Aurora Family Services, 3200 W. Highland Blvd., Milwaukee. Contact Kari Mattson at (414) 449-4777, ext. 145 or [karim@communityadvocates.net](mailto:karim@communityadvocates.net) or Tanya Atkinson at (414) 289-3749 with questions.

**Milwaukee CHASE (Children's Health Access for the Special and Equal):** January 21, 11:30am-1:30pm. ARC of Milwaukee, 7203 W. Center St., Milwaukee. Contact Brad Holman at (414) 266-3189 or [bholman@chw.org](mailto:bholman@chw.org) with questions.

**Polk:** February 2010 TBA, 10:45am-12:00pm. Polk County Health Department, Conference Room A & B, 100 Polk County Plaza, Balsam Lake. Contact Mike Rust at (715) 485-8525 or [miker@co.polk.wi.us](mailto:miker@co.polk.wi.us) with questions.

#### Coalitions Under Development

**La Crosse:** Contact Lindsey Schwarz at (608) 785-5841 or [Schwarz.lindsey@co.la-crosse.wi.us](mailto:Schwarz.lindsey@co.la-crosse.wi.us) with questions.

**Tri-County Coalition:** Winnebago,

- ...just to name a few!

**Agenda:** See our [Conference Agenda](#)

**Location:** Best Western Inn on the Park, 22 S. Carroll Street, Madison, WI

**Conference Dates:** Monday, February 8, 2010, 1:00pm-5:00pm (Evening Awards Reception 6:00pm-8:00pm); Tuesday, February 9, 2010, 8:30am-4:30pm

#### REGISTER TODAY!!

[Click Here](#) to Register Online -or- Download our Conference [Registration Form](#).

Registration is open December 1, 2009 through February 1, 2010. Any registrations on or after February 2, 2010 will be subject to a **late fee**. As always, there is a substantial discount for registered members of HealthWatch Wisconsin - you pay less than half the regular conference fee! Group Discounts Available! For every 10 individuals registered from your organization, you will receive 2 free conference registrations! *That's 12 for the price of 10!*

**Lodging:** Conference participants are responsible for their own lodging accommodations. Read hotel accommodation information on our [conference website](#).

## Congratulations to the Winners!

### First Annual HealthWatch Wisconsin Awards!!

The Votes are In!! Join us in congratulating the inaugural recipients of the HealthWatch Wisconsin Awards:

- Advocate of the Year: **Julie Baryluk**, Polk County Health Department
- Outstanding Outreach Effort of the Year: **Kris Peterka**, Riverwest Initiative, Milwaukee
- Outstanding Media: **Shamane Mills**, Wisconsin Public Radio
- Legislator of the Year: Senate: **Sen. Mark Miller** (Monona); Assembly: **Rep. Donna Seidel** (Wausau)

The ceremony to honor these individuals doing outstanding work in the field of public health will coincide with the 3rd Annual HealthWatch Wisconsin Conference. Join us Monday, February 8, 2010, from 6:00pm-8:00pm at the Best Western Inn on the Park, Top of the Park Ballroom. We'll celebrate with our winners, enjoy tasty hors d'oeuvres and network with agencies, providers, academics and friends in a social environment. We'll hear special remarks from Wisconsin's Department of Health Services Secretary Timerlake and ABC for Health's Executive

Calumet and Outagamie Counties. January 26, 9a.m., Goodwill Community Center, Menasha Room. A representative from Economic Support will be present to answer questions about common problems. Contact Susan Garcia Franz at [susan.garciafranz@ppwi.org](mailto:susan.garciafranz@ppwi.org) for more information.

## Resources

**Domestic Abuse Intervention Services (new website!)** - Offers crisis support, shelter and advocacy to victims of domestic abuse and their families in Dane County. [www.abuseintervention.com](http://www.abuseintervention.com)

**Energy Services, Inc. of Dane County:** The home energy plus program can help with high energy costs. To apply for energy assistance, call (608) 267-8601. Grants are available, as well as home weatherization. For those who are homebound due to physical disability, a worker will visit the home. ESI also provides emergency after-hours assistance – just call! Call ESI for more information on qualifying and applying.

**Kaiser's Consumer-Directed Health Care (CDHC) Resources:** A narrated slide tutorial on principles and different models of CDHC (click here), its companion issue module on the latest research and policy analysis on CDHC (click here), and the results of Kaiser's Health Poll Search on CDHC (click here) are all available from the Kaiser Family Foundation.

**Knowledge Path** is a web-based guide from the Maternal and Child Health Library at Georgetown University that points to current, high-quality resources on caring for CYSHCN. Separate sections list resources on specific aspects of care

Director Bobby Peterson.

If you plan to attend the entire conference, please [register for the conference](#) before February 1st. If you intend to come just for the awards reception, please [RSVP to Brynne](#) at ABC for Health.

## Marysa's Section: Online Renewals are Here!

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services has issued "[Operations Memo 10-05](#)," titled, "Online Renewals and Six Month Reports in ACCESS." If you recall, in our [November 15, 2009 Update newsletter](#), we previewed some of the changes scheduled to come down the pike in 2010 for state benefits programs. We are very hopeful that "online renewal" of benefits will make an impact on families. From our experience working with families enrolled in BadgerCare Plus and other state programs, many needlessly fall out of eligibility simply because they failed to timely renew their benefits with their case worker, even when they still meet every other eligibility requirement. It is our hope that online renewal of benefits enhances retention in programs! In this section, find a few highlights as drafted in the DHS Ops Memo:

- A "Renew My Benefits" (RMB) tool will be added to ACCESS.
- RMB is accessed through the member's "MyACCESS" page. (Approx. 45 days before a program period is scheduled to end, ACCESS account users will receive a message on their MyACCESS page saying it's time to renew.)
- RMB is effective January 25, 2010
- RMB will allow members to complete FoodShare, health care, and Child Care renewals online and to submit FoodShare and Child Care Six Month Reports forms online
- The [ACCESS Handbook](#) will be updated.

The Ops Memo is complete with "screen shots" of the CARES/CWW system and flow of online actions into worker inboxes. This is instrumental in helping to picture how the process will work. Overall, the online renewal hinges on individuals and families being actively connected to a "MyACCESS" page. This will be easier for some, and very challenging for others who are not actively online. To discuss this topic more, join us at the [3rd Annual HealthWatch Wisconsin Conference](#), where we will be joined by Department of Health Services' **Theresa Fosbinder**, in a session called "**Online Applications in Wisconsin: Advancements in Access.**" To view other Operations Memos issued in the last few weeks, see below.

and development, such as adolescent transition, advocacy, financing, and screening. To access this resource, please click here.

**Wisconsin First Step** can help you find resources for children birth to 21 with special needs. Staff are on-hand 24 hours a day to answer calls and can provide follow-up and materials on specific diseases or conditions. Call (800) 642-7837 with questions. Language interpretation and TTY services are available. You can also email [wispubhealth@mch-hotlines.org](mailto:wispubhealth@mch-hotlines.org) or [visit their website](#).

## Links of Interest

**Catalyst Center** – A national center dedicated to improving health care insurance and financing for CYSHCN. [www.hdwg.org/](http://www.hdwg.org/)

**The Commonwealth Fund** – A private foundation working toward a high performance health system. <http://www.cmwf.org>

**Cover the Uninsured Web site** – Organization that sponsors annual Cover the Uninsured Week. <http://covertheuninsured.org>

**Family Voices**– Speaking on behalf of CYSHCN. [www.familyvoices.org](http://www.familyvoices.org)

**Kaiser Family Foundation** – A non-profit, private operating foundation focusing on the major health care issues facing the nation. [www.kff.org/](http://www.kff.org/)

**Parent to Parent USA** – A national non-profit organization committed to assuring access and quality in Parent to Parent support across the country. [www.p2pusa.org](http://www.p2pusa.org)

## Working with Private Insurance Rule Changes

### Re-Visiting the New Coverage of Young Adults Rule in Wisconsin

In June 2009, Wisconsin passed a new law requiring health insurance policies to cover eligible young adults up to age 27. The law, effective as of January 1, 2010, applies to individual health and group health benefit plans and a self-insured plan of the state, or a county, city, village, town or school district, including limited scope plans, such as vision and dental plans. However, the law does not apply to non-state regulated, self-funded coverage plans, which officials say make up roughly 40 percent of the state's insurance. To be eligible for this coverage young adults must be:

- Over 17 but less than 27 years of age,
- Not married, and
- Either not eligible for health coverage through the young adult's employer or whose premium contribution for employer coverage is greater than the additional premium amount the parent is required to pay to add the young adult to the parent's health plan.

### Tax Consequences?

Parents who seek to add children up to age 27, who do not qualify as tax dependents under the IRS code, to their health insurance plans will likely have to consider the tax consequences. There are a few resources that can help understand the impact of this rule change:

- Consult [IRS Publication 501](#) for tax dependent guidelines and tests
- Wisconsin's Commissioner of Insurance: [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- Office of the Commissioner of Insurance Call Center: (608)266-3585 and toll free in Wisconsin (800) 236-8517

### Interested in Learning More?

Join us at the [3rd Annual HealthWatch Wisconsin Conference](#) for a session called: **New Wisconsin Private Health Insurance Reforms**. Learn the latest changes in health insurance regulation in Wisconsin with **Sean Dilweg**, Wisconsin's Commissioner of Insurance.

### COBRA Subsidy Extended in Wisconsin

## HealthWatch Wisconsin Membership

There has never been a better time to become a member of HealthWatch Wisconsin. Whether you are joining for the first time or renewing your membership, you are teaming up with an impressive new effort in Wisconsin that will work to focus and amplify the voices of health care advocates across the state. HealthWatch Wisconsin members benefit from:

Access to detailed publications on advocacy strategies and tips

Discounted registration for conferences, events and trainings, including a HUGE discount for the annual HealthWatch Wisconsin Conference

A chance to win in our Packer Ticket Prize Drawing

Access to online and live trainings on health care coverage programs

**Your individual membership fee is still only \$20** and ensures that you are lending your voice and passion toward developing a more comprehensive system of health care and coverage. Your workplace can purchase an **organizational membership for just \$75**. **Click here** for more information about HealthWatch Wisconsin and the ticket drawings, or call Brynne at 1-800-585-4222 ext. 210.

## Events and Trainings

**LIVE Webcast: *Today's Topics In***

## Commissioner of Insurance's Emergency Rule Expands the New COBRA Extension

The federal law that offered a subsidy for individuals electing COBRA coverage, the [American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009](#) (ARRA), originally related to the many workers who were involuntarily terminated on or after September 1, 2008, through December, 31, 2009.

On January 11, 2010, Wisconsin Insurance Commissioner Sean Dilweg announced an [emergency rule](#) that will enable former employees of Wisconsin small employers to take advantage of the extension of a popular federal health insurance premium subsidy. [Read the Commissioner's press release](#). The rule extends the ARRA amendments to health benefit plans that are not covered under federal law, generally employers with fewer than 20 employees.

Recently, in the [Department of Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2010](#), the subsidy program was extended. The extension increased the duration of the COBRA subsidy from 9 months to 15 months for eligible employees and their dependents and extends eligibility for the subsidy to those who lose their jobs on or before February 28, 2010.

## Case Tip: Prior Authorization Help for PT, OT, and Speech

Coordinating with your child's therapists is a necessary first step in avoiding PA problems. A complete yet specific prior authorization request will provide the following information:

**Goals and Outcomes:** In drafting a prior authorization request, it is helpful to spell out all the activities the child will perform, as well as the goal of each activity, the desired outcome from that activity, and a statement of what that outcome will accomplish. Many activities will help a child succeed in the home setting or in a school/educational setting. Therefore, a speech therapist at school may indicate in the PA request that the ability to use a voice-assisted device would help the child communicate with her teachers to ask or answer questions, to facilitate learning. A private therapist would indicate in the PA request that the ability to use a voice-assisted device would help the child communicate pain or medical concerns, to facilitate safety at home and in the community.

**Medical Necessity:** For some children, a prior authorization request is for services necessary to protect the child or keep her out of the hospital. A child at risk of harm or in need of constant monitoring should include a doctor's letter in with the PA

**Health Disparities: What Might Health Reform Mean for Women of Color? Dec. 16, 2009, 12:00p.m.** The Kaiser Family Foundation's next [live, interactive webcast](#) in its *Today's Topics In Health Disparities* series on Wednesday, December 16 will examine aspects of the current Senate and House health reform bills that particularly impact women of color. Women tend to be greater users of the health care system than men, have higher rates of some chronic illnesses, and have unique reproductive health care needs.

## New Materials

Read the State Health Access Reform Evaluation (Share) on ["Wisconsin's BadgerCare Plus Coverage Evaluation and Simplification: Early Data on Program Impact"](#) from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

The Kaiser Family Foundation released new issue briefs examining the implications of the Medicare buy-in program for [women](#), [older adults](#), [low-income children](#), and [immigrants](#). You can see all of the Kaiser Foundation's research tools and resources on health reform [here](#).

## Calls for Submissions and Volunteers

[ABC for Health](#) is seeking legal interns for Summer 2010! All interested volunteers, students with public interest fellowships or work-study awards are encouraged to apply by sending an email with a cover letter and resume to [bmcbride@safetyweb.org](mailto:bmcbride@safetyweb.org).

request to document the medical reasons for the necessary service. The doctor should include in this letter a diagnosis, explanation of the desired service, and specific examples of what would happen to the child without that service. Listing examples of problems or incidents that have occurred in the past or an estimate of the harm that could happen in the future will add context to the request.

**Parental Observations:** Parents or caretakers, who spend more time with their child than the doctor or therapist, may be in the best position to offer their observations and concerns about their child's therapy needs. Parents may consider keeping a diary or journal to share with the therapist or to submit in addition to the Prior Authorization request. This diary may document areas where the child has regressed or excelled, problems the child has encountered, and the fears or concerns of the family. Recording these issues on a daily basis will show patterns of behavior or need and make it easier later to recall specific examples.

## Updates from DHS

Below, find Wisconsin's Department of Health Services (DHS) Operation Memos (Ops Memos) or information updates, with brief summaries and rationales drawn from the information provided by DHS. Any "Opinions" highlighted below are interpretations of HealthWatch Wisconsin staff and Update editors. Follow the links to view the actual memos:

[Ops Memo 10-04](#); 45 Day Renewal Letters and [Ops Memo 10-05](#); Online Renewals and Six Month Reports in ACCESS

**New Policy:** See Discussion Above

[Ops Memo 10-07](#): Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (Released January 11, 2010)

**New Policy:** Effective January 1, 2010, applicants to the Social Security Administration's Extra Help for Part D Program, or LIS, will be automatically processed for Wisconsin's Medicare Premium Assistance Programs ([QMB](#), [SLMB](#), [SLMB+](#), [QDWI](#)).

**Rationale:** The measures will take steps to improve access to health care for low-income Medicare beneficiaries by combining the process of applying for assistance with prescription drug costs and with premium costs.

[Ops Memo 10-06](#): Ending Medicaid Payment of Medicare Costs for Certain Individuals (Released January 8, 2010)

**New Policy:** Effective January 15, 2010. DHS has identified nearly 3,000 individuals currently receiving assistance paying Medicare Premiums who do not show eligibility in CARES to

Researchers at the University of Wisconsin-Madison seek volunteers for a study of social and communication abilities of toddlers (18-36 months) with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Participation would include observations of you and your child, interviews, forms and surveys, and education and training -all in your home. Interested families should contact Laura Mulford, M.S. in the School Psychology Program at 847-721-8283 or [mulford@wisc.edu](mailto:mulford@wisc.edu) or Jennifer Asmus, Ph.D. in the School of Education at 608-262-3027 or [asmus@wisc.edu](mailto:asmus@wisc.edu).

## Help Wanted

Executive Director, Madison Area Down Syndrome Society (MADSS), part-time. Lead efforts to provide information, social support and resources to people affected by Down Syndrome in South Central Wisconsin. Manage fundraising and budget, create goals and operational procedures for staff and volunteers, and collaborate with related organizations. Some travel and weekend hours required. Bachelor's degree, excellent communication skills, experience in fundraising required. Experience working with individuals with disabilities preferred. Average 25 hrs. per week, salary commensurate with experience. Send a cover letter with resume to [executivesearch@madss.org](mailto:executivesearch@madss.org).

Member, UW School of Medicine and Public Health Oversight and Advisory Committee - The Wisconsin Partnership Program is seeking nominations to replace a public member vacancy on the UW School of Medicine and Public Health Oversight and Advisory Committee

receive this benefit. DHS will mail [this notice](#) to individuals beginning January 15, explaining that coverage will end as of February 29, 2010 unless action is taken to establish eligibility. **Rationale:** To correct payment of a benefit to thousands of WI residents not currently eligible for that payment.

[Ops Memo 10-01](#): Wisconsin Works (W-2) and Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) Collaboration (Released January 6, 2010)

**New Policy:** A 2008 Work Group has identified a [Technical Assistance Guide \(TAG\)](#) that offers W-2 and DVR case managers strategies for better communication and coordination between the two programs. A training will be offered on these strategies. More information on the training is available [here](#).

**Rationale:** A 2008 Memorandum of Understanding was developed to better serve the needs of disabled individuals who may benefit from both W-2 and DVR programs. The action outlined here reflects the latest steps in keeping with the goals of that MOU.

## BC+ Core Plan: DHS Resources

- [To Apply Online \(ACCESS\)](#)
- [Core Plan Publications Page](#)
- [ForwardHealth Enrollment and Benefits Booklet](#)
- [BadgerCare Plus Policy Handbook \(Core Plan is Ch. 43\)](#)

## Phone Support

- For questions from **applicants: The Enrollment Services Center: 1-800-291-2002**
- For questions and coordination issues from **advocates/professionals: (608)261-9305 or 1-888-415-2116**. (DHS has asked that this number not be shared with the public.)

## For Milwaukee Residents--the new Milwaukee Enrollment Services (MiES) contacts:

Phone: 1-888-947-6583 (voice) 711 (TTY)

Mail : Milwaukee Enrollment Services Center (MiES), P.O. Box 05676, Milwaukee, WI 53205-0676

FAX: (414) 438-4580

In Person: 1220 W Vliet Street -or- UMOS Job Center Southeast, 2701 South Chase Ave. -or- clients can call 211 for information on a community access point in their area

Emails:

- [dhsmls@wisconsin.gov](mailto:dhsmls@wisconsin.gov) - for new applications,

(OAC) in the categories of advocates representing an urban or minority community, children, or senior citizens. The goal of the OAC is to advance population health in Wisconsin by executing its stewardship responsibility in partnership with the School of Medicine and Public Health, and in accordance with the Insurance Commissioner's Order and the five-year plan. To learn more about The Wisconsin Partnership Program, visit our [website](#).

Customer Service Representatives, Automated Health Systems. Part time and full time needed for Madison office. Knowledge of BadgerCare Plus and Forward Health Programs desired. HS Diploma/GED required, Associates degree preferred. Bilingual Spanish a plus. For more information, contact Katie Stewart, HR Specialist/Recruiter, at (800)506-3032 ext. 2361. \$12/hr. Apply to [hr@automated-health.com](mailto:hr@automated-health.com) or online at [www.automated-health.com](http://www.automated-health.com), or fax resumes to 412-367-1131.

### Previous Issues of the Update: (in PDF form)

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[November 1](#)

[October 20 Special Edition](#)

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[October 1](#)

verifications, etc.

- [dhsmlchanges@wisconsin.gov](mailto:dhsmlchanges@wisconsin.gov) - for scanning changes (HTF only scanning changes from cases)
- [dhsmlcustomerservice@wisconsin.gov](mailto:dhsmlcustomerservice@wisconsin.gov) - Note: This is an email for advocates only: use to email MiES with advocate questions.

Message from Sarah Fraley, WI Department of Health Services, for Milwaukee County: "**Just as a reminder:** As the Wisconsin Department of Health Services assumes full administration of income maintenance functions in Milwaukee County on January 1, 2010, we are asking for the assistance of community organizations to help us get the word out to Milwaukee County residents about changes in our contact information. Please assist us by [disseminating fliers](#) in areas where residents will see the information. If you would like to request full size posters and tear off sheets in English, Spanish or Hmong, you can [order them online](#)." Also available online: the [Referral Sheet](#) and [Guide to Applying](#). For any other questions, please contact [Sarah Fraley](#).

## ■ CKSN Corner ■

Covering Kids with Special Needs



### Mark Your Calendars Now Check Out These Excellent Events in 2009!

- **Autism Society of Southeastern Wisconsin Parenting Series - Oct. 17 through May 15**, Nicolet High School, D-Wing Library, Glendale, WI, 9:30-11:30am. October's topic: No More Meltdowns. Call (414)427-9345 or email [info@assew.org](mailto:info@assew.org) to register.
- **Community Supports for Transition Conference Call - January 20**, 2:00-3:00 pm central time. Overview of community supports and other options for children and youth with special health care needs to transition to adulthood. Sponsored by Healthy and Ready to Work National Resource Center and Champions for Inclusive Communities. The call is free, but registration is



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All other issues can be viewed on our website at [www.healthwatchwisconsin.org](http://www.healthwatchwisconsin.org), under the "HWW Update" heading.

## Recent HealthWatch WatchDog Episodes:

### Season 2:

Episode 14: [Elements of Patient Advocacy in National Health Reform Bills](#)

Episode 13: [BadgerCare Plus Core Plan and Health Care Reform](#)

Episode 12: [Health Reform and Campaign Finance Reform](#)

Episode 11: [Access to Health Care--A Moral Imperative](#)

Episode 10: [A Public Option](#)

Episode 9: [Health Reform: Patient Advocacy](#)

Episode 8: [Fact or Fiction](#)

HealthWatch WatchDog episodes are now available to everyone who receives the HealthWatch Wisconsin Update! **Watch all other episodes at [www.healthwatchwisconsin.org](http://www.healthwatchwisconsin.org). Just click on "HW WatchDog" from the menu on the left.**

recommended. [Click here](#) for more information. Continuing Education Credits may be available for nurses who participate in HRTW topical calls.

- **Wisconsin Statewide Autism Training - January 27-28, 2010**, Jefferson Street Inn, Wausau. Sponsored by the Dept. of Public Instruction. Basic training in January session, with more advanced training in March. Contact Brian Johnson at (608)266-3648 or [brian.johnson@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:brian.johnson@dpi.wi.gov) for more information.
- **ASW Annual Conference: "Positively Autism" - March 18-20, 2010**, Keynote speakers include Paula Kluth, Ph.D., Temple Grandin, Ph.D. and Eric Courchesne, Ph.D. Early Bird registration open until November 25, 2009. For more information, visit [www.asw4autism.org](http://www.asw4autism.org).

**Wisconsin First Step Help Book 2010** A Directory of Services for Children with Special Needs Directories are now [available on-line](#). Five regional directories are available, each serving specific counties in Wisconsin. Directories are produced in "real-time" with the most up-to-date information provided at the time they are downloaded. For information or assistance in downloading the directories please contact Teresa Halverson or Karen Brandt at [Wisconsin First Step](#); 1-800-642-7837.

**Updated Contact Listing (12/10/2009) for the Regional CYSHCN Centers.** Questions? [Email Jayne Vargas](#)

**Katie Beckett Program Consultants:** [View the Map and Listing of Consultants](#)

**CDC Materials on H1N1 for Parents of Children with Complex Medical Needs:** Earlier this month, the Center for Disease Control released [this brochure](#) for parents of children with special health needs who may be more at risk for contracting the virus.

**Tip Sheets for Siblings of People with Disabilities:** [Adolescent and Young Adult Siblings](#); [Adult Siblings](#); [Information for Parents](#)

**Champions for Inclusive Communities** published a [fact sheet](#) on the 2005/6 National Survey of CSHCN.

**Special Issue of *Pediatrics* Devoted to Analyses from the 2005-2006 National Survey of Children with Special Health Care Needs.**

The survey can be [accessed online](#). You can also request a paper copy by e-mailing [Steph Toomer](#). The articles can also be [accessed online](#).

## NEWS: Health Care in Wisconsin

Use the links below to access recent news on health care and

coverage in Wisconsin:

## We're on Facebook and Twitter!

Look for ABC for Health and Health Watch Wisconsin on Facebook, and become a follower of ABC for Health on Twitter!

## Rent the ABC for Health Studio

ABC for Health has developed a web casting studio with state of the art technology to reach a mass audience in the comforts of their own homes or offices. Agencies and organizations are invited to rent this studio space. Click here for more information.

## Support Our Efforts!

On behalf of the staff and students at ABC for Health, thank you for being a subscriber to the HealthWatch Wisconsin Update and WatchDog!! Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to ABC for Health, to keep projects like HealthWatch Wisconsin sustainable! **To make a donation, please click the donation button** to be re-directed to our PayPal site where you can donate with a credit card.

[Make A Donation](#)

To donate via check, please make the check payable to "ABC for Health, Inc.," at 32 N. Bassett St., Madison, WI 53703. We greatly appreciate your generous donations. ABC for Health is a tax-exempt 501 (c)(3) organization, and your contribution is deductible to the extent allowed by law. **Thank you**

- [Kathleen Vinehout: Examine fast-growing Medicaid program, for the \*LaCrosse Tribune\*, January 15](#)
- [The wrong prescription for Wisconsin - by Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner for the \*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel\*, January 14](#)
- [A Closer Look at Medicaid Spending - by Andrew Beckett for \*WI Radio Network\*, January 14](#)
- [U.S. Sen. Russ Feingold catches flak on health-care reform - by Charles Davis of the \*Green Bay Press Gazette\*, January 14](#)
- [State mum on future of HMO contracts - by Corinne Hess for the \*Business Journal of Milwaukee\*, January 13](#)
- [Wis. health official says hospital tax a success - the \*Wisconsin State Journal\*, January 13](#)
- [You have to take politics with your health care - by Richard Mial for the \*LaCrosseTribune.com\*, January 12](#)
- [GAO report examines ways to strengthen social security benefits for most vulnerable populations - by The Racine News Team, January 12](#)
- [Press Release: Insurance Commissioner Dilweg Issues Emergency Rule on Cobra Subsidy Extension - Office of the Commissioner of Insurance, January 11](#)
  - [Bulletin to Group Health Plan Insurers - Office of the Commissioner of Insurance, January 8](#)
- [Legislator wants audit of state's Medicaid spending - by Jason Stein for the \*Wisconsin State Journal\*, January 6](#)
- [UW students praise WI health insurance expansion - by Brian Rodriguez for \*WKOWTV.com\*, December 30](#)

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- [Wee-hour talks focus on costs - by David Herszenhorn for \*The New York Times\*, January 15](#)
- [Feds v. States: who should run proposed health marketplaces - by Mary Agnes Carey for \*Kaiser Health News\*, January 14](#)
- [Accord reached on insurance tax for costly plans - by Robert Pear and Steven Greenhouse for \*The New York Times\*, January 14](#)
- [Democrats see healthcare finish line in sight after negotiations - by Jeffry Young and Jared Allen for \*The Hill\*, January 14](#)
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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.



[Plans - by David M. Herszenhorn for \*The New York Times\*, January 14](#)

- [Rangel: Democrats 'Close' To Agreement on Paying for Health Care Bill - by Jared Allen for \*The Hill\*, January 14](#)
- [Obama seizes reins in daylong House-Senate healthcare meeting - by Jared Allen and Jeffrey Young for \*The Hill\*, January 13](#)
- [House, Senate remain divided over key issues in health bill - by Lori Montgomery for the \*Washington Post\*, January 12](#)
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- [Medicaid in 2010: A Year of Transition - by Stephen Somers, President of Health Care Strategies, Inc., January 2010](#)
- [What Health Care Reform Means for the States - by Kate Pickert and Karen Tumulty for \*Time\*, January 7](#)
- [Obama Backs High-End Health Plan Tax - \*The Associated Press\*, January 7](#)
- [Autism 'Clusters' Linked to Parents' Education - by Jon Hamilton for \*All Things Considered\*, NPR News, January 6](#)
- [Republicans See the Courts as the Last Line of Defense vs. Democrats' Agenda - by Alexander Bolton for \*The Hill\*, January 6](#)
- [Congress Proposes New Physician Payment System - by Sarah Varney for \*All Things Considered\*, NPR News, January 4](#)
- [The House, Senate and You: A New Guide to Health Reform - by Jordan Rau, Julie Appleby, Phil Galewitz and Mary Agnes Carey for the Kaiser Foundation](#)

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- [Op-Ed: That Rock In the Health Care Road? It's Called the Constitution - by George F. Will for \*The Washington Post\*, January 14](#)
- [Op-Ed: What's good and bad in health care bills - by Ezra Klein for \*The Washington Post\*, January 14](#)
- [Op-Ed: Leaning Left? The AMA at a Crossroads - by Victor Li for \*The Huffington Post\*, January 13](#)
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- [Op-Ed: Our view: Medicare is heart of health care reform, \*LaCrosseTribune.com\*, January 10](#)
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  - [Op-Ed: The Wrong Story About Depression - by Judith Warner for \*The New York Times\*, January 9](#)
  - [Guest View: Health care reform bill provides building blocks for change - by Sen. Kathleen Vinehout for the \*Jackson County Chronicle\*, January 6](#)
  - [Editorial: State must get creative in health spending, \*Appleton/Fox Cities Post Crescent\*, January 5](#)
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