



The HealthWatch Wisconsin Update Newsletter

Your Source for Strategies, Suggestions & Stories on Accessing Health Care and Coverage in Wisconsin.

April 15 , 2010

Vol. 6 No. 7

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Local HealthWatch Coalition Meetings:

[Barron:](#) TBA, 12:00-1:00pm. Barron County Workforce Resource, Inc., 331 S. Main St., Ste. 6, Rice Lake. Contact [Mike Rust](#) or (715) 485-8525 with questions.

[Chippewa:](#) May 11, 2010, 10:45am-12:00pm. Chippewa County Courthouse, Room 121, 711 N. Bridge St., Chippewa Falls. Contact [Rose Marsh](#) or 1-800-400-3678 with questions.

[Dane:](#) May 3, 9:00-11:00am. Harambee Center, 2202 S. Park St., Madison.

Top Story: Family Planning Waiver Extended to Men in Wisconsin

The Department of Health Services has received federal approval to extend the Family Planning Waiver to Men, beginning May 1, 2010. Information will be provided as available, including a provider update.

Existing Eligibility Guidelines for the Family Planning Waiver:

- Be a U.S. citizen, or have proof of immigration status,
- Be age 15 through 44,
- Not be receiving Elderly, Blind or Disabled Medicaid or BadgerCare Plus Standard or Benchmark Plans,
- Have a family gross income of no more than 200% of the federal poverty level (For minors, parents' income is not counted)
- There is no asset test for this plan

Covered Services: The following services may be covered if provided at an initial or annual office visit:

- Contraceptive services and supplies and natural family planning supplies
- Family planning pharmacy visits
- Pap tests, tubal ligation, or tests and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases as well as certain other lab tests
- Routine preventive primary services only if related to family planning

If you are able enroll in the Family Planning Waiver Plan, you may be able to get regular BadgerCare Plus which pays for more services.

To Register:

To find the local agency in your area, call 1-800-362-3002 or go to dhs.wisconsin.gov/em/customerhelp
Register Online: [State of Wisconsin Access Website](#).

BadgerCare Plus HMO Changes for Southeast Wisconsin

The landscape of BadgerCare Plus for Families is adjusting in Southeast Wisconsin. Families that are enrolled in BadgerCare Plus Standard Plan or Benchmark Plan will need to choose an HMO in the late summer or early fall depending on where they live. Individuals on SSI Medicaid; Elderly, Blind, and Disabled Medicaid; and BadgerCare Plus Core Plan are NOT impacted! The HMOs that serve the SSI Managed Care Population and the BC+ Core Population will remain the same.

Southeastern Wisconsin

Contact [Erin McBride](#) or (608) 261-6939, ext. 211 with questions.

Dunn: April 28, 11:45am-1:00pm. Red Cedar Medical Center (Education Center), 2321 Stout Rd., Menomonie. Contact [Patrick Rebman](#) or (715) 233-7309 with questions.

Eau Claire: May 6, 2010, 12:00-1:30pm. Luther Hospital Cafeteria, Dining Room 1, 1221 Whipple St., Eau Claire. Contact [Lou Kelsey](#) or (715) 834-4455 or [Pat Perkins](#) or (715) 839-4718 with questions.

Milwaukee: May 12, 9:30am-11:30am. Aurora Family Services, 3200 W. Highland Blvd., Milwaukee. Contact [Kari Lerch](#) or (414) 449-4777, ext. 145 or [Ginger Dzick](#) at (414) 443-4527 with questions.

Milwaukee CHASE (Children's Health Access for the Special and Equal): TBA, 11:30am-1:30pm. ARC of Milwaukee, 7203 W. Center St., Milwaukee. Contact [Brad Holman](#) or (414) 266-3189 with questions.

Polk: TBA, 10:45am-12:00pm. Polk County Health Department, Conference Room A & B, 100 Polk County Plaza, Balsam Lake. Contact [Mike Rust](#) or (715) 485-8525 with questions.

Coalitions Under Development

La Crosse: Contact [Lindsey Schwarz](#) or (608) 785-5841 with questions.

Tri-County Coalition: Winnebago, Calumet and Outagamie Counties. April 27, 9:00-10:00am, Goodwill Community Center, Menasha Room. Contact [Susan Garcia Franz](#) for more information.

Coming Soon: Immigrant Health Coverage Workshops

Stay tuned for an announcement about our **Immigrant Health Coverage Trainings** for 2010 that will include the latest information on expansions in health coverage under the new CHIPRA legislation. Weigh in on where you would like to see this spring training as we plan the details for this event. Call Brynne at (608)261-6939 ext 210 or email:

bmcbride@safetyweb.org.

WHO: Children and families on BadgerCare Plus in Milwaukee, Racine, Kenosha, Waukesha, Ozaukee, and Washington counties.

WHY: The Department of Health Services intends to contract with four HMOs:

- Abri Health Plan
- Children's Community Health Plan
- Community Connect
- United Healthcare

"The contract awards follow requests by the Department of Health Services this year for bids from the private managed care organizations in southeastern Wisconsin that oversee the state health program for low-income families with children under the age of 19. The new contracts - potentially worth tens of millions of dollars - will hold the companies to stricter standards..." [State selects four companies to handle BadgerCare Plus patients - by Guy Boulton for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, April 13.](#)

TIMEFRAME: Depending on where a member lives, he or she will choose a new HMO over the course of 3 months. The first phase is mid-July to mid-August (with selections effective September 1, 2010); the second phase is mid-August to mid-September (with selections effective October 1, 2010). Members will get an enrollment package in the mail which will provide information on how they can select their HMO. Anyone applying for BadgerCare Plus in the meantime, beginning in April, will be fee for service until the late summer/early fall when they will then make an HMO selection. If someone does not select an HMO, they will be auto-enrolled. The Department of Health Services will hold trainings for partners and providers in the early summer to provide more details.

NUMBERS: This impacts over 240,000 individuals in the 6-county area [Frequently Asked Questions](#) are posted online.

Lessons from the BadgerCare Plus Core Plan Re-Certification in Milwaukee:

The re-certification for the BadgerCare Plus Core plan has begun in Milwaukee! The process of renewal is unique to the GAMP population (those on General Assistance Medical Program). GAMP provided general medical services to uninsured individuals residing in Milwaukee County who met specific criteria. GAMP patients were automatically enrolled in the Wisconsin BadgerCare Plus Core Plan in January 2009. Here's what is happening in Milwaukee to date:

The Numbers:

- There are approximately 11,000 individuals enrolled in BC+ Core Plan from the GAMP program (Frequently called "TCLA" or Transitional Childless Adults Population)
- As of Monday, April 12, 2,787 renewal applications were processed--no denials were issued as of that date
- Of those 2,787: 70% paid the \$60 fee (or had the homeless waiver applied)
- Of those 2,787: 40% renewed online using ACCESS.WI.GOV, while 60% renewed over the phone
- 10,563 have received their physicals (a requirement that must be fulfilled in the first year of the Core Plan)
- The 20 "most visited" pharmacies in the greater Milwaukee area are reminding people to renew their Core Plan when they come in to fill prescriptions

Links of Interest

The Kaiser Family Foundation has updated information on their website, including: a [Summary of Final Healthcare Reform Law](#) and a [printable comparison](#) of the new health reform law (the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act), the House-passed Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, and last year's House-passed bill

Kaiser's Consumer-Directed Health Care (CDHC) Resources: Better Care-Lower Costs: Exploring the Promise of Patient Engagement ([click here](#)). Diagnosing what works for State Medicaid and CHIP Programs - ([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. [click here](#) to read the article and corresponding reports. A narrated slide tutorial on principles and different models of CDHC.

Health Insurance Reform and Wisconsin:

The Latest News on Health Reform and Statistics, from the US Department of Health and Human Services, online at:
www.healthreform.gov

Had we done nothing, by 2019 the number of uninsured people would have grown by more than 30 percent in 29 states and by at least 10 percent in every state. The amount of uncompensated care provided would more than double in 45 states. Businesses in 27 states will see their premiums more than double. Fewer people would have coverage through an employer. (1) The new law expands coverage to millions of Americans while reducing premiums and out-of-pocket costs. It provides the security of knowing that if you lose your job, change your job, or start that new business, you'll always be able to purchase quality, affordable care in a new competitive health insurance market that keeps costs down. Under reform in Wisconsin:

The Timing of Renewals: TCLA renewal dates are split into three groups based upon month of member's birth:

- Jan., Feb., Mar., & April: renewal due 3/31/10
- May, June, July, & August: due 4/30/10
- Sept., Oct., Nov., and Dec.: due 5/31/10

Renewal applications must be submitted in the "renewal month" or the following month. Verification and the payment of an annual non-refundable fee of \$60 is required as well (with the only exception being those that meet the HUD definition of homeless). If not submitted in time, the individual will have to apply for the waiting list. For more information you can contact [Sarah Fraley](#) or [Connor Sperry](#)

Steps in Renewal (Source: [Ops Memo 10-14 Amended](#))

- Step 1: Start the Renewal Application within the renewal month.
- Step 2: Submit the Renewal Application by the end of the renewal month or the following month
- Step 3: 30 days to pay the \$60 fee
- Step 4: 30 days to provide the required verifications
- NOTE: Even if all the steps are completed "in time," any steps completed after the month following the renewal month will create a gap in eligibility.

Special ACCESS.WI.GOV "Security Code:"

- TCLA re-certification requires a "Security Code"
- The Code is the same for all TCLA members and can ONLY be used by TCLA members.
- The code is 9867546774
- This code is a one-use per person security code.
- NOTE: If you or an individual you are working with has a problem with the code, contact [Sarah Fraley](#) or [Connor Sperry](#) to request that the code be "re-set." This might happen if a person mistakenly closes out of the online renewal.

Family Health Benefits Bill-Status Report!

In preparation for a changing health care landscape, ABC for Health partnered with the Department of Health Services and the Office of The Commissioner of Insurance as well as lead sponsors Senator Miller and Representative Donna Seidel to develop the "Family Health Benefits Bill" (AB 878/ SB 633) to lay the foundation to support a statewide network of Health Benefits Counselors in Wisconsin.

Legislative History:

- Executive Session in the Senate Committee on Health, Health Insurance on March 30 for a vote: ended in a tie.
- Assembly Committee on Health and Healthcare Reform on March 31 for a vote and passed 8-4.
- Passed the Joint Finance Committee with a vote of 12-4
- Moved to the Assembly Rules Committee April 9
- Off to the full Assembly for a vote during the April floor session (approx. April 13-22)

- 541,000 residents who do not currently have insurance and 320,000 residents who have nongroup insurance could get affordable coverage through the health insurance exchange.
- 358,000 residents could qualify for premium tax credits to help them purchase health coverage.
- 871,000 seniors would receive free preventive services.
- 155,000 seniors would have their brand-name drug costs in the Medicare Part D "doughnut hole" halved.
- 77,400 small businesses could be helped by a small business tax credit to make premiums more affordable.

Health Insurance Reform Provides Early Relief and Health Security.

Families: The 5.6 million residents of Wisconsin will benefit as reform:

- Ensures consumer protections in the insurance market. Insurance companies will no longer be able to place lifetime limits on the coverage they provide, use of annual limits will be restricted, and they will not be able to arbitrarily drop coverage.
- Creates immediate options for people who can't get insurance today. 7 percent of people in Wisconsin have diabetes (2), and 26 percent have high blood pressure (3) – two conditions that insurance companies could use as a reason to deny health insurance coverage. Reform will establish a high-risk pool to enable people who cannot get insurance today to find an affordable health plan.
- Ensures free preventive services. 33 percent of Wisconsin residents have not had a colorectal cancer screening, and 21 percent of women over 50 have not had a mammogram in the past two years. (4) Health insurance reform will ensure that people can access preventive services for free through their health plans. It will also invest in a prevention and public health fund to encourage prevention and wellness programs.
- Supports health coverage for

Office of Health Care Reform

[Governor Doyle announced](#) April 7 that Wisconsin has created a new agency, the Office of Health Care Reform, to prepare for the sweeping changes from health care reform that take effect over the next four years. The new office will be overseen by Karen Timberlake, the secretary of the Department of Health Services, and Sean Dilweg, Wisconsin's Commissioner of Insurance. The office has its own [website](#), complete with "frequently asked questions." Read the associated [Executive Order](#)

Office of Health Care Reform Tasks:

- Provide transparent access to information;
- Assess insurance market reforms needed to prepare Wisconsin for final implementation of national health reform in 2014
- Develop a plan to pursue federal funds for a temporary high risk health insurance pool

The OHR will create a health insurance purchasing exchange that will:

- Create a website where small business owners and individuals can find comparisons of insurance policies
- Provide a single point of access for all eligible residents and businesses to choose their insurance
- Promote easy comparability of health plans and lower health care premium costs by creating a large pool of employees
- Structure to reward highest quality and most cost-effective health care providers and insurers

The announcement received media attention:

- [Wisconsin creates health care reform office - Business Journal of Milwaukee, April 7](#)
- [State creates health reform office - by Guy Boulton for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, April 7](#)
- [Doyle says state in good position for health care reform - by Bob Schaper for WKOW, April 7](#)

Coalition Round-Up!

Local HealthWatch Coalitions have been busy! Below is a listing of some events, announcements, and news from around the State. Coalition contact people are listed if you have questions on a story or would like to follow up with the coalition directly.

Milwaukee HealthWatch Coalition:

The Coalition is looking for a few more steering committee members! If you are interested in helping direct the meeting agendas, suggest guest speakers or weigh in on focus areas important to the coalition, contact [Ginger Dzick](#) or [Kari Lerch](#), Coalition Co-Chairs. Coming up: **May's Guest Speaker:** Eric Schutt, Vice President State Government Affairs, UnitedHealthcare Services, Inc.-Topic: Health Care Reform. May 12, 2010, 9:30-11:30am, Aurora Family Service, 3200 W. Highland Blvd, Milwaukee.

Dunn County HealthWatch Coalition:

The Coalition is hosting a special luncheon meeting on Wednesday, April 28,

early retirees. An estimated 71,600 people from Wisconsin have early retiree coverage through their former employers, but early retiree coverage has eroded over time. (5) A reinsurance program would stabilize early retiree coverage and provide premium relief to both early retirees and the workers in the firms that provide their health benefits. This could save families up to \$1,200 on premiums.

Seniors: Wisconsin's 871,000 Medicare beneficiaries (6) will benefit as reform:

- Lowers premiums by reducing Medicare's overpayments to private plans. All Medicare beneficiaries pay the price of excessive overpayments through higher premiums – even the 74 percent of seniors in Wisconsin who are not enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan. (7) A typical couple in traditional Medicare will pay nearly \$90 in additional Medicare premiums next year to subsidize these private plans. (8) Health insurance reform clamps down on these excessive payments.
- Reduces prescription drug spending. Roughly 155,000 Medicare beneficiaries in Wisconsin hit the “doughnut hole,” or gap in Medicare Part D drug coverage that can cost some seniors an average of \$4,080 per year. (9) Reform legislation will provide a 50 percent discount for brand-name drugs in this coverage gap.
- Covers free preventive services. Currently, seniors in Medicare must pay part of the cost of many preventive services on their own. For a colonoscopy that costs \$692, this means that a senior must pay \$162 (10) – a price that can be prohibitively expensive. Under reform, a senior will not pay anything for that colonoscopy, or for any other recommended preventive service. A senior will also get free annual wellness visits to his or her provider, with a personalized prevention plan to remain in

2010, 11:45am-1:00pm at the Red Cedar Medical Center Education Center, 2321 Stout Road, Menomonie, WI. **Topic:** Health Impact of War & Implications for Our Community. This lecture will take a look at returning Iraq and Afghanistan veterans and their challenges while deployed and upon return. **Speaker:** Connie Bengston, RN, BSN, PHN; Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom; Nurse Care Coordinator (including Western WI) VA Medical Center, Minneapolis. **RSVP** by Wednesday, April 21, 2010. Lunch will be provided. Parking is available on the east entrance to the Medical Center. Contact [Patrick Rebman](#) with questions about this event.

Eau Claire HealthWatch Coalition:

The Coalition did not formally meet in April. In place of a meeting, the Coalition co-chairs attended the HealthWatch Wisconsin-sponsored day-long training titled: Health Care Reform & Medicaid Eligibility: Coverage Expansions & Retention Strategies, hosted April 13 at the Western Regional Office in Eau Claire. The next Coalition meeting is May 6, 2010. Contact [Lou Kelsey](#) or [Pat Perkins](#) with questions.

Legislative Action Alerts!

As the Wisconsin legislature prepares for the final floor vote of this legislative session (April 13-22), we will bring you updates on bills important to HealthWatch Wisconsin! For the first three editions of the "Action Alert," visit our website where the [Legislative Action Alert](#) series issued by HealthWatch Wisconsin is posted.

BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan: Tracking through the Legislature

The BadgerCare Plus Basic Bill, [SB 484](#), was on the Wisconsin Senate Floor for exciting debate a few weeks ago passing with a [vote of 17-16](#). The Bill went to the Assembly Committee on Health and Healthcare Reform on March 31 for a vote and passed 8-4. The Bill was sent to the Assembly Rules Committee on April 2. The Bill will move to the full Assembly for a vote during the April floor session.

The Recent Buzz on Basic:

Line Item Veto: Rep. Fitzgerald, Republican leader of the Assembly, requested a memo from the Legislative Fiscal Bureau asking if the Governor, by line-item veto, could turn BC+ Basic into a “statewide public option.”

Possible: The [Legislative Fiscal Bureau memo](#) explained that it is within Wisconsin's constitution for the Governor to line-item veto, i.e., by expanding beyond the original proposition to make the plan available to income eligible, childless adults, currently on the Core Plan waiting list.

Not Probable: The Governor's office assured constituents it has no intention of using line-item veto to amend the original proposition.

Responses and Media Attention:

[Phantom fears should not derail progress - by Representative Richards \(D-Milwaukee\), April 9](#)
[Doyle veto could open up BadgerCare to more people - by Scott Bauer for the Appleton Post Crescent, April 9](#)

good health.

Sources:

- (1) Garrett B, Hoalan J, Doan L et al. The Cost of Failure to Enact Health Reform: Implications for States. September 2009.
- (2) Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey Data. Atlanta, Georgia: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2008.
- (3) Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey Data. Atlanta, Georgia: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2007.
- (4) Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey Data. Atlanta, Georgia: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2007.
- (5) Kaiser Family Foundation. 2009 Employer Health Benefits Survey.
- (6) Kaiser State Health Facts.
- (7) [Kaiser State Health Facts](#).
- (8) Rick Foster, Office of the Actuary, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Letter to Congressman Stark, June 25, 2009.
- (9) Office of the Actuary. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.
- (10) Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

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.

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.

Updates from DHS

Operations Memos

Below, find Wisconsin's Department of Health Services (DHS) Operation Memos (Ops Memos) or information updates, with brief summaries and/or 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 10-33:](#) Implementing Policy and Automation for SSI Transition Plans and Updating Policy and Automation for W-2 Supportive Service Plans (released April 12)

New Policy: This Memo provides W-2 agencies with new policy and automation instructions for developing SSI and SSDI Transition Plans for W-2 Participants, as well as updated policy and automation instructions for developing W-2 Supportive Service Plans for applicants that withdraw their W-2 applications prior to W-2 placement and participants who are placed in case management placement.

[Ops Memo 10-32:](#) Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy (released April 9)

New Policy: This Memo informs the county/tribal subsidy administrative agencies about changes in the attendance reporting process, forms, and the CCPI System. The new attendance reporting module has three modes: weekly, daily, and in/out. The Memo explains how these new modes work and what changes have been made to the forms that use these modes, as well as the CCPI System.

[Ops Memo 10-26:](#) Caretaker Supplement Certification Periods (Released April 7)

New Policy: This Memo announces a shift in policy regarding Caretaker Supplement (CTS) certification periods. CTS certification periods have been extended from 6 to 12 months and no longer require new applications when a CTS case moves from one agency to another.

CASE TIP: Health Care Decisions

April 16 has been designated "National HealthCare Decisions Day" by the governor and other state and national leaders. As you talk to families about appropriate care and coverage options, take some time this week to consider your own future medical care wishes. This can be as simple as discussing your wishes with family, friends, or healthcare providers.

In Wisconsin, competent adults have the right to control decisions about their future medical care, including the right to accept or refuse treatment and the right to be an organ and tissue donor. In spite of this legal right, it is estimated that 80% of residents have NOT documented their preferences through advance directives.

Two of the basic advance directive documents are a living will and durable power of attorney for health care. These are legal documents that allow individuals to give critical medical information and directions to their healthcare providers, healthcare agent, and family/friends about their wishes. [Click Here](#) to see these forms.

In addition to checking the boxes designated on the form, individuals should

New Materials

Wisconsin's BadgerCare Plus Coverage Expansion and Simplification-[Early Data on Program Impact](#)

Health Reform Side-by-Side and Calculator Now Reflect White House Proposal

The Foundation has updated its [interactive side-by-side health reform comparison tool](#) to reflect provisions included in President Obama's health reform proposal, unveiled Monday morning in advance of Thursday's reform summit with congressional leaders. The new proposal is based on the bill passed by the Senate in December, but incorporates some elements from the House-passed bill and other changes outlined in the new White House summary.

In March 2010, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation put out a new report, [Implementing State Health Reform - Lessons for Policymakers](#), that contains a lot of useful information on the state changes that could come about as a result of health care reform.

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 mbcbride@safetyweb.org.

DHS Resources: BadgerCare Plus Core Plan:

- [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**:

take some time to consider their wishes and talk with their family doctor and family members. National HealthCare Decisions Day aims to ensure individuals wishes are respected, whatever they may be! [Learn more online.](#)

CKSN Corner

Covering Kids with Special Needs



Mark Your Calendars Now

Check Out These Excellent Events in 2010!

- **Family Voices of Wisconsin - A Training on Health Care and Community Supports for Children with Special Health Care Needs and/or Disabilities - April 15 and 22**, Waisman Center, Olin Outreach Office, 122 E. Olin Ave, Madison, WI. 5:00-9:00pm. For more information, [click here.](#)
- **Wisconsin Facets Free Telephone Workshop - April 20**, 12-1 PM. To register contact Sandra McFarland at WI Facets, 877-374-0511 or smcfarland@wifacets.org. Sandra will mail you all of the workshop materials and provide you with the toll-free number to call in for the workshop.
- **Autism Society of Southeastern Wisconsin Parenting Series - Oct. 17 through May 15**, Nicolet High School, D-Wing Library, Glendale, WI, 9:30-11:30am. Call (414)427-9345 or email info@assew.org to register.
- **The Waisman Center** is doing trainings on **Setting Up and Facilitating A Transition IEP** in early May - check out the flier, [here.](#)
- **9th Annual Wisconsin Youth Leadership Forum - June 22 - July 2, 2010**, Edgewood College campus, Madison. A FREE weeklong leadership and development program for high school students with disabilities. Students will sharpen leadership and self-advocacy skills, increase career opportunity awareness, experience college life, hear from successful speakers from across the state, and develop their own Personal Leadership Plan. Applications are due March 1, 2010, and include 2 brief essays and 3 letters of recommendation. To apply, click [here.](#)

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](#)

The Enrollment Services Center: 1-800-291-2002

- For questions 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 (MIIES) contacts:

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

Mail : Milwaukee Enrollment Services Center (MIIES), 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 - for new applications, verifications, etc.

dhsmlschanges@wisconsin.gov - for scanning changes (HTF only scanning changes from cases)

dhsmlscustomerservice@wisconsin.gov

- Note: This is an email for advocates only: use to email MIIES with advocate questions.

Contact Information in Milwaukee County:

- [Contact Information Fliers](#)
- [Online Order Form](#)
- [Referral Sheet](#)
- [Guide to Applying](#)

Previous Issues of the Update:

[View our Update Newsletter Library Online!](#)

Recent HealthWatch WatchDog Episodes:

Did you miss an episode? [Visit our WATCHDOG LIBRARY to view videos](#) from 2008-present.

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:

- [Nonprofit ABC for Health helps patients navigate insurance maze - by James Edward Miller for the *Capital Region Business Journal* \(p 43\), April 2010](#)
- [Wisconsin governor wants nation's first health insurance exchange - by Shamane Mills for *Wisconsin Public Radio*, April 14](#)
- [Plan of last resort: Wisconsin's high-risk insurance pool could expand under Obama's health care reform plan - by Shawn Doherty for the *Capital Times*, April 10](#)
- [Wisconsin Gov. Jim Doyle's veto power could open up BadgerCare to more people - by Scott Bauer for the *Associated Press*, April 9](#)
- [State creates health care reform office - by Guy Boulton for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, April 7](#)
- [Wisconsin's existing high-risk pool will benefit from health care law - by Guy Boulton for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, April 6](#)
- [Health care reform could shift many from BadgerCare Plus to other coverage - by Jason Stein for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, April 5](#)
- [Wisconsin's wait for Social Security Disability Insurance is fourth-worst in the nation - by *Wisconsin State Journal*, April 5](#)
- [For some, health insurance is gone - by Guy Boulton, for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, April 3](#)

NEWS: Health Care Reform

Follow the links below to access recent news articles on reforming the health care system:

- [Vote expected today on COBRA subsidy extension - *Kaiser Health News*, April 15](#)
- [UnitedHealth outlines \\$366B in Medicaid Savings - by Tom Murphy for *Bloomberg Business Week*, April 15](#)
- [Sebelius: Gov't will work to close minority health gap - by *USA Today*, April 15](#)

Lifeline and Link-Up Services!

Telecommunications assistance is available for many in Wisconsin! If you receive health benefits, housing, FoodShare or other public program assistance, and are under 135% FPL, you may qualify. To learn more, watch the new video filmed by ABC for Health on Lifeline and Link-Up services. Please [click here](#) to view the video.

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- [Lessons learned from the Health-Care Wars](#) - by Peter Dreier for the *American Prospect*, April 5
- [First test for health care plan to be difficult](#) - by Kaiser Health News for the *Daily Record*, April 4
- [Health Law Preserves Cobra Plan](#) - by Walecia Konrad, April 2
- [Game Changer](#) - by Robert Kuttner for the *American Prospect*, March 29

NEWS: Opinion

Click below for editorials and opinion pieces about health care reform:

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- [Op-Ed: Ohio's lesson for Medicare Part D](#) - by Don McCanne MD for *Physicians for a National Health Program*, April 15
- [Op-Ed: UnitedHealth usurping the role of primary care provider](#) by Don McCanne MD for *Physicians for a National Health Program*, April 14
- [Op-Ed: No Time to 'Wait and See' on Health Law](#) - by Dr. Quentin Young for *The Huffington Post*, April 14
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- [Op-Ed: Maybe the Individual Mandate Is Enforceable](#) - by Timothy Noah for *Slate*, April 7
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Contact Us

Have ideas, events, or success stories to share? [Email your suggestions!](#) All submissions should be limited to 150 words.

HealthWatch Wisconsin Update Staff

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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.



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- [COBRA Health Insurance Subsidies Waiting For Senate Action](#) - by Andrew Villegas and Maggie Mertens for the *Kaiser Health News*, April 14
- [Can Technology Cure Health Care?](#) - by Jacob Goldstein for the *Wall Street Journal*, April 13
- [Healthcare overhaul won't stop premium increases](#) - by Noam N. Levey for the *Los Angeles Times*, April 13
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- [Health Reform's Medicaid Expansion, Payment Increase Causes Mixed Feelings for MDs](#) - by Maggie Mertens for *Kaiser Health News*, April 6
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