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## The HealthWatch Wisconsin Update Newsletter

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

September 15 , 2010

Vol. 6 No. 17

### HealthWatch Wisconsin

*A Project of ABC for Health, Inc.*

A statewide membership assuring a more competent, coordinated public health workforce.

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### Registration is Now Open:

### Health Reform Training!

"The Changing Landscape of Health Insurance in Wisconsin after Health Reform"

Thursday, October 28, 2010

9:00am-4:30pm

Inn on the Park, 22 S. Carroll St.,  
Madison

**[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER TODAY!](#)**

**Health care reform is unfolding before our eyes.** The process of reform will take years, but many key questions and issues need your attention today! This workshop will continue the process of educating the public health workforce on health reform issues. Join sponsors HealthWatch Wisconsin and ABC for Health for sessions led by regulators, policy makers, and advocates in Wisconsin. Included in your registration is HealthWatch Wisconsin's newest publication: "My Health Reform Guidebook." Continuing education credits will be offered for attorneys and social workers. A continental breakfast, lunch and CD are included with your registration.

Reduced registration cost will be available for members of HealthWatch Wisconsin! [Join HealthWatch Wisconsin](#) to take advantage of savings throughout the year!

**SPECIAL PRIZE DRAWING: GREEN BAY PACKERS DELUXE, INDOOR CLUB SEAT TICKETS!!** One lucky winner will leave the workshop on October 28 with a pair of tickets to the December 5 **Green Bay Packers v. San Francisco 49ers Game!!** *To be eligible to win: you must be a 2010-2011 individual member of HealthWatch Wisconsin. We will include individuals joining HealthWatch WI while registering for this workshop in our drawing.*

See you in Madison in October!



### Local HealthWatch Coalition Meetings:

### Six Months and Counting!



**Barron:** TBD, 9:00-10:00am. Barron County Workforce Resource, Inc., 331 S. Main St., Ste. 6, Rice Lake. Contact [Mike Rust](#) or (715) 485-8525 with questions.

**Chippewa:** TBD, 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:** October 4, 9:00-11:00am. The Harambee Center, 2202 S Park Street, Madison. Contact [Adam VanSpankeren](#) or (608) 261-6939, ext. 204 with questions.

**Dunn:** September 29, 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:** September 2, 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:** September 8, 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:** TBD, 10:30am-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. TBD, 9:00-10:00am, Goodwill Community Center, Menasha Room. Contact [Susan Garcia Franz](#) for more information.

## **Happy Six-Month Anniversary, Federal Health Reform!**

President Obama signed ground-breaking health reform legislation six months ago, and Wisconsin is already making progress toward its long-term coverage goals.

As of March 23, 2010, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act became law, marking September as the sixth-month anniversary for America's most-recent health care reform. This piece of legislation details a comprehensive health reform plan aiming to make healthcare better and more affordable while increasing coverage to a larger number of people. Not surprisingly, implementation of elements of reform has been and will continue to be a gradual process. The majority of changes are scheduled to occur by 2014. Yet, some aspects of reform are already in effect. As of September 23, dependent health care coverage will be federally expanded to all young adults under the age of 26. Small businesses and non-profit organizations will be eligible for tax credits to provide employees with insurance. State Medicaid will receive increases federal funding and lifetime insurance limits will be eliminated. Also, children ages 19 and under will no longer be denied coverage due to a pre-existing condition. Funding for community health centers will increase, and public health and prevention programs (smoking cessation and obesity-reducing programs, for example) will begin to receive funding from a new \$15 billion fund. Note: Health plans don't have to implement the provisions until their next annual renewal date; since most plans begin their coverage year on Jan. 1, that's when many consumers will start to see changes. Other important reform features, such as the establishment of health insurance exchange marketplaces, qualification for individual tax credits, and increases in Medicaid eligibility, remain on the agenda for future years to come, however.

In this edition of the Update, we profile a few of the elements of health reform we're watching this month. Also, registration has just opened for our October "The Changing Landscape of Private Insurance in Wisconsin After Health Reform." Join us at this comprehensive, yet efficient conversation on complex issues of reform and what it all means for Wisconsin individuals and families.

## **Milwaukee Immigrant Health Coverage Workshop is TOMORROW!**

### **Time is Running Out!**

**Call before the end of the day today to register: (608) 261-6939 ext. 204.**

Join ABC for Health for training and discussion of public benefits options in Wisconsin immigrant populations.

Here's what people said about the Madison training:

*"This [presentation] was very informative and very current!"*

*"The material was relevant to what's going on right now; and I can use what I learned today right away."*

*"An energetic presentation!"*

### **Milwaukee**

**Thursday, September 16, 2010**

**1:00pm-4:00pm**

Boy Scouts of America  
330 S. 84th Street



## It's Not Too Late To Join HealthWatch Wisconsin!

The 2010-2011 membership year has begun, but it's not too late to join! Take 5 minutes to complete and return our [MEMBERSHIP FORM](#) to make sure you are connected to great materials, information and events.

Join as an individual member for \$30 - OR -  
Get together with co-workers and join as an organization for only \$120.

Joining or Renewing your HWW membership today gives you:

- Access to 12 publications valued at over \$200 including the NEW "My Guide to National Health Reform," available Fall 2010.
- Access to reduced trainings, workshops, and conferences on health care hot topics, including online trainings through the HWW Training Portal site.
- A voice in a state-wide advocacy organization that works toward quality and accessible health care for people across Wisconsin!

Join an organization committed to unifying the public health workforce, with emphasis on teaching, training, and information sharing! The membership year runs July 1, 2010- June 30, 2011. Questions? Call HealthWatch Wisconsin staff for more information: (608)261-6939 ext. 210.

## Links of Interest

The Legislative Council Study Committees will continue to meet in the coming months. We will be tracking the meeting agendas and minutes at the Update. Check in here from time to time to see when the next meeting is, and what is developing.

[Interim Study Committee on Health Reform Implementation](#)

Next Meeting: September 21

*Note: The Chairs and Vice-Chair of this*

Milwaukee, WI 53214

The October 1, 2010 edition of the Update Newsletter will contain registration information for an abbreviated web cast training on this topic.

## Wisconsin Ahead of the Curve in Implementing Reform

While federal progress takes slow, baby-steps toward an improved health care system, state-wide progress in Wisconsin is already around the first curve. With programs like BadgerCare Plus, BadgerCare Plus Core Plan (and Basic Plan), SeniorCare, and FamilyCare; the state is already actively working to increase access to care and coverage for residents. Under these programs, most children and many working-class individuals and families are eligible for coverage. Also in Wisconsin, private insurance coverage for dependents extends to those beyond federal age limits, offering adults under the age of 27 coverage under their parent's insurance. Plans for a health insurance purchasing exchanges are now underway, the state filing an application for a planning grant as of September 1<sup>st</sup>. Using federal funds increased under the reform, Wisconsin has implemented HIRSP (Health Insurance Risk Sharing Program) Federal Plan, dedicated to providing coverage to uninsured individuals with pre-existing health conditions (on top of the HIRSP State Plan, already in operation).



## Wisconsin's Commissioner of Insurance Issues New Bulletin Describing Reform's Impact on Wisconsin Insurance

In a comprehensive [bulletin dated September 3, 2010](#), the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance for Wisconsin provided information to insurers about the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2009 (PPACA) as modified by the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (HCERA).

## THIS FRIDAY: Swipe Out Hunger Conference

**LIMITED SEATS AVAILABLE:  
Call Today to Register: (920) 560-5610**

**SWIPE OUT HUNGER CONFERENCE: Putting Food on Your Table and Money into Your Community through FoodShare**

September 17, 2010  
Radisson Paper Valley Hotel  
Appleton, WI

Registration: The Registration Deadline Has Passed. Please call to inquire if there are seats remaining!

Learn how to use simple and effective everyday strategies to increase FoodShare enrollment in your community while you connect with people from



*committee have been invited to present at the HealthWatch Wisconsin Health Reform Training, October 28, 2010.*

[Interim Study Committee on Access to Health Care](#)

Next Meeting: October 1

[Interim Study Committee on Infant Mortality](#)

Next Meeting: September 22

[Special Committee on Review of Emergency Detention and Admission of Minors Under Chapter 51](#)

Next Meeting: October 4

**Follow Up to Earlier Discussion in the HealthWatch Update:**

The Wisconsin United for Health Foundation Board

Many of our readers have been actively following the actions of the Wisconsin United for Health Foundation Board. The discussion has centered around a Legislative Audit Bureau Report, issued earlier this year, that evaluated how the UW medical school and Medical College of Wisconsin were doing, as stewards of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Conversion funds. There has been no decision made at this point to change any of the practices, procedures or rules as follow up to the last board meeting. The WUHF Board is in the process of scheduling their annual report meeting, to occur before the end of the calendar year. Watch for future editions of the Update newsletter for more information as it becomes available.

**Updates from DHS**

**Operations Memos**

[Ops Memo 10-62](#) Updates to W-2 Screening and Assessment Policy and Procedure (*released Sept. 13*)

**New Policy:** The Department is moving forward with a number of changes to the W-2 program that are required as part of the Voluntary Compliance Agreement, as described in [DFES ADMINISTRATOR'S MEMO 10-05](#). Policy

all walks of life who are committed to a hunger-free Wisconsin. A small amount of your time may leverage hundreds of dollars of food every month for families who need and deserve this help, as well as put more money into local businesses!

**Visit ABC for Health's Workshop:** "Adding to Your Cart: Accessing FoodShare while Applying for BadgerCare Plus!"

ABC for Health will be presenting in the afternoon of September 17! Stop by to say hello, and learn a few tips for "one stop shopping" with your clients-maximizing programs available in Wisconsin for those of lower incomes.

Please visit the conference [website](#) to learn more.

**Now Hiring: Health Benefits Advocate**

ABC for Health, Inc. is seeking an interested and dedicated individual to fulfill the duties of a **Health Benefits Advocate**, responsible for providing information and referral, counseling and advocacy services to assist primarily families (many Spanish speaking) with children at risk of receiving inadequate health care to obtain and maintain health care financing through public and private sources of benefits. Advocates also assess the need for legal services in consultation with the attorneys and other Health Benefits Counselors, and assist with case-related tasks. [Click Here for the full Position Announcement](#).



Please address interest with Cover Letter and Resume to: ABC for Health, Inc., Attn: Brynne McBride, 32 N. Bassett St, Madison, WI 53703 or [bmcbride@safetyweb.org](mailto:bmcbride@safetyweb.org). ABC for Health, Inc. is an affirmative action employer.

**Keeping Up with Your Council**

The HealthWatch Wisconsin Council, the leadership board of the HealthWatch Wisconsin organization, meets twice a year to weigh in on the planning, projects, activities and strategies of HealthWatch Wisconsin. The membership of HealthWatch elects new members to three year terms on the Council in the early Spring of each year. The Council has been instrumental in setting the agenda for the annual HealthWatch Wisconsin Conference each year, and for identifying community stakeholders to join the organization. The next meeting of the Council will coincide with the October 28, 2010 HealthWatch Fall Conference, "The Changing Landscape of Health Insurance in Wisconsin after Health Reform."

The HealthWatch Executive Committee meets more regularly, taking stock of project evaluations, events planning and sustainability. You can view the agendas, minutes and relevant materials discussed at each of these meetings on the [HealthWatch Wisconsin Council Minutes Web site](#).

We encourage you to stay involved in the decisions being made for the HealthWatch Membership. Use the Council members and Executive Committee members as a resource for you, too! Share ideas and ask questions!

**Current Council Members:**

changes will be made to the W-2 Policy Manual, Chapter 5 Screening and Assessment.

**Ops Memo 10-63** Policy Changes Regarding the Transfer of Formal Assessments, Approving or Denying Good Cause, and 20% Payment Reduction Notification (*released Sept. 13*)

**New Policy:** DCF is making changes to W-2 policy regarding when and how W-2 agencies transfer information on formal assessments when a W-2 applicant applies for W-2 services at a W-2 agency.

**Ops Memo 10-64** Communication to W-2 Participants Regarding the Availability of BST and Formal Assessments (*released Sept. 13*)

**New Policy:** By October 1, 2010, the Department will mail a notice to all current W-2 participants informing them of the opportunity to have the Barrier Screening Tool (BST) administered. Also starting October 1, 2010, CARES will generate updated letters and notices.

**Ops Memo 10-67** Treatment of Residents of Puerto Rico Moving to Wisconsin (*released Sept. 10*)

**New Policy:** The purpose of this Operations Memo is to explain eligibility for FoodShare when an application is made in Wisconsin by someone moving to this state from Puerto Rico (PR) and received food assistance benefits there.

**Ops Memo 10-68** 2010 FoodShare Mass Change (*released Sept. 10*)

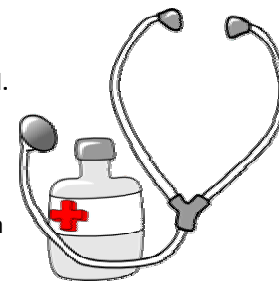
**New Policy:** Each year the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) announces any adjustments in the gross and net income limits, the allotment tables, standard deduction amounts, and the excess shelter expense deduction. Adjustments to the standard utility allowance amounts are based on statewide average utility costs. Allotment amounts will not be increasing for federal fiscal year (FFY) 2011 since they were increased with the passage of the Economic Stimulus package that required States to increase

- Julie Baryluk, Polk County Health Department
- Jeffrey Burkhart, Literacy Network (Executive Committee)
- Carola Gaines, Unity Health Insurance
- Susan Garcia-Franz, Well Woman Coordinator/Planned Parenthood
- Brad Holman, Southeastern CYSHCN Regional Center
- Thomas Horst, Head Start CESA 11 (Executive Committee)
- Leah Jepson, City of Milwaukee Health Department
- Jodi Joyce, Group Health Cooperative
- Dr. Christopher Okunseri, Marquette University Dental School (Executive Committee)
- Jon Peacock, Wisconsin Council on Children & Families
- Roberta Riportella, University of Wisconsin-Madison/Covering Kids & Families
- Josh Salazar, UW Hospital and Clinics
- Dr. Tom Schlenker, Madison Dane County Public Health
- Jennifer Winter, Managed Health Services
- Bobby Peterson, Project Director (Executive Committee)
- Dr. Bruce Barrett, Faculty Partner (Executive Committee)

Watch future editions of the Update Newsletter for more status reports from the Council. **Coming Soon:** a call for nominations for next year's new Council Members! Start thinking now of colleagues and friends who would be interested in joining this efficient, excellent Council.

## Health Reform: A Closer Look at Support for Community Health Centers

The current buzz on health reform has brought opportunities and challenges, yet many families will continue to go uncovered. How will this impact our Community Health Centers?



The American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009 calls for an investment of \$2 billion dollars in health care center expansion, which includes funding for more sites and better health information technology. Monetary disbursements are established based on a community's unemployment rate; the higher the rate, the larger the funding for that particular community. However, the Affordable Care Act adjusted that policy in 2010 and includes:

- Additional funding of \$11 billion for healthcare centers nationwide. \$9.5 billion is designated for healthcare expansion and the remaining \$1.5 is for Community Health Center (CHC) renovations and software upgrades. Current allocations are \$2.6 billion per year.
- Adding \$1.5 billion to National Healthcare Service Corps, with funding for teaching healthcare centers
- Development of a Medicare Payment system which removes the Medicare payment cap
- Increasing Medicare expansion to all those who are 133% below federal poverty levels, as well as insurance subsidies for individuals with low and moderate income levels.

Overall, what this means for our CHCs is that there will be more access to care and coverage for patients over time (the projected goal for Wisconsin is to have 500,000 people covered in 5 years). Furthermore, with Medicaid

the maximum FS benefit allotments by 13.6% effective April 1, 2009. The FoodShare income limits will also not increase for FFY11.

[Ops Memo 10-66](#) Verification of Medical Expenses for FoodShare Deduction (released Sept. 9)

**New Policy:** Currently, FS policy requires the verification of medical expenses to allow a deduction for elderly, blind, or disabled FS members who have more than \$35 in medical expenses per month. If the expenses are not verified, the expense deduction is not allowed. In order to reduce agency workload, and increase program participation and FoodShare issuance in Wisconsin, verification of medical expenses will no longer be required unless the agency determines that the reported amount is questionable.

[Ops Memo 10-60](#) Preventing Problems with Six Month Reports (SMRFs) (released Sept. 7)

**Reminder:** Child care coordinators, eligibility supervisors and eligibility workers should read [this document](#). The entire document is essential to understanding and properly using the SMRF process

[Ops Memo 10-61](#) Clarification of Approved Activities for Participation in Wisconsin Shares (released Sept. 3)

**New Policy:** The Department of Children and Families has removed "other" as an option as an approved activity for Wisconsin Shares in CWW. This system change will go into effect on September 13, 2010.

## Provider Updates

There are No New provider Updates This Week

## Calls for Submissions and Volunteers

[ABC for Health](#) is seeking legal interns

including coverage for tobacco cessation services and certain preventative care, our CHCs will be reimbursed for services rendered, and incentives will also be provided. While Medicaid offers an expansion plan that is equivalent to the essential health benefits package required by law, it lacks the coverage provided by the full benefits package currently offered by Medicaid. Medicaid beneficiaries will now have the option to choose where they get services.

## Senate Vote on September 14

Yesterday, the US Senate, when working on a small business bill, entertained two amendments with reaches to federal health reform law. The focus of the amendments was to eliminate, or at least reduce the tax-compliance reporting requirement health care law which requires businesses, beginning in 2012, to report annually to the IRS any vendor receiving more than \$600 in a tax year. Dubbed the "1099 Provision," named after the IRS form that would be required to disclose the vendor receipt of funds, the reporting requirement is expected to lead to a significant amount of revenue — \$17 billion over 10 years — to help pay for the expansion of coverage and other health initiatives (according to Robert Pear for the *New York Times*, Sept. 17). To pay for repealing the requirement, Mike Johanns (R-Nebraska) proposed generating \$19.2 billion in revenue by limiting the reach of the individual health-insurance mandates in the new law and reducing funding allocated by the law for preventive-care programs. Both amendments failed.

## Where Does Wisconsin Stand?

In addition to several healthcare grants approved for community development agencies to establish CHC renovations and electronic upgrades, \$1 billion grant funded by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act will be awarded to applicants who aspire to open new community healthcare centers of add services to their existing center. Gov. Doyle has just signed the Wired for Health Act, a federally funded program that provides IT software upgrades so that patient information can be shared electronically through community centers statewide. Also in effect for 2011, the Medical Cost Transparency Law will require providers to provide a price-list for 25 of their services (75 for hospitals) so that it may be posted in waiting rooms to be viewed at a patient's convenience. Wisconsin is definitely one of the many states seeing a change in healthcare reform on Capitol Hill, but don't be fooled, there's more on the way. Stay tuned to future editions of the Update Newsletter where we will continue to follow CHCs/FQHCs and the impact on them out of healthcare reform.

## How Many Centers are We Talking About?

With the current assistance of 83 healthcare networks in the United States, 1,080 community healthcare centers have been able to provide financial and clinical services to more than 17.1 million people in 7500 areas. Where these clinics are funded by federal, state, local grants, or public/private insurance providers there exist 100 "look alike" clinics, which all meet federal health requirements and provide care to 1 million people; all that which have never received a grant.

## For More Information

Sources for the statistics quoted in this article are available:

[Kaiser Family Foundation](#), August, 2010, Retrieved SEPT 13, 2010  
[Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association](#), Update Newsletter August 2010  
[Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association](#), Update Newsletter May 2010  
[Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association](#), Update Newsletter January 2010

for Fall 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).

### 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: 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](mailto:dhsmls@wisconsin.gov) - for new applications, verifications, etc.

[dhsmlschanges@wisconsin.gov](mailto:dhsmlschanges@wisconsin.gov) - for scanning changes (HTF only scanning changes from cases)

[dhsmlscustomerservice@wisconsin.gov](mailto: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](#)

## Coalition Roundup!

Local HealthWatch Coalitions have been busy! Below is a brief look at some events, announcements, and news from around the State. Coalition contacts are listed in the sidebar if you have questions on a story or would like to follow up with the coalition directly.



**The Chippewa HealthWatch Coalition** had an informative, productive meeting on Tuesday, September 14. One of the agenda items was to evaluate a document called "a consumer competency self-assessment tool" that could become a useful instrument in working with patients, parents and health care consumers. This tool has been developed for different population over the years, public health professionals in Wisconsin, representatives of maternal and child health programs across the US, and now, a version is being developed for parents of children with special health care needs. The Coalition provided excellent feedback on a draft, but also discussed how communications often start with a new family contacting a professional. Very often, the news of having a special health care need or a sick loved one is so overwhelming that families contacting public health or a regional center for children and youth with special health care needs may not have even begun to face health care financing issues. Keeping this in mind, the tool will be amended to simplify the approach: don't overwhelm families, but still offer some roadmap of things that should be on their radar: health care financing options, community resources, and self advocacy/empowerment, among other important topics. Contact [Rose Marsh](#) for more information.

**The Dane County HealthWatch Coalition's** September meeting featured speaker Jon Peacock of the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families. Jon gave an incredibly informative presentation on the Extension of Medicaid Fiscal Relief and its impact on Wisconsin, including what might happen with health care exchanges. Jon spent some time discussing the impact of reform on adults (especially those between 133-200% FPL) and children. Overall, Wisconsin is noticeably ahead of the curve. Please watch the Coalition's website for minutes from this meeting. Contact [Adam VanSpankeren](#) for more information.

**The Dunn County HealthWatch Coalition** will be hosting a special luncheon meeting on Wednesday, September 29 from 11:45am-1:00pm at the Red Cedar Medical Center Education Center. Guest Speaker Patrick Beifuss, AICP, Senior Planner at Cedar Corporation will discuss "The Built Environment: Its impact on your health and how to fix it," with examples of efforts in Menomonie. Please RSVP to [Patrick Rebman](#) by September 21, 2010.

## Opportunities to Develop New Coalitions!

### Attention Local Public Health Departments:

Opportunities exist to form new, sustainable HealthWatch Coalitions. ABC for Health, Wisconsin's Department of Health Services, and HealthWatch Wisconsin are helping to support a sustainable, inter-connected network of new community-based HealthWatch Coalitions to promote access to and retention of health care coverage for children. Coalitions are strongly encouraged to include local health departments as the key stakeholder. Your County can create a coalition to develop a sustainable plan to connect and maintain family connections to health coverage, care, and resources.

### Getting Started:

- [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.

## 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.

## 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**

Start by identifying community partners and leaders, including representatives from hospital systems, Head Start, parents, Birth-to-3 Coordinators, public health nurses, economic support workers, school nurses and counselors, advocates, employers, and members of the faith community. Then, watch for an RFP! The Wisconsin Department of Health Services and HealthWatch Wisconsin will issue a call for proposals to invite coalitions to compete for funding. We will prioritize coalition development for low-enrollment, under-performing or health disparity locations across Wisconsin. In fact, HealthWatch Wisconsin will prioritize coalition development where local health departments take a leading role. After funding, HealthWatch Wisconsin will continue to help with ongoing technical consultation and leadership training. We will be looking for areas that can DEVELOP and SUSTAIN a coalition, after the start-up assistance is complete.

Have questions or want more information at this time? Contact [Brynne](#) at ABC for Health (608) 261-6939 ext. 210.

## CASE TIP: Considerations for College Students: Part II

In the last edition of the Update Newsletter, we shared a Case Tip titled "**It's Back to School for College Students.**" As a follow up to that discussion on this very popular topic, we're including part of a [press release issued September 13, 2010](#) by Wisconsin's Office of the Commissioner of Insurance, titled, "**Insurance Commissioner Dilweg: New School Year Means Changes in Insurance Considerations for College Students.**"

"Wisconsin Insurance Commissioner Sean Dilweg reminds students and their parents that this year there are new insurance considerations they need to take into account. "The importance of having the right type of auto, renters and health insurance during the school year cannot be overemphasized. Over the summer, a new mandatory auto insurance requirement became effective. Additionally, major health insurance reforms that were passed in the spring contain some provisions that will go into effect on September 23, 2010. These provisions, along with some that are already in effect, could have a significant impact on health insurance coverage for college students. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) signed by President Obama on March 23, 2010, has mandated a number of changes to health insurance that are either already in effect or will become effective on September 23, 2010. Students with preexisting conditions and who don't have access to health insurance because of that condition now have a new option available to them. PPACA established a program for states to establish high-risk pools to serve adults with preexisting medical conditions who have been uninsured for at least six months. This provides a bridge for those with preexisting conditions until 2014, when individuals will be able to buy coverage through health insurance exchanges. The [Federal Health Insurance Risk-Sharing Program](#) began taking applications on July 15, 2010.

Under the PPACA, An individual who does lose his or her eligibility for coverage as a dependent under a parents' group health insurance plan may still have the right to continue group coverage for a period of time under the [federal COBRA law](#). Other changes beginning September 23rd include the requirements that preventative services such as immunizations, check-ups, and screenings must be provided free of policy cost-sharing provisions such as copayments and deductibles. Health insurance policies may no longer contain lifetime limits for health services. Insurers will also be prohibited from rescinding existing health insurance policies when a person gets sick. These changes will go into effect when health insurance policies are issued or



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!**

## 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!](#)

## 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

[Bobby Peterson](#)

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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.



renewed after September 23, 2010. Commissioner Dilweg suggests that students and their parents work with their employer or their insurance agent to be sure that college students get the coverage they are eligible for." If you would like more information from the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance on this topic, contact [Jim Guidry](#), (608) 264-6239.

## Grapevine: Covering Preventive Services Under Health Reform



Are the covered preventive services that will be rolled into Health Reform to be construed as "mandated coverage" under health plans? What is covered as a preventive service? Will the list change? We've been hearing more questions about this new element to health reform as rules are being implemented in Wisconsin. In the [Bulletin](#) published by the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance on September 3, 2010, language has attempted to clarify how preventive services will be treated in Wisconsin. Currently Wisconsin statutes include [mandated](#) coverage that is *similar* to the identified preventive services contained within the federal rules. Wisconsin will be preempted from permitting cost-sharing provisions currently contained in the mandates.

[Click Here](#) for a list of covered preventive services included within the rules, and [Click Here](#) for a listing of recommended covered services.

**Background:** Interim Final Rules for Group Health Plans and Health Insurance Issuers Relating to Coverage of Preventive Services under the health reform (Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act) were published in mid-July. The rules apply to group plans and individual policies and provide guidance regarding the treatment that qualifies as "recommended preventive items and services," and provide that these plans may not impose any cost-sharing requirements with respect to the currently identified items and services. The rules requiring coverage of recommended preventive services without cost-sharing do not apply to grandfathered plans. This is relevant for plan years beginning on or after Sep. 23, 2010, or Jan. 1, 2011, for calendar year plans.

**Feedback:** The lists of covered and recommended services may be modified from time to time by the Department of Health and Human Services. Is there something NOT on the list that should be? Tell us what you think: [Email the HealthWatch Staff](#) with ideas.

■ **CKSN Corner** ■  
Covering Kids with Special Needs





(608)261-6939  
[info@safetyweb.org](mailto:info@safetyweb.org)

If you know someone who might be interested, please [Forward this Newsletter >>](#)

## Mark Your Calendars Now

### Check Out These Excellent Events in 2010!

- **Care in the Community Conference - Wednesday, September 22, 2010.** Radisson Hotel, Wauwatosa, WI. A conference to provide families and providers who care for children and youth with special health care needs with the information and tools they need. For more information, see [www.maxishare.com/conferences](http://www.maxishare.com/conferences)
- **2010 Fall Conference - Autism Society of Wisconsin - Thursday, September 23, 2010 - Friday, September 24, 2010.** Wintergreen Resort, Wisconsin Dells, WI. Registration by mail or fax only. Click here for the registration form and more information.
- **Midwest Autism Conference - October 10-12, 2010.** La Crosse Center, La Crosse, WI. Join the UW-La Crosse Continuing Education Department and Chileda, Inc. for a comprehensive conference covering strategies that support individuals on the Autism Spectrum in school, home, and treatment environments. For more information, go to <http://www.uwlax.edu/conted/mac/> or call Karen Langaard to register, 1-866-895-9233.
- **Assistive Technology Expo - October 21, 2010.** 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM. Engineering Centers, University of Wisconsin - Madison, 1550 Engineering Drive, Madison, WI 53706. FREE! For more information, please [click here](#).
- **Expanding Opportunities and Relationships for Youth in Transition - October 21, 2010.** Holiday Inn, Stevens Point, WI. Registration information will be available September 15 - watch for more information. Event is co-sponsored by the Wisconsin Community on Transition, the Autism Society of Wisconsin, and the Community of Practice on Autism Spectrum Disorders and other Developmental Disabilities
- **Children Come First Conference - See My World: New Perspectives on Children's Mental Health - November 7-9, 2010.** Kalahari Resort and Convention Center, Wisconsin Dells. For more information contact Wisconsin Family Ties, 608-267-6800 or 800-422-7145 or visit [www.familyties.org](http://www.familyties.org)
- **2010 Mental Health Consumer Conference - "Mental Health Reform: Advocating for Our Future" - November 22 and 23, 2010.** Kalahari Resort and Convention Center, Wisconsin Dells, WI.

**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](#)

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

**Wisconsin's Department of Health Services** has released a new Maternal Child Health/Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs

UPDATE**NEWS: Health Care in Wisconsin**

Use the links below to access recent news on health care and coverage in Wisconsin:

- [Area's health benefits costs soar - by Guy Boulton for the \*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel\*, September 14](#)
- [State awarded \\$628,000 to train public health workforce - by \*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel\* staff, September 13](#)
- [Public workers' generous benefits come at a price - by Guy Boulton and Jason Stein for the \*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel\*, September 12](#)
- [Employers will struggle to hold health benefit cost increases to 6% - by Guy Boulton for the \*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel\*, September 12](#)
- [Update: UW scientist praises court ruling that allows stem cell funding - by the \*Associated Press\* for the \*Wisconsin State Journal\*, September 9](#)
- [State, university band together to fight for University of Wisconsin stem cell research -- by Ron Seely for the \*Wisconsin State Journal\*, September 7](#)
- [Cost of health insurance goes up 3% -- by Guy Boulton for the \*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel\*, September 2](#)
- [Health Care Act to Increase Access for Wisconsin Residents -- by Brad Hahn for the \*Green Bay Gazette\*, September 2](#)
- [WI Community Health Centers Expand -- by Glen Gardner for Public News Service, August 30](#)

**NEWS: Health Care Reform**

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

- [Lawsuit on Obama health plan likely going to trial - by Melissa Nelson of the \*Associated Press\* for \*The Washington Post\*, September 15](#)
- [Key Health Law Provisions Begin Sept. 23 - by Michelle Andrews for \*Kaiser Health News\*, September 14](#)
- [Insuring Your Health: What will change under the new law -- by Michelle Andrews for \*The Washington Post\*, September 14](#)
- [Judge sets December 16 hearing on healthcare suit -- by Michael Peltier for Reuters, September 14](#)
- [Health reform losing support, especially among Republicans and independents -- by Doug Trapp for \*American Medical News\*, September 14](#)
- [Senate fails to cut tax provision in health law -- by Ricardo Alonso-Zalvidar for the \*Associated Press\*, September 14](#)
- [U.S. Rebukes Health Insurers -- by Janet Adamy for the \*Wall Street Journal\*, September 10](#)
- [Health Care Reform: Employees Face Greater Cost-Sharing -- by Karen Pallartio for \*Businessweek\*, September 9](#)
- [Health Plan Won't Fuel Big Spending, Report Says -- by Robert Pear for \*The New York Times\*, September 9](#)
- [Conservative Group Forecasts Medicare Doctor Access Problem -- by Marilyn Werber Serafini for \*Kaiser Health News\*, September 8](#)
- [Health Insurers Plan Hikes -- by Janet Adamy for the \*Wall Street Journal\*, September 7](#)

## NEWS: Opinion

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

- [Op-Ed: Health Care Suit Tests Basic Principles -- by Carrie Severino for AOL News, September 14](#)
- [Op-Ed: Hands off the Prevention Fund - by Sen. Tom Harkin for \*Politico\*, September 13](#)
- [Editorial: Let's clear the air - for the \*Philadelphia Inquirer\*, September 11](#)
- [Op-Ed: Is the Health Care Plan a Good Thing? -- by Robb Mandelbaum for \*The New York Times\*, September 10](#)
- [Op-Ed: Health Care Reform Reality Check -- by John Merline for AOL News, September 10](#)
- [Blog: Malpractice reform no "silver bullet" for skyrocketing healthcare spending - by Mike Lillis for \*The Hill\*, September 9](#)
- [Blog: HHS Explicitly Threatens the Insurance Lobby - by Katie Pickert for \*Time\*, September 9](#)
- [Op-Ed: Great health care, but too few receive it - by Mark K. Allen for the \*Wisconsin State Journal\*, September 4](#)
- [Op-Ed: Surer footing for Medicare -- by Donald M. Berwick for \*The Washington Post\*, September 3](#)
- [Op-Ed: The Ugly Truth Behind America's Objection to Health Care Reform -- by Rick Ungar for Forbes.com, September 1](#)

## NEWS: Health Care Costs and Access

Click the links below to read the latest news on health care costs and access:

- [Insurance exchanges present tough choices for states - by Sarah Kliff for \*Politico\*, September 14](#)
  - [White House pushes bill to scale back tax-reporting law for small businesses - by Noam Levey for the \*Los Angeles Times\*, September 14](#)
  - [New Medicare Chief Pledge to Cut Medical Costs - by Janet Adamy for the \*Wall Street Journal\*, September 13](#)
  - [FACT CHECK: White House health savings challenged -- by Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar for the \*Wisconsin State Journal\*, September 13](#)
  - [Public workers' generous benefits come at a price - by Guy Boulton for the \*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel\*, September 12](#)
  - [U.S. Rebukes Health Insurers - by Janet Adamy for the \*Wall Street Journal\*, September 10](#)
  - [Health Plan Won't Fuel Big Spending, Report Says - by Robert Pear for the \*New York Times\*, September 9](#)
  - ['Free market' rules don't work for health care -- by Cynthia Tucker for the \*Atlanta Journal-Constitution\*, September 9](#)
  - [Medical programs missing millions of kids - by Joanne Allen for \*Reuters\*, September 8](#)
  - [Companies pile bigger share of health-care costs onto workers -- by David Hilzenrath for \*The Washington Post\*, September 3](#)
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