



The HealthWatch Wisconsin Update Newsletter

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

November 15, 2010

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HealthWatch Wisconsin

A Project of ABC for Health, Inc.

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

To Print:

Want to print this newsletter and read it later? Access an easy-to-print version [HERE](#).

In This Issue:

[Save the Date: Annual Conference](#)

[Health Care Advocate to Speak in Madison:](#)

[Funding for HealthWatch Coalitions!](#)

[Media Digging Into Blue Cross Blue Shield Conversion Funds](#)

[New Leadership in Wisconsin](#)

[Coalition Roundup!](#)

[Grapevine: Incentivizing HIRSP](#)

[Mark Your Calendars Now](#)

[NEWS: Health Care in Wisconsin](#)

[NEWS: Health Care Reform](#)

[NEWS: Opinion](#)

[NEWS: Health Care Costs and Access](#)

Local HealthWatch Coalition Meetings:

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: January 11, 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: Dec 6, 9:00-11:00am. **Waisman Community Outreach Center, 122 E Olin Ave, Ste 100, Madison, WI 53713.** Contact [Adam VanSpankeren](#) or (608) 261-6939, ext. 204 with

Save the Date: Annual Conference

Fourth Annual HealthWatch Wisconsin Conference March 7 & 8, 2011.

The very popular Annual HealthWatch Wisconsin Conference is right around the corner! In addition to the latest health reform news, we will explore the future of Medicaid and programs for children with special health care needs, discuss outreach and advocacy strategies for working with Wisconsin's health care consumers and dig into issues like appeal processes, new private health insurance rules and health literacy.



Registration Opens December 1: Watch your inbox - registration materials will be mailed soon! As always, there is a deep discount for registered members of HealthWatch Wisconsin; group discounts are also available. [Click here](#) to learn more about HealthWatch Wisconsin.

Share Your Workshop Ideas: To share your ideas, please complete and return the attached [Workshop Idea form](#). Remember, HealthWatch Wisconsin is only as strong as its members, and to put on a successful conference, we need your input!

HealthWatch Awards! Nominate A Friend or Colleague for an Award: Awards are given in the following categories: Advocate of the Year; Legislator of the Year; Outstanding Media Coverage Award; Outstanding Outreach Efforts Award. To nominate someone for an award, send your name and workplace, the nominee's name and workplace, and why you think the nominee deserves to be recognized in 250 words or less to [Brynne at ABC for Health](#) by Monday, December 20, 2010 at 11:59 PM. Feel free to use or share this sample [nomination form](#). To view last year's winners, [click here](#).



Join the Leadership Group of HealthWatch: Nominate a friend, colleague or public health hero of yours for the HealthWatch Wisconsin Council, the leadership committee of HealthWatch Wisconsin! We will compile nominations and prepare a ballot for the Annual HealthWatch Wisconsin conference. To make your nomination, please email [Brynne](#) at ABC for Health with your nominee's name, workplace, email and phone number.

Health Care Advocate to Speak in Madison:

Please join Margaret Flowers, MD, for a special presentation in Madison November 17, 2010. Dr. Flowers is a vocal advocate for single-payor health care. Dr. Flowers will present "National Health Care Reform: Where Do We Go From Here" in a public presentation on November 17 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at The Labor Temple, Room 201 C, 1602 South Park Street, Madison. Dr. Flowers will speak about the challenges facing the U.S. health care system under the current reform legislation. She has been interviewed on national media, including *Bill Moyer's Journal*, *Frontline* and *Democracy Now*, and has testified before several congressional committees. She came to national prominence when she was arrested for protesting the lack of representation of single-payor at the Senate



questions.

Dunn: TBD, 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: TBD, 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: December 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. November 30 at 9:00am at Goodwill Community Center, 1814 N Appleton Road, **Obeya Room this time.** Contact [Susan Garcia Franz](#) or [Connie Raether](#) for more information.

Join HealthWatch Wisconsin!

The 2010-2011 membership year has begun, but it's not too late to join! Complete and return our [MEMBERSHIP FORM](#) to make sure you are connected to great materials, information and events. Individual memberships are \$30; organizational memberships are \$120.

Joining or renewing your HWW membership today gives you: access to 12 publications valued at over \$200

health care reform hearings in 2009. This event is free and open to the public.

Dr. Flowers will also be a guest at a gala fundraiser November 19 from 6:00-9:00 p.m. at EVP Coffeehouse, 3809 Mineral Point Road, Madison along with Sen. Mark Miller and Rep. Chuck Benedict. See the [public presentation flyer](#) and gala [fundraiser event flyer](#) (which also includes a complete schedule) or [email](#) with questions.

Funding for HealthWatch Coalitions!

Opportunities exist to form new, sustainable HealthWatch Coalitions or enhance your existing Coalition. 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.

The New RFP is Due December 3:

1. 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.
2. [CLICK HERE](#) FOR THE RFP. This RFP is for Coalition Building and Development. There is a fast turn-around on applications for funding as we hope to have new coalitions begin work in early 2011!
3. [CLICK HERE](#) FOR THE RFP COVER PAGE. This page must be submitted with each application.
4. We encourage anyone who is interested in competing for this grant award to **call HealthWatch Wisconsin** in advance of submitting an application to discuss ideas and strategies: Call Brynne at (608) 261-6939 ext 210.
5. Whether applying for a new or existing coalition, [CLICK HERE](#) for guidance on how coalitions will be evaluated.
6. **Applications must be received by ABC for Health by December 3, 2010 at 5 p.m.!**

Media Digging Into Blue Cross Blue Shield Conversion Funds

Back in the November 1 issue of the HealthWatch Wisconsin Update, we highlighted an article written by journalist Kurt Chandler for Milwaukee Magazine: "[Public Be Damned](#): A program that was supposed to fund public health programs has become a cash cow for the state's two medical schools." Since then, Kurt has released a follow up article, "[Mounting Pressure on Med Schools](#)," which appeared on *Milwaukee News Buzz*, Nov. 2. In his second article, Kurt Chandler addresses the unprecedented 35/65 split, in which 35 percent of the Blue Cross Blue Shield conversion funds are allocated to community and public health and 65 percent are used for medical education and research. Kurt reminds us that no other state divides conversion funds this way, or even entrusts the funds to medical schools in the first place, instead of entrusting the money to a private foundation. Further, the medical schools are using some of the money for non-competitive research grants. Kurt also references Rick Romell's Oct. 30 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel article, "[Fees UW Foundation Collects Criticized](#)," that illuminated the UW Foundation's culpability, quoting the case that former Senator and former State Secretary of Health and Family Services Joseph Leean made in the last year. The UW Foundation charged its endowment \$3.5 million with an additional \$838,900 in administrative costs. According to Romell, Leean commented, "*This is ridiculous to be taking that much money. For the more than six years that the medical schools have had the endowments, we're talking 20-plus million dollars in excess charges.*" What's next? Mark your calendar for November 18, when Kurt will devote his monthly radio show "[Lake Effect](#)" to this topic at 10:00 a.m.



including the NEW "My Guide to National Health Reform;" access to reduced trainings, workshops and conferences on health care hot topics including online trainings through *HWW On-Demand*; and a voice in a statewide advocacy organization that works toward quality and accessible health care for people across Wisconsin. The membership year runs July 1, 2010-June 30, 2011.

Questions? Call HealthWatch Wisconsin staff for more information: (608) 261-6939 ext. 204.

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: TBA

[Interim Study Committee on Access to Health Care](#)
Next Meeting: November 22

[Interim Study Committee on Infant Mortality](#)
Next Meeting: November 16

[Special Committee on Review of Emergency Detention and Admission of Minors Under Chapter 51](#)
Next Meeting: November 15

The Office of the Commissioner of Insurance has announced upcoming meetings for several of their subgroups:
[The Injured Patients & Families Compensation Fund/Wisconsin Health Care Liability Insurance Plan Risk Management and Patient Safety Committee](#)
Next Meeting: November 17

Updates from DHS

DHS has released updated versions of its BadgerCare Plus, Access, and Medicaid Eligibility Handbooks!

Here is a link to the [BadgerCare Plus Handbook](#) version 10-04; and to the listed [changes](#), effective October 1. Please click here to see the [Access](#)

Wisconsin United for Health Foundation Board

The Wisconsin United for Health Foundation (WUHF) Board met for a final meeting of 2010 on November 12 at Madison's Concourse Hotel. While the meeting was called to present the 2009 Annual Report of the Wisconsin Partnership Program, the University of Wisconsin Medical Schools' share of the Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) Conversion Funds, the Legislative Audit Bureau (LAB) Report was still foremost on many minds. Recall, the LAB spent a year digging into the policy, procedure, and practice of the BCBS Conversion Funds, held in endowments by Wisconsin's two medical schools. This money represents BCBS's payback to the people of Wisconsin as part of the company's 2001 conversion to a for-profit entity. An Insurance Commissioner Order entrusted \$600 million to the Medical College of Wisconsin and the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, to promote public health and education initiatives that will *benefit the people of Wisconsin*. Before the meeting, there was an exchange of written questions from WUHF Board members to University of Wisconsin, with answers submitted to WUHF. This preparation allowed time for members of the WUHF Board to ask clarifying questions on November 12. Questions were to be on the 2009 Annual Report, yet they served the dual function of continuing the conversation started at the July 15 meeting, where the LAB Report was initially presented. For more on this meeting, stay tuned for the upcoming HealthWatch Reporter, a newsletter of HealthWatch Wisconsin, which will be entirely devoted to this topic.

New Leadership in Wisconsin

There was a changing of the guard in Wisconsin following the midterm elections. As Governor-Elect Walker starts considering posts for the new administration, movement is already being made in the Legislature to assign new leadership responsibilities. As a follow-up to the November 1 Edition of the Update, results indicate that the Republican Party gained the majority in both houses: 19 Republicans and 14 Democrats in the Senate, and 60 Republicans, 38 Democrats and 1 Independent in the Assembly. Inauguration of the new legislature elected on November 2 will be January 3, 2011. For a printable, updated list of 2011 Members of the Legislature, [CLICK HERE](#). To view an advocate's response to the election and to see what's next for health care in Wisconsin, check out the November 9 edition of the [WatchDog](#).



In each house, all members of a particular political party form that party's caucus to help party members maintain a unified position on critical issues. At caucus meetings over the last two weeks, the leadership in each house was selected. [CLICK HERE](#) to see a current listing of the new State Senate and Assembly leadership.

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.



Welcome Back Nora! HealthWatch Wisconsin welcomes back **Nora Foshager**, who is once again working part time for ABC for Health and will act as staff for the Milwaukee HealthWatch Coalition, while she attends classes at the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee. Beginning later in December, Nora will work out of donated office space co-located at Community Advocates in Milwaukee. Thanks Community Advocates for supporting HealthWatch!

Dane County HealthWatch met on November 1, when Claire Smith (Department of Health Services) spoke about changes to Access and answered questions about different state policies and programs. Dane County HealthWatch has invited Enrollment Services Center staff to speak at their next meeting, which will once again

[Handbook](#) version 10-05; and its listed [changes](#), effective November 8.

And lastly, please click here to see the [Medicaid Eligibility Handbook](#), version 10-03; and its listed [changes](#), effective November 15.

Operations Memos

[Ops Memo 10-80](#) FoodShare Eligibility for Students (*released November 15*)

New Policy: The previous policy stated that students who were enrolled in a university or other higher education facility at least half time were prohibited from receiving FoodShare benefits, unless they met certain exemptions.

The new policy expands these exemptions, allowing students to remain eligible for FoodShare if the student is enrolled in a FSET (Food Stamp Employment and Training) approved Program that will lead to a degree, diploma, or certificate in two years. Ex: business, technical trade, or vocational schools. The degree, diploma, or certificate must lead to employment in a field that is in demand. All other conditions of student eligibility for FoodShare must be met. For example, a student who resides in campus housing that offers a meal plan may not receive FoodShare benefits if they receive more than 50% of their meals from the meal plan.

[Ops Memo 10-79](#) Disaster FoodShare Program (DFSP) for Residents of Grant and Milwaukee County who were economically impacted by the severe storms in July 2010 (*released November 8*)

New Policy: Residents of Grant County and parts of Milwaukee County who were economically affected by severe storm damage in July 2010 are now able to apply for emergency food assistance from Nov. 9-17. Residents must be new FoodShare applicants and meet the Disaster FoodShare eligibility criteria in order to receive a one time Disaster FoodShare payment equal to the maximum allotment for their household size.

[Ops Memo 10-78](#) Verification Notice Redesign Conversion (*released November 5*)

New Policy: The memo explains the conversion process for obtaining verification and information required to

be at the Waisman Community Outreach Center on Olin. It looks like this will be the location for Dane County HealthWatch meetings from 2010-11. Dane County HealthWatch will also be doing a food drive; everyone, please remember to bring your canned goods and other non-perishable food items to the next meeting, December 6!

The Milwaukee HealthWatch Coalition met last Wednesday and welcomed Nora Foshager, the coalition's new assistant/coordinator. Craig Steele and Rebecca McAtee from the Department of Health Services' Office of Health Care Reform (OHCR) came to speak to Milwaukee HealthWatch about national health care reform. In addition, they gave an introductory presentation on the Health Care Exchange, which is currently under development. Ginger Dzick (United Health Care), current coalition co-chair, announced recent coalition election results: Leah Jepson (City of Milwaukee Health Department) and Celeste Schulz (ACRW) are the two new co-chair elects. Julie Dixon-Seidl (Disability Rights Wisconsin) and Kris Peterka (Riverwest Health Initiative) will join the steering committee. Finally, Sarah Fraley (DHS) was on hand to provide some information on the Wisconsin Disaster FoodShare Program (DFSP). For more information on the Milwaukee HealthWatch Coalition, please contact [Nora Foshager](#).

The Chippewa County HealthWatch Coalition met on Tuesday, November 9, where Lori Malnory, a Parent Facilitator for Special Ed for the Eau Claire and Chippewa Falls school districts, discussed how parents perceive school district employees - who cannot actually "advocate" for families. Lori explained about how a balancing act is needed between keeping a family informed of their options and resources and not being able to truly take their side. The River Source Family Center spoke about some of the transitions happening with their family resource center. In fact, other Family Resources Centers might be following in the footsteps of River Source in focusing their efforts around preventing child abuse and neglect. The pros and cons of this were discussed: a more focused target population and mission is more likely to yield distinct positive results, while it may make it more difficult to engage with families, who might be wary of their children being identified as potentially at-risk. The River Source Family Center is going to be doing outreach to make sure that professionals know about their new emphasis.

Grapevine: Incentivizing HIRSP



New Efforts to Connect Individuals to High Risk Plans:

Exactly four months into the new Federal High Risk Plan in Wisconsin, enrollment numbers are low--too low. Wisconsin is not alone. According to reports by the [New York Times](#) and the [Kaiser Foundation](#), only about 8,000 are enrolled nationally, not the anticipated hundreds of thousands of people. These weren't the numbers the federal government had in mind when \$5 billion was appropriated for high-risk insurance pools under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Health Reform). When trying to decipher why enrollment is low, the conclusions are mixed: maybe lack of awareness of the program for the target population, or maybe it's the requirement that applicants must not have had coverage for six months or general unaffordability, despite the premiums being at market price. In an effort to accelerate enrollment that would take advantage of these funds, the Department of Health and Human Services announced this week that it will be cutting premium rates. Stay tuned to a future edition of the Update for any new announcements on the cost of HIRSP. [Click here](#) for information on Wisconsin's HIRSP Federal Plan.

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

determine eligibility for programs like BadgerCare Plus, Medicaid, FoodShare, Caretaker Supplement, Child Care and Wisconsin Works (see [Ops Memo 10-59](#)). It provides a chart that lists verification fields on the CARES Worker Web (CWW) and how they will be affected during the conversion process.

Provider Updates:

[Claim Submission Clarification of X-Ray and Diagnostic Urinalysis Services for Chiropractic Providers](#)
[New Prior Authorization Requirements for Advanced Imaging Services](#)
[Limited Coverage of Screening Computed Tomographic Colonography](#)
[Introducing the Community Recovery Services Benefit](#)
[Changes to the Family Planning Waiver Effective November 2010](#)

An Ounce of Prevention:

In the September 15 Edition of the Update, we brought you a story on the Interim Final Rules for Group Health Plans and Health Insurance Issuers Relating to Coverage of Preventive Services under health reform. The rules provide guidance regarding treatment that qualifies as "recommended preventive items and services." Since that time, much discussion has occurred on the elements of preventive health care under health reform. With a new twist on the conversation, consider the following: University of Iowa Professor of Public Health Brian Kaskie recently presented "[Preventive Care, Health Promotion and Other Public Health Issues](#)," an exploration of the effects of our current health system, on November 4. Kaskie identified a major problem in our health care system: we are not linking public health concerns with the business of health care. This is evident in the realm of fast food restaurants, which supply cheap but unhealthy meals to children and even hospital employees, patrons and patients. Consider: 13% of schools across the U.S. have a fast food franchise inside their cafeteria, while 70% of school lunch sales nationwide are fast food items. What's more demonstrative is that 40% of hospitals have a fast food franchise inside the hospital, even while running childhood obesity programs. Kaskie suggests that contracts and funding are the two major ways to



Mark Your Calendars Now

Check Out These Excellent Events in 2010-11!

- **2010 Mental Health Consumer Conference - "Mental Health Reform: Advocating for Our Future" - November 22 and 23.** Kalahari Resort and Convention Center, Wisconsin Dells, WI.
- **Warmline 10th Anniversary Gala - December 2.** 5:30-8:30pm. Brown Deer Park Golf Clubhouse. 7835 N Green Bay Road in Milwaukee. \$35 cover. For more information about the event, [click here](#); to see the sponsorship letter, please [click here](#). Warmline is a non-profit, non-crisis support line run by and for people with mental illness.
- **"Did You Know? Now You Know!" - December 7.** 5:30-8:30pm. Green Mill Restaurant, 2703 Craig Road, Eau Claire, WI. Training on health care and community supports for children and youth with special health care needs and/or disabilities. The training is free and dinner will be provided. To register, call Wynnee or Rose at the Western Regional Center, Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs at 800-400-3678 or 715-726-7908, or email Wynne at WCook@co.chippewa.wi.us.
- **Circles of Life 2011 - April 28 & 29.** Hyatt Regency, Milwaukee. State's largest conference for families of children with disabilities and special health care needs. For more information visit www.colwisconsin.org.

Now Hiring:

ABC for Health, Inc. is seeking an interested and dedicated individual to fulfill the duties of a part time (approx 0.60 FTE) Parent Advocate. A qualified candidate will be a parent of a child or youth with special health care needs. S/he will conduct health benefits screening interviews for families with children at a risk of receiving inadequate health care to obtain and maintain health care financing through public and private sources of benefits. The Advocate will act as liaison with Wisconsin's five Regional Centers for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN). S/he will ensure that the needs of families with CYSHCN are identified and documented and ensure that a family-centered services are provided to clients. The Advocate will work with attorneys and Health Benefits Counselors on client services, materials development, and training. Familiarity with major health and social service programs helpful, as is knowledge about programs, resources and issues affecting families of CYSHCN. Please [Click Here](#) for the Full Position Announcement. ABC for Health, Inc. is an affirmative action employer. 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.

Position Announcement: ARC of Greater Milwaukee is looking for a Program Coordinator. See the Announcement [here!](#)

CYSHCN Grants Awarded

The Department of Health Services, Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program has announced that the agencies listed below have been awarded grants in response to the request for proposals for CYSHCN Statewide Initiatives. Congratulations to the following agencies and offices:

1. Family Voices of Wisconsin, Family Health Leadership Initiative
2. Children's Hospital of Wisconsin Fox Valley, Medical Home Initiative

implement change in this arena. Health reform or the stimulus package could have denied funding to schools and hospitals that contracted with a franchise restaurant, or threatened to reduce Medicaid reimbursement to hospitals that serve fast food. While we examine policies regarding fast food sold at schools or hospitals, at the very least, we should spark dialogue about the nutritional value of fast food, especially for children. What are your thoughts? [Email](#) the Update staff with feedback.

Calls for Submissions and Volunteers

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

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 (MilES) contacts:

Phone: 1-888-947-6583 (voice) 711 (TTY)
 Mail : Milwaukee Enrollment Services Center (MilES), P.O. Box 05676, Milwaukee, WI 53205-0676
 FAX: (414) 438-4580
 In Person: 1220 W Vliet Street -or- UMOS Job Center Southeast, 2701

3. ABC for Health, Inc., Access/Health Benefits Initiative

"We look forward to working together to serve Wisconsin's children and youth with special health care needs and their families," Sharon Fleischfresser, MD, MPH, Medical Director of the Wisconsin CYSHCN Program Division of Public Health, said when announcing the accepted proposals. Contracts for the initiatives will begin January 1, 2011.

Wisconsin First Step Help Book 2010 A Directory of Services for Children with Special Needs Directories are now [available online](#). 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).

Contact Listing 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:

- [Democrats aim to stir up public support to fight program cuts - by Clay Barbour for the *Wisconsin State Journal*, November 15](#)
- [Doctors skeptical of center's claims - by Guy Boulton for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, November 14](#)
- [Reform supporters attack Walker's letter to Doyle Administration - for the *Pierce County Herald*, November 12](#)
- [Walker Asks Doyle Administration To Stop Programs - for Channel3000, November 12](#)
- [Press Release: Walker Call for Healthcare Reform Freeze Perpetuates Insurance Industry Abuses - by Robert Kraig for Citizen Action of Wisconsin, November 12](#)
- [Walker urges Doyle to freeze on health care reforms - for the *BizTimes Daily*, November 11](#)
- [Hospitals try high-tech to better inform patients - for the *Wisconsin State Journal*, November 10](#)
- [Dr. Ken Loving named CEO of Access Community Health Centers - for the *Wisconsin State Journal*, November 10](#)
- [Vital Signs: State Republicans block work on health care exchanges - by Shawn Doherty for *The Capital Times*, November 10](#)
- [After growing via acquisition, Merge Healthcare focuses on growing sales - by Guy Boulton for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, November 9](#)
- [Health care reform law faces scrutiny - by Guy Boulton for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, November 6](#)
- [Press Release: Commissioner Counsels Seniors to Check Medicare Advantage Options During Open-Enrollment Period - by Jim Guidry for the State of Wisconsin Office of the Commissioner of Insurance, November 5](#)
- [GOP sweep likely means more state furloughs, fewer on BadgerCare - by Jessica Vanegeren for *The Capital Times*, November 3](#)
- [River of red buries the blue - by Craig Gilbert for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, November 3](#)
- [Conference aims to allow doctors to practice 'telemedicine' outside state lines -](#)

South Chase Ave. -or- clients can call 211 for information on a community access point in their area

Emails:

dhsmiles@wisconsin.gov - for new applications, verifications, etc.

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

dhsmilescustomerservice@wisconsin.gov

- Note: This is an email for advocates only: use to email MiES 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.

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](#)

by George Hesselberg for the *Wisconsin State Journal*, November 2

NEWS: Health Care Reform

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

- [Republicans seek Democratic allies in health care fight](#) - Jennifer Haberkorn for Politico, November 12
- [Health Rules Are Waived More Often](#) - by Reed Abelson for *The New York Times*, November 9
- [New GOP governors will affect health law](#) - by N.C. Aizenman for *The Washington Post*, November 9
- [Justices Reject Review of Health-Care Overhaul](#) - by Brent Kendall for *The Wall Street Journal*, November 8
- [States, not Congress, can thwart healthcare law](#) - by Noam N. Levey and Bruce Japsen for the *LA Times*, November 7
- [G.O.P. to Fight Health Law With Purse Strings](#) - by Robert Pear for *The New York Times*, November 6
- [New Governors to Target Health Law](#) - by Janet Adamy for *The Wall Street Journal*, November 5
- [Repeal The Health Care Law? Not So Easy](#) - by Julie Rovner for NPR, November 4
- [Health-Care Industry Still Braces for Change](#) - by Avery Johnson and Peter Loftus for *The Wall Street Journal*, November 4
- [Healthcare Reform Uncertainty Could Chill Tech Innovation](#) - by Marianne Kolbasuk McGee for InformationWeek, November 4
- [Promise of Renewed Battle Over Reach of Health Care](#) - by Robert Pear and Reed Abelson for *The New York Times*, November 3
- [Insurance Commissioners Loom Large In Health Law](#) - by Sarah Varney for NPR, November 1

NEWS: Opinion

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

- [Column: Comparative Effectiveness Research May Improve Care](#) - by Anya Martin for *The Wall Street Journal*, November 11
- [Column: America's Declining Health](#) - by Richard Cohen for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, November 9
- [Column: Attacking the Health Law: The GOP's Confusing And Incompatible Arguments](#) - by Jonathan Cohn for Kaiser Health News, November 8
- [Editorial: Irrational about healthcare rationing](#) - for the LA Times, November 8
- [Editorial: Our view on medical reform: Don't try to repeal the law, improve it](#) - for *USA Today*, November 7
- [Blog: What effect did health-care reform have on election?](#) - by Chris Cillizza for *The Washington Post*, November 7
- [Column: Health-care law likely to stay - for now](#) - by N.C. Aizenman for *The Washington Post*, November 5
- [Editorial: Riding An Elevator With Boehner: What Would You Say?](#) - for Kaiser Health News, November 4
- [Column: Health Care Cost Control Is Hard, And Humbling](#) - by Austin Frakt for Kaiser Health News, November 3
- [Editorial: To Save Money, Save the Health Care Act](#) - by Peter Orszag for *The New York Times*, November 3
- [Editorial: Seniors Should Consider Changes in Medicare Part D Plans](#) - by Michelle Andrews for Kaiser Health News, November 2

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- [Response to Legislative Council Staff Memorandum, dated November 8, 2010 - by Thomas K. Zander, PsyD, J.D. for the *Wheeler Report*, November 15](#)
- [Medicaid managed care programs grow; so do issues - by Phil Galewitz for *USA Today*, November 12](#)
- [Health Law Or No, Most Businesses Likely To Keep Offering Insurance - by Amita Parashar for *Kaiser Health News*, November 9](#)
- [Doctors renew push to delay Medicare fee cuts - by Noam Levey for the *LA Times*, November 9](#)
- [More Americans opt for high-deductible health insurance plans - by Duke Helfand for the *LA Times*, November 9](#)
- [WI Legislative Council Memorandum: Recommendations in the areas of emergency detention, treatment of minors, involuntary commitment, and other mental health issues - WI Legislative Council, November 8](#)
- [Workers' health insurance costs for 2011 include higher premiums and co-payments - by N.C. Aizenman for *The Washington Post*, November 8](#)
- [HHS Cuts Premiums For Some High Risk Pools - by Phil Galewitz for *Kaiser Health News*, November 5](#)
- [Press release: New report shows Affordable Care Act savings of \\$3,500 for Medicare beneficiaries - for the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, November 4](#)
- [AARP says health care overhaul it endorsed is one of the reasons its employees will pay more - by Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar for the *Associated Press*, November 4](#)
- [High-Risk Insurance Pools Are Attracting Few - by Kevin Sack for *The New York Times*, November 4](#)
- [Promise of Renewed Battle Over Reach of Health Care - by Robert Pear and Reed Abelson for *The New York Times*, November 3](#)
- [Health Benefits Appear On Rise - by Janet Adamy for *The Wall Street Journal*, November 2](#)
- [Pay-for-Results Health Insurance Can Bend the Curve - by Merril Goozner for *The Fiscal Times*, November 2](#)
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