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## The HealthWatch Wisconsin Update Newsletter

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

December 1, 2010

Vol. 6 No. 22

### HealthWatch Wisconsin

*A Project of ABC for Health, Inc.*

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

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### 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

### Registration is Now Open: 2011 HealthWatch Wisconsin Conference

[CLICK HERE](#) to Register Online or Download a Printable Registration Form [HERE](#).

The Fourth Annual HealthWatch Wisconsin Conference is March 7 & 8, 2011 at Madison's Inn on the Park! Join the staff of ABC for Health and HealthWatch Wisconsin for the Fourth Annual Conference, "*Health Reform: New Directions?*" as we explore the latest on:

- Health Reform Implementation with Wisconsin Policy Makers
- Programs for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs
- The New Administration Plans for Health Care in Wisconsin
- Advocacy Strategies for Wisconsin's Health Care Consumers
- The Future of Medicaid, Appeals Processes & Health Literacy
- And More!



There is still time to help shape the final agenda - your input is essential to putting on the best conference possible. Please [click here](#) to take a survey on Workshop Topics for the Conference.

Discounts for registered members of HealthWatch Wisconsin and groups will be available. Visit the [HealthWatch Wisconsin Website](#) to share your workshop ideas, nominate individuals for the Second Annual HealthWatch Awards, nominate professionals for the HealthWatch Council and more!

### Start A New HealthWatch Coalition (Or Enhance Your Existing Coalition!)

#### RFP for Funding HealthWatch Coalitions Due Friday, December 3

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, interconnected network of new community-based HealthWatch Coalitions to promote access to and retention of health care coverage for children:



1. Start by identifying community partners and leaders, including representatives

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 questions.

**Dunn:** Thursday December 2, 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 [Nora Foshager](#) or call (414) 416-1816 with any 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!**

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 to discuss: (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.!** Questions? Call Brynne (608) 261-6939 ext. 210.

## Save BadgerCare Coalition Forms in Wisconsin

### Help Preserve and Protect BadgerCare Programs and Eligibility in Wisconsin!

There is a changing of the guard in Wisconsin. As the leadership and priorities change in the coming months, advocates and policymakers must work together to preserve state health benefits for Wisconsin individuals and families. Join a growing coalition of individuals, agencies and advocates dedicated to the health and well being of people all across Wisconsin. The new **Save BadgerCare Coalition** held a kick-off meeting Tuesday, November 23, proactively organizing to save BadgerCare Plus, Core Plan, Basic Plan, and disability programs in Wisconsin. The Coalition will gather again in Monday, December 6. It's not too late to join!



- To join using the new, online **Save BadgerCare Coalition** Sign Up Form, [CLICK HERE](#).
- To provide feedback and recommendations to the Coalition, [CLICK HERE](#).
- Is someone missing from the discussion? [Email HealthWatch Wisconsin](#) with additional recommendations for those to be invited to join the Coalition.

**Mark Your Calendar:** The next meeting of the Coalition is Monday, December 6, 2010, from 4:00-5:00pm at the WCCF Offices, 555 West Washington Ave., Suite 200, Madison, WI. Can't make it in person? Join us by teleconference: 1-866-274-6951 (Passcode: 7742688#).

## New Opportunities for BadgerCare Plus Core Plan

### Certain People Enrolled in BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan Can Obtain More Comprehensive BadgerCare Plus Core Plan Services



On November 24, the BadgerCare Plus Core Plan policy was amended by [Ops Memo 10-81 Core Plan Waitlist Medical Bypass for Basic Members](#) to allow a Basic Plan member to bypass the Core Plan waitlist has been expanded beyond cancer. Effective **December 15**, an individual enrolled in the Basic Plan is now exempt from the Core Plan enrollment cap if s/he has any of the following physician verified diagnoses:

- Cancer (except non-melanoma skin cancers),
- Hypertension and high cholesterol combined,
- Atherosclerosis,
- Heart failure, or

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 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: December 13

[Interim Study Committee on Access to Health Care](#)  
Next Meeting: January 7

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

[Special Committee on Review of Emergency Detention and Admission of Minors Under Chapter 51](#)  
Next Meeting: December 6

The Office of the Commissioner of Insurance has several announcements: A New Website has been Unveiled! [Click Here](#) to visit OCI Online  
The next OCI Federal Health Reform Update Meeting is Dec. 14, 1:00-2:30pm, 125 S. Webster St. Room 227  
A [new bulletin](#) to insurers was posted

- Heart disease

Basic is only an option for individuals already on the BadgerCare Plus Core Plan waiting list. Once someone has enrolled in Basic, they remain on the Core Plan waiting list until invited to apply for Core Plan. Previously, if Core Plan funding became available, individuals on the waitlist would be invited on a first come, first serve basis with no exceptions. Now, individuals enrolled in the Basic Plan who are diagnosed with one of the above-listed conditions are eligible to bypass the waitlist and enroll in the Core Plan as long as the Core Plan program rules are met. Recall: In July 2010, Wisconsin's Department of Health Services issued an Operations Memo explaining a new policy unique to individuals diagnosed with cancer. [Ops Memo 10-53 Core Plan Waitlist Bypass for Basic Members Diagnosed with Cancer](#), was published July 9 and distributed July 12. The process assumed a series of steps with movement from the BadgerCare Plus Core Plan waiting list to BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan, with the end goal of having full BadgerCare Plus Core Plan coverage.

HealthWatch Wisconsin members - please keep an eye on the [HWW Training Site](#) this week for a new training video covering Ops Memo 10-81 and this new waitlist bypass!

## Private Health Insurance Update:

### Bulletin Explains Independent Review Rule Change

On November 23, the Wisconsin Office of the Commissioner of Insurance issued a new "[Bulletin to Insurers](#)," summarizing the changes to independent review. Wisconsin's [Administrative Code](#) was changed to implement [Act 28](#), a measure that expands the existing independent review rights for people in Wisconsin with insurance to include pre-existing condition exclusion denial determinations and rescissions of coverage. The new rule was effective on October 1, 2010. Some of the new changes are highlighted here:

**Expedited Grievance Procedure:** This procedure now requires an insurer, upon written request, to mail or electronically mail a complete copy of the policy to the insured's authorized representative as expeditiously as the grievance is handled.

**Notification of Right to Independent Review:** A notice must now include a statement that the independent review organization's decision regarding an adverse determination or an experimental treatment determination may be binding on the insurer and insured. The notice shall also indicate that for pre-existing condition exclusion and rescission determinations, the determination is not binding on the insured. The notice is also required to include a brief summary statement regarding Health Insurance Risk-Sharing Plan eligibility when the coverage denial determination involves a policy rescission. The insurer must provide a notice of the right to request an independent review to all insureds who received a pre-existing condition exclusion denial or rescission determination on or after January 1, 2010, but prior to the date stated in the notice published in the Wisconsin Administrative Register. The notice should be provided to each affected insured within 60 days of the publication date in the Register.

**Independent Review Timeframes:** An insurer, upon written request from an insured or an insured's authorized representative, must mail or electronically mail a complete copy of the policy within three business days.

**Independent Review Organization Procedures:** The independent review organization must have procedures for determining when the inclusion of an attorney or actuary as a member of the review panel is appropriate and necessary. Legal reviewers must be attorneys licensed and in good standing in Wisconsin, and actuaries must be members in good standing of the American Academy of Actuaries. An independent review organization should consider medical or scientific evidence, the legal basis, and the applicable insurance contract in its review of coverage denial determinations other than experimental treatment determinations.

**Questions:** Concerning the grievance procedure can be e-mailed to [Linda Low](#);

Nov. 23, re: Grievances and Independent Review Procedures

## 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 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 10-81](#) Core Plan Waitlist Medical Bypass for Basic (*Amended December 1, originally released November 24*)

**New Policy:** This memo lists additional medical diagnoses that allow an individual enrolled in the BadgerCarePlus Basic Plan to bypass the BadgerCare Plus Core Plan waitlist and enroll if it the applicant meets all of the Core Plan program rules, and describes changes in the enrollment policy and process for members. An individual enrolled in the Basic Plan is now exempt from the Core Plan enrollment cap if he or she has any of the following diagnoses: cancer (except non-melanoma skin cancers), hypertension and high cholesterol combined, atherosclerosis, heart failure or heart disease. The member will be enrolled in the Core plan effective the first or fifteenth of the month after his or her completed Core Plan application is received.

[Ops Memo 10-62](#) Updates to W-2 Screening and Assessment Policy and Procedure (*released November 22*)

**New Policy:** Several forms have been updated and amended concerning W-2s, including the Wisconsin Works W-2 Barrier Screening Tool Agreement, Wisconsin Works W-2 Formal Assessment Agreement and Services and Accommodations To Help You Do Your W-2 Activities.

[Ops Memo 10-82](#) CARES Security Changes (*released November 22*)

questions concerning independent review processes can be e-mailed to [Barbara Belling](#).

## Digging into Health Reform: Changes Made to Grandfathered Plan Rules

Prior to health reform becoming law, President Obama emphasized that "if you like your insurance plan, you will be able to keep it." That statement has become a specific provision in health care reform, provided your plan was issued before March 23, 2010. These plans are "grandfathered plans" and are thus exempt from many new reform rules. Initially, plans were to lose this exemption, however, if the coverage they offer changes substantially for the worse. For example, if an employer offering insurance to employees decides to dramatically increase deductibles or stop covering a major disease, the grandfather clause would no longer apply; the plan would become subject to the full array of reform's requirements.



On November 17, 2011, that "grandfathering" rule was changed by an [amendment](#). Now, insured group health plans can change insurance contracts or insurers without losing their "grandfather status," effective November 15, 2010. (This rule won't effect policies that took effect before November 15.) Now, group health plans will look more like self-insured plans in this regard. Also note, this rule does not impact any plans available in the individual market. The Department of Health and Human Services has made a [Fact Sheet](#) available to help explain the grandfathering rule and recent changes.

## Milwaukee Common Council Joins the BCBS Conversation

Recent media attention on the Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) conversion funds has prompted local elected officials to join the conversation. On November 18, Michael Horne of *Milwaukee NewsBuzz* continued the mounting pressure on the BCBS fund trustees after Alderman Michael Murphy called a special hearing of a Milwaukee Common Council Committee. In his article, "[Alderman Blasts How Public Health Funds are Awarded](#)," Murphy is reported to have "heaped blame on the Wisconsin United for Health Foundation Board" (WUHF) for not adequately monitoring how awards are made, while also calling for the media and public to "look into this in more detail and put more pressure on this non-accountable board [the WUHF] on how they allocate these dollars." Murphy disliked that the "lion's share" of money was going to medical schools. When reacting to the 65/35 split, he said, "I've never liked that the grant money is a 65-35 split between the college and public health. I think it should be at least 50-50." Murphy also wants to see a change on who sits on the Board, which he thinks should at least include a representative of the state's largest public health department--Milwaukee. No representatives of WUHF were present at the meeting. [Watch a video](#) of the Common Council Meeting where the WUHF Board was discussed. [Click Here](#) to read the most recent HealthWatch Wisconsin Reporter on the last WUHF Board meeting held in Madison on November 12. [Click Here](#) to read the most recent HealthWatch Wisconsin Reporter on the last WUHF Board meeting, held in Madison on November 12. [Click here](#) to view all of the HealthWatch Wisconsin Reporters following this issue!



Recall Kurt Chandler of *Milwaukee Magazine's* articles: "[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," and "[Mounting Pressure on Med Schools](#)," which appeared in *Milwaukee NewsBuzz*, Nov. 2. (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

**New Policy:** Processing of CARES security requests have changed, now residing within the Department of Health Services. As of November 22, three personnel transferred from the Department of Children and Families to DHS.

### Provider Updates:

[Revised Temporary Enrollment for Family Planning Only Services Application and Instructions](#)

[Clarification for Extraordinary Claims Submission for Professional Services](#)

[Coverage of Certain Asthma Supplies Under the BadgerCare Plus Benchmark Plan, the BadgerCare Plus Core Plan, and the BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan](#)

[Reimbursement for End-Stage Renal Disease Drugs for Members Enrolled in Managed Care Organizations](#)

[New Reimbursement Rates for Certain Radiology Services Effective December 1, 2010](#)

### Employer Sponsored Health Insurance

With health care costs increasing faster than inflation rates, our nation's health system remains stressed. Amidst a period of high unemployment and underemployment, Wisconsin ranks sixth in the nation with 69% of its inhabitants able to obtain employer-sponsored health insurance. According to the Center on Wisconsin Strategy, only 75% of workers ages 18-64 choose to have coverage. That's about 3.3 million people, including a 10% regression among children from 2001-2009. About a quarter of Wisconsin's employed earn poverty wages, which is less than \$10.46 an hour, and only 26% of those working obtain employer-sponsored coverage. Although Medicaid and BadgerCare is available to those most stricken by poverty, most are in a quandary due to unaffordable healthcare, leaving many uninsured. If you know of a family struggling to balance private insurance and state programs, call ABC for Health (800-585-

Leean made in the last year. The UW Foundation charged its endowment \$3.5 million with an additional \$838,900 in administrative costs.)

### 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** has invited Bob Hunt of the Disability Determination Bureau to speak at their next meeting, which will once again be at the Waisman Community Outreach Center on Olin on December 6. 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 on December 6!** Questions or comments can be directed to [Adam VanSpankeren](#).

**The Milwaukee HealthWatch Coalition** will hold its last meeting of the year on Wednesday, December 8. At last month's meeting, the coalition was happy to announce newly elected co-chairs Leah Jepson and Celeste Schulz and new steering committee members Julie Dixon-Seidl and Kris Peterka. In preparation for this transition in the new year, the coalition is also planning a December meeting between outgoing and incoming co-chairs and steering committee members. For more information on the Milwaukee HealthWatch Coalition, please contact [Nora Foshager](#).

**The Dunn County HealthWatch Coalition** will be holding a special luncheon meeting on Thursday, December 2 from 11:45 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Hosted at the Red Cedar Medical Center Education Center, the luncheon will focus on the following topic: "The Dunn County Alcohol Task Force: Promoting Safe and Responsible Alcohol Consumption." It will also feature speaker Tim Hoel, the Lead Prevention Coordinator at Arbor Place, Inc. For more information e-mail [Sandy Nevin](#) or call 715-233-7640.

### Case Tip: BadgerCare Plus Covered Services: Hearing Services

Children and individuals enrolled in BadgerCare Plus Standard Plan coverage will have different levels of coverage for hearing services (hearing aids, batteries, cochlear implants, bone-anchored hearing devices, etc.) than individuals enrolled in the BadgerCare Plus Benchmark Plan. Standard Plan enrollees have "full coverage" for hearing services, according to the BadgerCare Plus Eligibility Handbook ([Section 38.2 Standard and Benchmark Plans](#)). While there may be a co-payment of \$0.50 to \$3 per procedure, there is no co-pay for hearing aid batteries.

How, then, do children on the Benchmark Plan access needed hearing aids or cochlear implants? The Handbook describes that for Benchmark Plan, there is **no coverage** for "hearing aids, hearing aid batteries, cochlear implants and bone-anchored hearing devices." Other coverage is limited to "services provided by an audiologist" with co-payments on the order of \$15 per procedure, regardless of the number of procedures performed during one visit. This doesn't have to be where the inquiry ends on how to cover hearing services for individuals under age 21. Instead, consider using "**HealthCheck Other Services**" for hearing aid coverage.

**For example:** A mother took her child to her primary physician and requested a HealthCheck screening/physical. The primary doctor made a referral to a hearing

4222) to learn about private insurance, BadgerCare Plus eligibility, the rules of "dual eligibility" or how to enroll in other programs such as the state or federal HIRSP plans.

For more information and statistics, visit:

[Employer Sponsored Health Insurance in Wisconsin](#), Center of Wisconsin Strategy. (2010, November).  
[The State of Working Wisconsin](#), Center of Wisconsin Strategy. (2010, September).

### 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](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 (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

specialist. The specialist did an exam, and determined that hearing aids were necessary. They were ordered and covered through the BadgerCare Plus Benchmark Plan as HealthCheck Other Services.

Recall, HealthCheck "Other Services" were not covered under the Benchmark Plan until the August 2010 [Provider Memo 2010-69](#) explained that HealthCheck interperiodic visits and HealthCheck "Other Services" are now covered (effective for dates of service on or after January 1, 2010) by the BadgerCare Plus Benchmark Plan for members 20 years old and younger. The Benchmark Plan covered services now include all four areas of HealthCheck: HealthCheck screenings; Interperiodic visits; Outreach services; and HealthCheck "Other Services." (**Note:** There is an error in the BadgerCare Plus Eligibility Handbook under "Covered Services." It does not reflect this change in coverage.)

## Grapevine: Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Claims Denials!



### New Health Reform Rules Impact Claims and Appeals Notices

Health reform now requires that all internal claims and appeals notices be provided in a "culturally and linguistically appropriate manner." The rule is not straightforward, however. Whether notices will be translated into other languages or if help will be available depends on the size of your insurance plan and when the insurance plan year begins. Generally, the rule is as follows: For self-funded ERISA Plans, the summary plan description (SPD) must offer what is called "non-English assistance" if the plan covers a threshold number of participants who are literate only in the same non-English language. Second, relevant notices must be translated into non-English upon request. Once this request is made, all future notices to that claimant must be translated as well. Where is the threshold? Here are some hints from the [U.S. Department of Labor](#) and [Department of Health and Human Services](#): for "small plans," or those covering fewer than 100 participants at the start of the plan year, translations into non-English is required if 25% or more are "literate in the same non-English language." For "large plans," or those covering more than 100 participants, then "the translated notice rules apply if the lesser of (1) 500 or more participants or (2) 10% or more of all participants are literate only in the same non-English language." In addition, if the plan has a "helpline" for participants, if one of the above thresholds are met, then the helpline must be in multiple languages as well. Plans have a grace period until the middle of 2011 to get prepared for these rules, as long as the plan is operating in "good faith" to implement these new practices.

## CKSN Corner

Covering Kids with Special Needs



**Mark Your Calendars Now**  
**Check Out These Excellent Events in 2010-11!**

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

Emails:

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

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

[dhsmilescustomerservice@wisconsin.gov](mailto:dhsmilescustomerservice@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.

## 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](#)

- **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 Wynne 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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:bmcbride@safetyweb.org).

For more CKSN Resources and Stories, [Click Here](#) to view the CKSN Corner Archive.

## NEWS: Health Care in Wisconsin

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

- [Hospital rates vary widely in Milwaukee area - by Guy Boulton for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, November 19](#)
- [Vital signs: Employer-sponsored health insurance keeps dropping in Wisconsin - by Shawn Doherty for The Capital Times, November 18](#)
- [Adventures in the individual health insurance market - by Fran Zell for Isthmus, November 18](#)

For the rest of Health Care in Wisconsin News, please [click here!](#)

## NEWS: Health Care Reform

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

- [Some States Weigh the Extraordinary: Ending Medicaid - by Janet Adamy and Neil King Jr. for The Wall Street Journal, November 22](#)
- [Consumer Risks Feared as Health Law Spurs Mergers - by Robert Pear for The New York Times, November 20](#)
- [Health Industry Cool To Complete Repeal Of New Law - by Julie Rovner for NPR, November 19](#)

[here](#) for more information.

## Support Our Efforts!

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

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### HealthWatch Wisconsin Update Staff

[Bobby Peterson](#)

[Brynne McBride](#)

[Adam VanSpankeren](#)

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ABC for Health, Inc.  
32 N. Bassett St.  
Madison, WI 53703-2606 USA