



**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
March 25, 2015

Interview:
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HealthWatch WI Salutes Exceptional Advocacy, Outreach in Health Care & Coverage

Madison, WI - On Thursday, March 26, HealthWatch Wisconsin will honor five individuals for outstanding advocacy, outreach, media excellence, or leadership on issues impacting health care and coverage in Wisconsin. The awards ceremony is part of the 8th Annual HealthWatch Wisconsin Conference titled, "R U Covered?" convening Thursday in Madison. "These awards recognize those doing exceptional work on the 'ground level' with families as they navigate health care and coverage," says Brynne McBride, COO of ABC for Health and Project Director of its HealthWatch Wisconsin Project. "We recognize excellence in communicating health coverage issues in a clear, unbiased way. And, we are pleased to recognize co-awardees for the 'elected official' that honor County Board Supervisors from Lincoln and Portage (in memoriam*) County." continues McBride. Receiving HealthWatch honors this year are:

Advocate of the Year: Patricia Sarvela, of Partnership Community Health Center, will receive the Advocate of the Year Award. Patricia provided outstanding advocacy on issues impacting health coverage and care for residents in Wisconsin.

Outreach Effort of the Year: Rita Bohn, of Polk County Health Department, will receive the Outreach Effort of the Year Award. Rita showed an exceptional commitment to outreach and education on health reform implementation in Northwestern Wisconsin.

Outstanding Media of the Year: Adam Rodewald, of the Green Bay Press Gazette, receives an award for media excellence related to reporting access to health care and coverage issues in Wisconsin.

Elected Official of the Year: Jim Alber, Supervisor of Lincoln County, and **Joanne Suomi* (In Memoriam)**, Supervisor of Portage County, are co-award winners recognized for exemplary leadership on access to health care coverage and service issues for constituents.

If You Go:

What: HealthWatch will present our Annual Awards at a special luncheon that coincides with the 8th Annual HealthWatch Wisconsin Conference.

Date: Thursday, March 26, 12:30-1:00pm

Place: Best Western Plus Inn on the Park, Hall of WI Ballroom (22 S. Carroll St., Madison)

Special Instructions: *Press:* Please check in at the Registration Table when you arrive. Registration is required to attend the full conference.

HealthWatch Wisconsin is a project of ABC for Health, Inc., a Wisconsin-based, nonprofit, public interest law firm dedicated to linking children and families, particularly those with special health care needs, to health care benefits and services. ABC for Health's mission is to provide information, advocacy tools, legal services, and expert support needed to obtain, maintain, and finance health care coverage and services.

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