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A Project of ABC for Health, Inc.
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Coalition Meetings by County

Barron: Next Meeting February 2010, date TBA, 1:00-2:00pm. Barron County Workforce Resource, Inc., 331 S. Main St., Ste. 6, Rice Lake. Contact Mike Rust at (715) 485-8525 or miker@co.polk.wi.us with questions.

Chippewa: TBA, 10:45am-12:00pm. Chippewa County Courthouse, Room 121, 711 N. Bridge St., Chippewa Falls. Contact Rose Marsh at 1-800-400-3678 or

HealthWatch Wisconsin Update

Please click here to view the PDF version on our Web site.

Last Day to Register: February 1st!!

- 2010 HealthWatch Conference Registration Deadline!!
- Learn about "Retroactive PAs"
- Connect to Telecommunications Assistance in WI
- and More!

Conference Registration Deadline This Monday!

The 3rd Annual HealthWatch Wisconsin Conference



Who's Coming: Advocates, policy makers, regulators, academics, HMO representatives, hospital personnel, and more!

Conference Themes: National health reform conversations have changed daily, and BadgerCare Plus in Wisconsin is poised for big changes! Take advantage of learning the latest on both topics in one spot!!

What People are Talking About: Those registered to attend have expressed huge interest in some of our new workshops for this year:

- New Mental Health Coverage Options & Proposals;
- New Wisconsin Private Health Insurance Reforms with Commissioner of Insurance Sean Dilweg;
- The Fixers: Troubleshooting BadgerCare Plus Eligibility and Coverage Issues;
- Perspectives on Health Reform from Labor, Hospitals, Physicians & Advocates, and the WI Legislature!;
- Working with the Media; and
- BadgerCare Plus Program Outreach Strategies

rmarsh@co.chippewa.wi.us with questions.

Dane: February 1, 9:00-11:00am. Harambee Center, 2202 S. Park St., Madison. Contact Erin McBride at (608) 261-6939, ext. 211 or emcbride@safetyweb.org with questions.

Dunn: Next Meeting TBA. Red Cedar Medical Center (Education Center), 2321 Stout Rd., Menomonie. Contact Patrick Rebman at (715) 233-7309 or rebman.patrick@mayo.edu with questions.

Eau Claire: March 11, 12:00-1:30pm. Luther Hospital Cafeteria, Dining Room 1, 1221 Whipple St., Eau Claire. Contact Lou Kelsey at (715) 834-4455 or lkelseyefww@sbcglobal.net or Pat Perkins at (715) 839-4718 or pat.perkins@co.eau-claire.wi.us with questions.

Milwaukee: February 10, 9:30am-11:30am. Aurora Family Services, 3200 W. Highland Blvd., Milwaukee. Contact Kari Mattson at (414) 449-4777, ext. 145 or karim@communityadvocates.net or Tanya Atkinson at (414) 289-3749 with questions.

Milwaukee CHASE (Children's Health Access for the Special and Equal): February 18, 11:30am-1:30pm. ARC of Milwaukee, 7203 W. Center St., Milwaukee. Contact Brad Holman at (414) 266-3189 or bholman@chw.org with questions.

Polk: February 2010 TBA, 10:45am-12:00pm. Polk County Health Department, Conference Room A & B, 100 Polk County Plaza, Balsam Lake. Contact Mike Rust at (715) 485-8525 or miker@co.polk.wi.us with questions.

Coalitions Under Development

La Crosse: Contact Lindsey Schwarz

Agenda: See a full listing of all our workshops and plenary sessions on the [Conference Agenda](#)

Location: Best Western Inn on the Park, 22 S. Carroll Street, Madison, WI

Conference Dates: Monday, February 8, 2010, 1:00pm-5:00pm; Tuesday, February 9, 2010, 8:30am-4:30pm

REGISTER TODAY!! [Click Here](#) to Register Online -or- Download our Conference [Registration Form](#). Registration is open December 1, 2009 through February 1, 2010. Any registrations on or after February 2, 2010 will be subject to a **late fee**. Conference participants are responsible for their own lodging accommodations. Read hotel accommodation information on our [conference website](#).

Congratulations to the Winners!

First Annual HealthWatch Wisconsin Awards!!

Help us Congratulate our Winners! The inaugural recipients of the HealthWatch Wisconsin Awards:

- Advocate of the Year: **Julie Baryluk**, Polk County Health Department
- Outstanding Outreach Effort of the Year: **Kris Peterka**, Riverwest Initiative, Milwaukee
- Outstanding Media: **Shamane Mills**, Wisconsin Public Radio
- Legislator of the Year: Senate: **Sen. Mark Miller** (Monona); Assembly: **Rep. Donna Seidel** (Wausau)

The ceremony to honor these individuals doing outstanding work in the field of public health will coincide with the 3rd Annual HealthWatch Wisconsin Conference. Join us Monday, February 8, 2010, from 6:00pm-8:00pm at the Best Western Inn on the Park, Top of the Park Ballroom. We'll celebrate with our winners and hear special remarks from Wisconsin's Department of Health Services Secretary Timmerlake and ABC for Health's Executive Director Bobby Peterson. If you plan to attend the entire conference, please [register for the conference](#) before February 1st. If you intend to come just for the awards reception, please [RSVP to Brynne](#) at ABC for Health.

Case Tip: Retroactive Prior Authorization

What happens when your Medicaid or BadgerCare Plus coverage starts before the date your application is approved (back dated retroactive eligibility) and some of the medical services you received in the "backdate" period require a prior authorization? Can you get those services paid for by Medicaid or

at (608) 785-5841 or Schwarz.lindsey@co.la-crosse.wi.us with questions.

Tri-County Coalition: Winnebago, Calumet and Outagamie Counties. February 23, 9a.m., Goodwill Community Center, Menasha Room. A representative from Economic Support will be present to answer questions about common problems. Contact Susan Garcia Franz at susan.garciafranz@ppwi.org for more information.

Resources

Domestic Abuse Intervention Services (new website!) - Offers crisis support, shelter and advocacy to victims of domestic abuse and their families in Dane County. www.abuseintervention.com

Energy Services, Inc. of Dane County: The home energy plus program can help with high energy costs. To apply for energy assistance, call (608) 267-8601. Grants are available, as well as home weatherization. For those who are homebound due to physical disability, a worker will visit the home. ESI also provides emergency after-hours assistance – just call! Call ESI for more information on qualifying and applying.

Kaiser's Consumer-Directed Health Care (CDHC) Resources: A narrated slide tutorial on principles and different models of CDHC (click here), its companion issue module on the latest research and policy analysis on CDHC (click here), and the results of Kaiser's Health Poll Search on CDHC (click here) are all available from the Kaiser Family Foundation.

Knowledge Path is a web-based guide from the Maternal and Child Health Library at Georgetown

BadgerCare? Yes!!

An important feature of BadgerCare Plus is backdated* eligibility for coverage. The back-date feature is your ticket to secure certain health coverage for treatments before your application approval. However, for certain medical services, drugs or equipment, Medicaid or BadgerCare Plus requires prior authorization (PA) or approval before services are eligible for reimbursement. If your medical services are in a back-date period and require a PA you are still eligible for coverage. Remember to ask your worker about retroactive eligibility for Medicaid.

Example: Sally applies for BadgerCare Plus on September 21, 2009. At that time, she requests to have her coverage backdated to the first day of the month, September 1, 2009. After Sally applies for coverage, but before she finds out about her eligibility for benefits, she has several medical appointments. Sally receives her ForwardHealth card in October and learns that she is retroactively eligible for BadgerCare Plus. Her benefits are active from September 1, 2009 onward. While Medicaid now covers most of her medical care from September, her benefits won't automatically cover certain appointments that require a Prior Authorization (PA).

Sally's medical provider must complete a *retroactive prior authorization* request. Sally's provider should have the PA request forms that include a section to describe the services provided. The provider must identify the specific services Sally received while she was eligible for benefits, and the actual date of each service. If Medicaid approves the PA, Sally will be covered beginning September 1, 2009--the date her BadgerCare Plus benefits began.

*Back-date periods for BadgerCare Plus may include the month of application and the three previous months if the family has a household income under 150% FPL for each of those months. For households with income over 150% FPL, BadgerCare Plus will only backdate to the first day of the month of application.

New Data on Medicaid, Health Reform, and More!

1. This week, the Kaiser Foundation's Statehealthfacts.org added new and updated data on [Demographics and the Economy](#), [Health Status](#), [Medicaid & CHIP](#), [Medicare](#), [Managed Care & Health Insurance](#), and [Women's Health](#). You can also view a list of all [recent updates](#) on their website.
2. The [Congressional Budget Office](#) has Published the following:

University that points to current, high-quality resources on caring for CYSHCN. Separate sections list resources on specific aspects of care and development, such as adolescent transition, advocacy, financing, and screening. To access this resource, please click here.

Wisconsin First Step can help you find resources for children birth to 21 with special needs. Staff are on-hand 24 hours a day to answer calls and can provide follow-up and materials on specific diseases or conditions. Call (800) 642-7837 with questions. Language interpretation and TTY services are available. You can also email wispubhealth@mch-hotlines.org or [visit their website](#).

Links of Interest

North Central Wisconsin Area Health Education Center -All Things New: Spring Parish Nurse Workshop

Marquette Law School - Public Interest Law Society's 17th Annual Howard B. Eisenberg Do-Gooders' Auction

Catalyst Center – A national center dedicated to improving health care insurance and financing for CYSHCN www.hdwg.org/

The Commonwealth Fund – A private foundation working toward a high performance health system. <http://www.cmwf.org>

Cover the Uninsured Web site – Organization that sponsors annual Cover the Uninsured Week. <http://covertheuninsured.org>

Family Voices– Speaking on behalf of CYSHCN. www.familyvoices.org

Kaiser Family Foundation – A

- [An Analysis of the Roadmap for America's Future Act of 2010](#)
January 27, 2010 [pdf](#) Letter to the Honorable Paul Ryan
- [Additional Information on the Effect of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act on the Hospital Insurance Trust Fund](#)
January 22, 2010 [pdf](#) Letter to the Honorable Jeff Sessions

3. The [Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's Medical Expenditure Panel Survey](#) (MEPS) is a set of large-scale surveys of families and individuals, their medical providers, and employers across the United States. MEPS summary data tables containing national estimates of [medical expenditures](#), [medical conditions](#), [access to care](#), and [quality of care](#) are now available.

4. The [Center for Health Care Strategies](#) published a wide array of materials to share policy and operational lessons for improving Medicaid quality. Download Policy Briefs, Toolkits, and Reports online, including: [Improving Medicaid Managed Care for Youth with Serious Behavioral Health Needs: A Quality Improvement Toolkit](#).

Did You Know: Low-Cost Telephone Services in Wisconsin

Individuals in Wisconsin who benefit from some State assistance programs may also be eligible for telecommunications assistance through the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin! Take a few minutes to review some information on LifeLine and Link-Up services in Wisconsin to see if individuals you work with may benefit!

What is Lifeline?

A discount on monthly charges for basic local telephone service (wireless OR landline phone). LifeLine makes it easier for families to afford their phone bill, so they can contact emergency services (911), medical providers, social service agencies, schools, family members, and friends. ABC for Health has filmed a new video on Lifeline and Link-up services. Please [click here](#) to view the video!

What is Link-Up?

Link-Up: Help with the cost of having telephone service installed, and keeping up with monthly phone bills. This is a big help for people struggling to pay for a new phone connection, especially for people who frequently move. Link-Up pays the charges normally associated with:

- New service installation
- Moves from one residence to another

non-profit, private operating foundation focusing on the major health care issues facing the nation. www.kff.org/

Parent to Parent USA – A national non-profit organization committed to assuring access and quality in Parent to Parent support across the country. www.p2pusa.org

HealthWatch Wisconsin Membership

There has never been a better time to become a member of HealthWatch Wisconsin. Whether you are joining for the first time or renewing your membership, you are teaming up with an impressive new effort in Wisconsin that will work to focus and amplify the voices of health care advocates across the state. HealthWatch Wisconsin members benefit from:

Access to detailed publications on advocacy strategies and tips

Discounted registration for conferences, events and trainings, including a HUGE discount for the annual HealthWatch Wisconsin Conference

A chance to win in our Packer Ticket Prize Drawing

Access to online and live trainings on health care coverage programs

Your individual membership fee is still only \$20 and ensures that you are lending your voice and passion toward developing a more comprehensive system of health care and coverage. Your workplace can purchase an **organizational**

- Reconnection of an existing service.

Who is Eligible?

The Public Service Commission has stated that if you are in a household who qualifies for a listed state benefit, and you are at about 135% of the Federal Poverty Level, you may be eligible for assistance. Here are the guidelines listed on their website:

1. Households are eligible if they receive benefits from:

- WI Homestead Tax Credit (Schedule H)
- Wisconsin Works (W2)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Medical Assistance (MA)*
- BadgerCare*
- FoodShare
- Low Income Home Energy
- Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

2. Total household income is 135% FPL or lower (\$14,621/yr for a single individual; \$29,768/yr for household of 4)

To Apply:

Call your local telephone company and ask to apply for Link-Up or Lifeline service for Wisconsin residents.

Major providers:

- Centurytel: (800) 201-4099
- AT&T: (800) 440-9853
- Verizon North: (800) 483-4000
- TDS Telecom: (800) 225-5837
- View the complete [LIST OF WISCONSIN PHONE COMPANIES](#) here

More info on Lifeline and Link-Up and how to apply is available at: www.lifeline.gov/lifeline_Consumers.html

Updates from DHS

Below, find Wisconsin's Department of Health Services (DHS) Operation Memos (Ops Memos) or information updates, with brief summaries and rationales drawn from the information provided by DHS. Any "Opinions" highlighted below are interpretations of HealthWatch Wisconsin staff and Update editors. Follow the links to view the actual memos:

[Ops Memo 10-12](#): Wisconsin Works (W2)/Child Care (CC) Eligibility Review Due Letter (released January 27)

New Policy: As of February 12, 2010, DCF and DHS will split up the 45-day Eligibility Review Due Letters by program. The letters will be referred to as CMRV letters. Income Maintenance

membership for just \$75. Click [here](#) for more information about HealthWatch Wisconsin and the ticket drawings, or call Brynne at 1-800-585-4222 ext. 210.

New Materials

Read the State Health Access Reform Evaluation (Share) on "[Wisconsin's BadgerCare Plus Coverage Evaluation and Simplification: Early Data on Program Impact](#)" from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

The Kaiser Family Foundation released new issue briefs examining the implications of the Medicare buy-in program for [women](#), [older adults](#), [low-income children](#), and [immigrants](#). You can see all of the Kaiser Foundation's research tools and resources on health reform [here](#).

Calls for Submissions and Volunteers

[ABC for Health](#) is seeking legal interns for Summer 2010! All interested volunteers, students with public interest fellowships or work-study awards are encouraged to apply by sending an email with a cover letter and resume to bmcbride@safetyweb.org.

Researchers at the University of Wisconsin-Madison seek volunteers for a study of social and communication abilities of toddlers (18-36 months) with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Participation would include observations of you

Review Due letters will still be issued separately.

Rationale: To make process and instructions to consumers easier to understand and to streamline processing.

Ops Memo 10-11: Child Care in ACCESS and Approved Activity Code Change (released January 22)

New Policy: As of January 23, 2010, users of the ACCESS website will be to check their eligibility and apply for child care services. They will also be able to report changes online, initiate annual reviews and submit Six Month Review Forms online. All verification and interview requirements remain unchanged.

Rationale: The ability to apply for child care services through ACCESS will improve program outreach and availability and strengthen its integrity.

Opinion: Remember, ABC for Health will host a training on Advancement in ACCESS, Feb. 8, 2010 at 4:05 PM, at the the Third Annual Health Watch Wisconsin Conference.

Ops Memo 10-10: Expansion of Medicaid and BadgerCare Plus Eligibility for Non-Citizen Children and Pregnant Women (released January 25)

New Policy: Changes to the Oct. 1 lifting of the 5-year ban for benefits for non-citizens, to include certain populations classified as a non-immigrant status. This includes temporary resident status, temporary protective status, temporary religious or aid workers, non-citizens engaged to citizens entering the country to marry, permanent legal non-immigrants from Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, or Palau, and several other categories. Individuals under 21 who are institutionalized shall also be eligible.

Rationale: The expansion expands coverage to certain groups whose status may be more complicated than standard immigration situations.

BC+ Core Plan: DHS Resources

- [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 and coordination issues 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

and your child, interviews, forms and surveys, and education and training -all in your home. Interested families should contact Laura Mulford, M.S. in the School Psychology Program at 847-721-8283 or mulford@wisc.edu or Jennifer Asmus, Ph.D. in the School of Education at 608-262-3027 or asmus@wisc.edu.

Help Wanted

Executive Director, Madison Area Down Syndrome Society (MADSS), part-time. Lead efforts to provide information, social support and resources to people affected by Down Syndrome in South Central Wisconsin. Manage fundraising and budget, create goals and operational procedures for staff and volunteers, and collaborate with related organizations. Some travel and weekend hours required. Bachelor's degree, excellent communication skills, experience in fundraising required. Experience working with individuals with disabilities preferred. Average 25 hrs. per week, salary commensurate with experience. Send a cover letter with resume to executivesearch@madss.org.

Member, UW School of Medicine and Public Health Oversight and Advisory Committee - The Wisconsin Partnership Program is seeking nominations to replace a public member vacancy on the UW School of Medicine and Public Health Oversight and Advisory Committee (OAC) in the categories of advocates representing an urban or minority community, children, or senior citizens. The goal of the OAC is to advance population health in Wisconsin by executing its stewardship responsibility in

Enrollment Services (MiES) contacts:

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

Mail : Milwaukee Enrollment Services Center (MiES), P.O. Box 05676, Milwaukee, WI 53205-0676

FAX: (414) 438-4580

In Person: 1220 W Vliet Street -or- UMOS Job Center Southeast, 2701 South Chase Ave. -or- clients can call 211 for information on a community access point in their area

Emails:

- dhsmls@wisconsin.gov - for new applications, verifications, etc.
- dhsmlschanges@wisconsin.gov - for scanning changes (HTF only scanning changes from cases)
- dhsmlscustomerservice@wisconsin.gov - Note: This is an email for advocates only: use to email MiES with advocate questions.

Message from Sarah Fraley, WI Department of Health Services, for Milwaukee County: "**Just as a reminder:** As the Wisconsin Department of Health Services assumes full administration of income maintenance functions in Milwaukee County on January 1, 2010, we are asking for the assistance of community organizations to help us get the word out to Milwaukee County residents about changes in our contact information. Please assist us by disseminating fliers in areas where residents will see the information. If you would like to request full size posters and tear off sheets in English, Spanish or Hmong, you can order them online." Also available online: the Referral Sheet and Guide to Applying. For any other questions, please contact Sarah Fraley.

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



Mark Your Calendars Now
Check Out These Excellent Events in 2009!

partnership with the School of Medicine and Public Health, and in accordance with the Insurance Commissioner's Order and the five-year plan. To learn more about The Wisconsin Partnership Program, visit our [website](#).

Customer Service Representatives, Automated Health Systems. Part time and full time needed for Madison office. Knowledge of BadgerCare Plus and Forward Health Programs desired. HS Diploma/GED required, Associates degree preferred. Bilingual Spanish a plus. For more information, contact Katie Stewart, HR Specialist/Recruiter, at (800)506-3032 ext. 2361. \$12/hr. Apply to hr@automated-health.com or online at www.automated-health.com, or fax resumes to 412-367-1131.

Previous Issues of the Update: (in PDF form)

[January 15](#)

[January 8 Special Edition](#)

[December 15](#)

[December 1](#)

[November 15](#)

[November 1](#)

[October 20 Special Edition](#)

[October 15](#)

[October 1](#)

[September 15](#)

- **Autism Society of Southeastern Wisconsin Parenting Series - Oct. 17 through May 15**, Nicolet High School, D-Wing Library, Glendale, WI, 9:30-11:30am. October's topic: No More Meltdowns. Call (414)427-9345 or email info@assew.org to register.
- **ASW Annual Conference: "Positively Autism" - March 18-20, 2010**, Keynote speakers include Paula Kluth, Ph.D., Temple Grandin, Ph.D. and Eric Courchesne, Ph.D. Early Bird registration open until November 25, 2009. For more information, visit www.asw4autism.org.
- **9th Annual Wisconsin Youth Leadership Forum - June 22 - July 2, 2010**, Edgewood College campus, Madison. A FREE weeklong leadership and development program for high school students with disabilities. Students will sharpen leadership and self-advocacy skills, increase career opportunity awareness, experience college life, hear from successful speakers from across the state, and develop their own Personal Leadership Plan. Applications are due March 1, 2010, and include 2 brief essays and 3 letters of recommendation. To apply, click [here](#).

Wisconsin First Step Help Book 2010 A Directory of Services for Children with Special Needs Directories are now [available on-line](#). Five regional directories are available, each serving specific counties in Wisconsin. Directories are produced in "real-time" with the most up-to-date information provided at the time they are downloaded. For information or assistance in downloading the directories please contact Teresa Halverson or Karen Brandt at [Wisconsin First Step](#); 1-800-642-7837.

Updated Contact Listing (12/10/2009) for the Regional CYSHCN Centers. Questions? [Email Jayne Vargas](#)

Katie Beckett Program Consultants: [View the Map and Listing of Consultants](#)

CDC Materials on H1N1 for Parents of Children with Complex Medical Needs: Earlier this month, the Center for Disease Control released [this brochure](#) for parents of children with special health needs who may be more at risk for contracting the virus.

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

Champions for Inclusive Communities published a [fact sheet](#) on the 2005/6 National Survey of CSHCN.

Special Issue of *Pediatrics* Devoted to Analyses from the 2005-2006 National Survey of Children with Special Health Care Needs.

[September 1](#)

[August 15](#)

[August 1](#)

All other issues can be viewed on our website at www.healthwatchwisconsin.org, under the "HWW Update" heading.

Recent HealthWatch WatchDog Episodes:

Season 3:

Episode 1: ["What's Next for Health Care Reform"](#)

Season 2:

Episode 15: ["Making Sense of National Health Reform"](#)

Episode 13: [BadgerCare Plus Core Plan and Health Care Reform](#)

Episode 12: [Health Reform and Campaign Finance Reform](#)

Episode 11: [Access to Health Care--A Moral Imperative](#)

Episode 10: [A Public Option](#)

Episode 9: [Health Reform: Patient Advocacy](#)

Episode 8: [Fact or Fiction](#)

HealthWatch WatchDog episodes are now available to everyone who receives the HealthWatch Wisconsin Update! **Watch all other episodes at www.healthwatchwisconsin.org. Just click on "HW WatchDog"**

The survey can be [accessed online](#). You can also request a paper copy by e-mailing [Steph Toomer](#). The articles can also be [accessed online](#).

NEWS: Health Care in Wisconsin

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

- [State of the State Address: Doyle Puts Priority on Jobs, Transit - by Patrick Marley and Lee Bergquist for *The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, January 26](#)
- [Press Release: Wisconsin Heroes Recognized by Governor Doyle in State of the State Address - Office of the Governor, January 26](#)
- [Press Release: Sen. Leibham, Rep. Vos Introduce Health Care Freedom Amendment - Sen Joe Leibman and Rep. Robin Vos, January 25](#)
- [Experts Skeptical About State's New Insurance Plan - by Jake Miller for *The Wausau Daily Herald*, January 22](#)
- [Press Release: What's Next for National Health Reform? - ABC for Health, January 21](#)
- [Doyle Proposes BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan to Help the Uninsured - by Jason Stein for *The Wisconsin State Journal*, January 21](#)
- [Wisconsin Dental Association Argues More Medicaid Funding Needed - by David Wahlberg for *The Wisconsin State Journal*, January 19.](#)
- [LaCrosse Dodges New Law Meant to Provide Equitable Mental Health Coverage - by Shawn Doherty for *The Capital Times*, January 19](#)

NEWS: Health Care Reform

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

- [President Obama rumbles with House GOP - by Patrick O'Connor and Tim Grieve for *Politico*, January 29](#)
- [Obama on Health Care: What a Difference a Year Makes - *Kaiser Health News*, January 28](#)
- [Health Care Gives Way - by David M. Herszenhorn and Robert Pear for *The New York Times*, January 28](#)
- [Health Care Decision a Week Away, say Democrats - by Shailagh Murray for *The Washington Post* 44 Politics and Policy Blog, January 27](#)
- [House Progressives push Reid to put public option back on table - by Ryan Grim for *The Huffington Post*, January 27](#)
- [Democrats Put Lower Priority on Health Bill - by David M. Herszenhorn and Robert Pear for *The New York Times*, January 27](#)

from the menu on the left.

Episode 14: [Elements of Patient Advocacy in National Health Reform Bills](#)

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!

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 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

- [Back Room Health Care Deals Fuel Voter Anger - by Charles Babington for *The Associated Press*, January 27](#)
- [Poll Shows Growing Fears on Health Care Overhaul - by Erica Werner for *The Associated Press*, January 26](#)
- [White House Defends Health Legislation Despite Senate Loss - by Jim Puzanghera for *The Los Angeles Times*, January 25](#)
- [McCain Nudges Obama Toward His Party's Health Plans - by Joseph Berger for *The New York Times*, January 25](#)
- [A New Search for Consensus on Health Care Bill - by Robert Pear and David M. Herszenhorn for *The New York Times*, January 22](#)
- [House Democrats Reluctant to Take Up Senate Health-Care Reform Bill - by Shailagh Murray for *The Washington Post*, January 21](#)
- [Obama, Allies Now Seek Pared-Down Health Care Bill - by Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar for *Associated Press*, January 20](#)
- [Senate Election in Massachusetts Could Be Harbinger for Health Reform - by Dan Balz and Chris Cillizza for *The Washington Post*, January 19](#)
- [Health Overhaul Leaves Gap for Disabled Workers - by Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar for *Associated Press*, January 18](#)
- [If Air Travel Worked Like Health Care - by Jeffrey Goldberg for *The Atlantic*, January 6 \(video\)](#)

NEWS: Opinion

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

- [Op-Ed: Lessons from Massachusetts: Campaigning Beats Governing Into Submission, Again - by Austin Frakt and Steve Pizer for *Kaiser Health News*, January 28](#)
- [Op-Ed: Democrats must find their voice on healthcare reform - by James Morone for *the LA Times*, January 27](#)
- [Editorial: State of Doyle's State vs. State of Obama's Union - *The Capital Times*, January 27](#)
- [Opposing Views on Health Care Bill - *All Things Considered*, January 26](#)
- [Editorial: Don't Give Up Now - *The New York Times*, January 26](#)
- [Editorial: Health Diplomacy - *The Washington Post*, January 24](#)
- [Op-Ed: Why ObamaCare Will Raise Your Bill - by David Whelan for *Forbes*, January 18](#)

Mental Health/AODA

Click below for the latest articles on Mental Health and AODA:

- [Study Points at a Clear-Cut Way to Diagnose PTSD - by](#)

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 and Happy New Year!**

Contact Us

We need your help to develop content and tips for our bi-weekly HWW Update. Please let us know about your ideas, events, or success stories. Email your suggestions to mlarowe@safetyweb.org or call (800) 585-4222 ext. 216. If you would like to submit news and information for future HWW Updates, please send it to the attention of Marysa LaRowe. All submissions should be limited to 150 words.

HealthWatch Wisconsin Update Staff

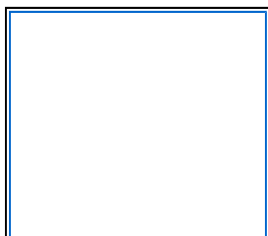
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ABC for Health, Inc. is a Wisconsin-based, nonprofit public interest law firm dedicated to linking children and families, particularly those with special health care needs, to health care benefits and services. ABC for Health's mission is to provide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

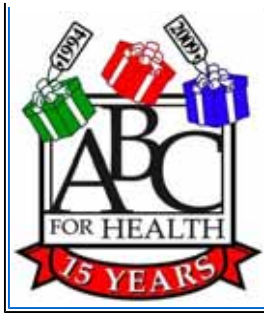


[Mark Thompson for Time, January 25](#)

- [Press Release: Temporary Assistance for Families Funds Available for Families Needing Short-Term Mental Health and Substance Use Treatment Services - SAMSHA, January 21](#)
- [Army Wives Battle with Own Mental Health - by Joseph Shapiro for All Things Considered, NPR News, January 19](#)

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