

[refresh page](#)

[www.healthwatchwisconsin.org](http://www.healthwatchwisconsin.org)

## The HealthWatch Wisconsin Update Newsletter

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

February 15 , 2010

Vol. 6 No. 3

### New Format!

The HealthWatch Wisconsin Update is getting a make-over, with wider columns and easy to read colors. Enjoy this new format! The printable version of this newsletter can be accessed [HERE](#).

### In This Issue:

HealthWatch Wisconsin Conference a Success!

Members of HealthWatch Wisconsin: CAST YOUR VOTE!

Registration is Now Open for April Workshops

Meet Us at the Bucks Game!!

BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan Before the WI Legislature

Case Tip: "I Need a PA, Stat!"

Procedures for Faster Prior Authorizations

Major Changes to Mental Health Diagnoses - Share Your Feedback  
Updates from DHS

BC+ Core Plan: DHS Resources

Mark Your Calendars Now

NEWS: Health Care in Wisconsin

NEWS: Health Care Reform

NEWS: Opinion

NEWS: Health Care Costs and Access

NEWS: Supporting the Disabled

### Local HealthWatch Coalition Meetings:

**Barron:** February 17, 2010, 12:00-1:00pm. Barron County Workforce Resource, Inc., 331 S. Main St., Ste. 6, Rice Lake. Contact Mike Rust at

### HealthWatch Wisconsin Conference a Success!

#### Thanks to everyone who attended the 3rd annual Conference!

We are pleased to report that the 3rd annual HealthWatch Wisconsin Conference was a huge success. Thank you to all who attended and participated, and especially to the speakers who shared their knowledge with HealthWatch members from across the state. Many of you braved the snow to participate!



Congratulations again to all of the winners of the 2009 HealthWatch Wisconsin Awards: Julie Baryluk, Advocate of the Year; Shamane Mills, Media Effort of the Year; Kris Peterka, Outreach Effort of the Year; (pictured below) and Representative Donna Seidel and Senator Mark Miller, Legislators of the Year (pictured at right with ABC for Health's Bobby Peterson.)



### Miss the Conference? CDs Available for Sale!

If you were unable to join us at the Third Annual HealthWatch Wisconsin Conference and would like a copy of all the session powerpoint presentations, publications, resources and tools on BadgerCare Plus, BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan, Health Reform and more, purchase the

Conference CD! You may also receive all 12 ABC for Health publications and resources, a \$185 value, on your CD if you are a HealthWatch Wisconsin Member!

**Contents:** Publications such as the 2010 Resources Guide, AdvoKit, "You and Your Medical Debt," HealthWatch Toolkit, and More! Conference powerpoints on BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan, BadgerCare Plus Troubleshooting, Child Support and Lying-In



(715) 485-8525 or [miker@co.polk.wi.us](mailto: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 [rmarsh@co.chippewa.wi.us](mailto:rmarsh@co.chippewa.wi.us) with questions.

**Dane:** March 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](mailto:emcbride@safetyweb.org) with questions.

**Dunn:** February 24, 2010, 11:45am-1:00pm. Red Cedar Medical Center (Education Center), 2321 Stout Rd., Menomonie. Contact Patrick Rebman at (715) 233-7309 or [rebman.patrick@mayo.edu](mailto:rebman.patrick@mayo.edu) with questions.

**Eau Claire:** March 11, 2010, 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](mailto:lkelseyefww@sbcglobal.net) or Pat Perkins at (715) 839-4718 or [pat.perkins@co.eau-claire.wi.us](mailto:pat.perkins@co.eau-claire.wi.us) with questions.

**Milwaukee:** March 10, 2010, 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](mailto: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](mailto:bholman@chw.org) with questions.

**Polk:** February 18, 2010, 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](mailto:miker@co.polk.wi.us) with questions.

#### Coalitions Under Development

Costs, Private Insurance Reforms in WI, Katie Beckett Functional Screens and much more! [Click Here to view a CD Table of Contents](#). **Price:** HealthWatch Wisconsin Member \$65; Non-Members \$135

**To Purchase a Conference CD**, please print and mail/fax a [CD order form](#), or call ABC for Health 608-261-6939 ext. 210.

## Members of HealthWatch Wisconsin: CAST YOUR VOTE!

### HealthWatch Membership Votes for the Next Leadership Council

At the February 8 & 9, 2010 Annual HealthWatch Wisconsin Conference, HealthWatch Wisconsin members were given the opportunity to vote for members of the HealthWatch Wisconsin Council. Any HealthWatch Wisconsin member who was unable to attend the conference has the opportunity to vote as well! **Watch your email! A ballot will be sent electronically to all members.** The new HealthWatch Wisconsin Council will serve approx. 3-year terms, helping to guide the leadership, training and sustainability of the HealthWatch organization.

All ballots must be received by the end of the day on Friday, March 26. The election results will be announced in the HealthWatch Wisconsin Update Newsletter on April 1.

## Registration is Now Open for April Workshops

If you are in northwestern Wisconsin, this workshop is for you! Join ABC for Health at a conference for Public Health, Advocates, and Volunteer Attorneys.

#### Details:

**Event: Health Care Reform & Medicaid Eligibility: Coverage Expansions & Retention Strategies**

**Time:** 9:00am-4:00pm

**Date:** Tuesday, April 13

**Place:** Western Regional Office, 610 Gibson Street, Room 123, Eau Claire, WI

**Cost:** Free for members of HealthWatch Wisconsin, low cost for all other registrants. Option for all to purchase a box lunch

**To Register:** [Click here](#) for more information and a registration form.

#### Schedule:

9:00am-12:00pm Morning Session: "Medicaid Changes with Health Reform" We'll start the day with eligibility and coverage options for Adults with No Dependent Children: BadgerCare Plus Core Plan (and re-certification!); BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan; and the future of these Medicaid programs after health reform (learn the latest!).

12:00pm-1:00pm LUNCH: Feel free to network and mingle over the lunch hour! Please indicate on the registration form if you would like to purchase a box lunch.

1:00pm-4:00pm Afternoon Session: "3 Steps to Family Health Coverage" including a review of program eligibility; strategies to promote retention of Medicaid/BadgerCare Plus coverage for children; and troubleshooting common problem areas and identify local funding options to support your work.

## Coming Soon!!

**La Crosse:** Contact Lindsey Schwarz at (608) 785-5841 or [Schwarz.lindsey@co.la-crosse.wi.us](mailto:Schwarz.lindsey@co.la-crosse.wi.us) with questions.

**Tri-County Coalition:** Winnebago, Calumet and Outagamie Counties. February 23, 2010, 9:00-10:00am, Goodwill Community Center, Menasha Room. Contact Susan Garcia Franz at [susan.garciafranz@ppwi.org](mailto:susan.garciafranz@ppwi.org) for more information.

## Resources

**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 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

Stay tuned for an announcement about our **Immigrant Health Coverage Training** for 2010 that will include the latest information on expansions in health coverage under the new CHIPRA legislation. Weigh in on where you would like to see this spring training as we plan the details for this event.

Call Brynne at (608)261-6939 ext 210 or email: [bmcbride@safetyweb.org](mailto:bmcbride@safetyweb.org).

## Meet Us at the Bucks Game!!

### Limited Number of Tickets for the February 20th Game!

Members of HealthWatch Wisconsin are invited to join the staff of HealthWatch Wisconsin at a Milwaukee Bucks Game! We have a limited number of tickets, available on a first-come, first serve basis!

#### Milwaukee Bucks versus Charlotte Bobcats Saturday, February 20, 2010

7:30pm at the Bradley Center

Tickets are FREE to HealthWatch Wisconsin members.

Tickets are sponsored by player Ersan Ilyasova

Call Brynne at (608)261-6939 ext 210 or email: [bmcbride@safetyweb.org](mailto:bmcbride@safetyweb.org) by **noon on Wednesday, Feb. 17**, to reserve your tickets (let us know if you would like 1 or 2 tickets-maximum 2 per person), or to learn how to become a HealthWatch member and join us!

## BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan Before the WI Legislature

The proposed BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan is a self-funded, state insurance plan for eligible people in Wisconsin. The program, pending legislative approval, would offer BASIC coverage to individuals on the BadgerCare Plus Core Plan waiting list--a group of over 25,000 individuals. Basic looks like catastrophic coverage, with limited services, a high deductible, and monthly premiums on the order of \$130 per month. The Basic Plan includes co-pays and like the BadgerCare Plus Core Plan, there is no backdating of eligibility. Here are some details:

- Up to 10 physician visits each year;
- Limited hospitalization;
- Coverage for first inpatient hospital stay and five outpatient hospital visits;
- Subsequent stays after \$7,500 deductible;
- Up to five emergency room visits each year;
- Some generic medications; and
- Badger Rx Gold discount drug membership.

#### **Assembly Bill 697:**

On Wednesday, February 10, the Wisconsin Assembly Health and Healthcare Reform Committee held a hearing on the proposed BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan. The bill was introduced by Representative Jon Richards.

#### **Senate Bill 484:**

On Thursday, February 11, the State Senate committee on Health, Health Insurance, Privacy, Property Tax Relief and Revenue also debated the BadgerCare Plus Basic legislation. The bill was introduced by Senator Erpenbach.

**About the Legislation:** This bill authorizes DHS to establish and operate, no sooner than March 1, 2010, another health care benefit plan for individuals who are on the waiting list for the Core Plan. The health care benefit plan, which is

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](mailto: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**

**Catalyst Center** – A national center dedicated to improving health care insurance and financing for CYSHCN [www.hdwg.org/](http://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](http://www.familyvoices.org)

**Kaiser Family Foundation** – A non-profit, private operating foundation focusing on the major health care issues facing the nation. [www.kff.org/](http://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](http://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.

**Your individual membership fee is still only \$20** and ensures that

not MA, will provide primary and preventive care, and the benefits may not exceed those provided under the Core Plan. The Basic Plan, including both benefits and administration, will be funded entirely from premiums set by DHS and paid by individuals with coverage under the Basic Plan.

**Changes to BadgerCare Plus Benchmark Plan Included in the Bill:** The BadgerCare Plus Benchmark Plan provides specified benefits including transportation to obtain emergency medical care. This bill expands the transportation benefit under the Benchmark Plan so that transportation to obtain medical care, rather than just emergency medical care, is covered. The bill also specifically adds as a benefit for recipients under the age of 21 early and periodic screening and diagnosis, and all services included under the federal definition of “medical assistance” that are found necessary as a result of the screening and diagnosis.

## Case Tip: "I Need a PA, Stat!" Procedures for Faster Prior Authorizations

What happens when you need a PA immediately and do not have time to wait for the normal PA procedure timeframe?

Medicaid requires a prior authorization (PA) for certain medical services, treatments, equipment, and medications. For some individuals, these services may be extremely urgent; waiting to for the provider to mail a PA and then waiting to receive the State's decision on the PA may not be an option. The Wisconsin Specialized Transmission Approval Technology-PA (STAT-PA) system is an electronic PA system that allows Medicaid-certified providers to receive PAs electronically rather than by mail or fax. Providers answer a series of questions and receive an immediate response of an approved or returned PA. Providers communicate with the Wisconsin STAT-PA system by entering requested information on a touch-tone telephone keypad or by calling a STAT-PA help desk correspondent. Providers must have their eight-digit Medicaid provider number to access the Wisconsin STAT-PA system.

The Wisconsin STAT-PA system is available by calling one of the following telephone numbers:

### Touch-Tone Telephone

(800) 947-1197

(608) 221-2096

Available from 8:00 a.m. to 11:45 p.m., seven days a week.

### Help Desk

(800) 947-1197 and press "0"

(608) 221-2096 and press "0"

Available from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

## REQUIRED INFORMATION

All providers using STAT-PA are required to provide the following information:

- Eight-digit Medicaid provider number.
- Recipient's 10-digit Medicaid identification number.
- Procedure code of service requested.
- Diagnosis code.
- Two-digit place of service (POS) code.
- Requested grant date or date of service (DOS).
- Number of days allowed by prescription

you are lending your voice and passion toward developing a more comprehensive system of health care and coverage. Your workplace can purchase an **organizational 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

A report by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation examines steps states took to respond to the health care crisis while Congress was debating bills in 2009. [Read the report](#).

Wisconsin's BadgerCare Plus Coverage Expansion and Simplification-[Early Data on Program Impact](#)

## 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](mailto:bmcbride@safetyweb.org).

The Natural Supports Program at the [Waisman Center](#) seeks stories of youth ages 14-18 with developmental disabilities currently employed in community-based, competitive-wage jobs to be featured in a set of transition stories. Youth, family, teachers, friends, and other community members would be interviewed for the story. They are also looking to feature at least one individual with communication difficulties or who uses assistive technology. [Click here](#) for more information.

## Help Wanted

## Major Changes to Mental Health Diagnoses - Share Your Feedback

The proposed changes to the DSM-V, (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual, volume V), the book doctors use to diagnose and treat a wide variety of mental and behavioral disorders, are up for public review and comment until April 20. Major changes include:

- Making Asperger's and PDD a subset of Autism
- Redefining Personality Disorders
- Reclassifying dementia and Alzheimer's disorders
- Introducing controversial new diagnoses such as Psychosis Risk Syndrome.

Read over the proposed changes from the American Psychiatric Association [here](#), then weigh in on your opinions, thoughts or concerns.

## 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 Review Due letters will still be issued separately.

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

## 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 Enrollment Services (MiES) contacts:**

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

Mail : Milwaukee Enrollment Services Center (MiES), P.O. Box 05676,

The Project LAUNCH Young Child Wellness Coordinator position is posted with the City of Milwaukee Health Department. [Click Here](#) to find the link for this posting.

### Previous Issues of the Update: (in PDF form)

[February 2 Special Edition](#)

[February 1](#)

[January 15](#)

[January 8 Special Edition](#)

[December 15](#)

[December 1](#)

[November 15](#)

[November 1](#)

[October 20 Special Edition](#)

[October 15](#)

[October 1](#)

[September 15](#)

[September 1](#)

[August 15](#)

[August 1](#)

All other issues can be viewed on our website at [www.healthwatchwisconsin.org](http://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:

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:

- [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](#)

### DHS Community Training: Re-enrollment for BadgerCare Plus (BC+) CORE Transitional Childless Adult (TCLA)

February 22nd, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm at Aurora Family Services (3200 W. Highland Blvd)

Sponsored by the Health Care Enrollment Task Force of the Department of Health Services and the Milwaukee Health Care Partnership, this workshop is intended to ensure community and health care professionals are prepared to assist Milwaukee's 11,000 TCLA recipients with questions or required steps related to their re-enrollment.

Please [RSVP to Mary Starr](#) if you plan to attend.

**CKSN Corner**  
Covering Kids with Special Needs



### Mark Your Calendars Now

#### Check Out These Excellent Events in 2010!

- **Autism Society of Southeastern Wisconsin Parenting Series - Oct. 17 through May 15**, Nicolet High School, D-Wing Library, Glendale, WI, 9:30-11:30am. Call (414)427-9345 or email [info@assew.org](mailto:info@assew.org) to register.
- **Recreation and Respite Resource Fair - March 13, 2010**, 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm, Steinhafels Community Room, Hwy. 94 and Hwy. F. Special Services Advisory Committee presents an informational resource fair, free of charge, for families of children with special needs. Please park to the

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](http://www.healthwatchwisconsin.org). Just click on "HW WatchDog" 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

south of the grassy area and main entrance. Questions? Contact [Heidi Schwendimann](#): 262-548-7353.

- **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. For more information, visit [www.asw4autism.org](http://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.**

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:

- [People Put Off Calling For an Ambulance, Emergency Officials Say - by Stephanie Jones for \*The Racine Journal-Times\*, February 13](#)
- [Press Release: Statement of Support of Substitute Amendment 1 to Assembly Bill 614, Promoting Health Care Cost Transparency, Wisconsin Association of Health Plans, February 10](#)
- [Health Care On Their Minds - by Bryan Horwath for \*Dunn County News\*, February 9](#)
- [Obama's Health Care Summit: Just for Show? - by Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar for \*API Wisconsin State Journal\*, February 8](#)
- [Press Advisory: Getting Back to Basics: Health Reform Discussions](#)

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 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](mailto: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

Bobby Peterson  
[bobbyp@safetyweb.org](mailto:bobbyp@safetyweb.org)  
Marysa LaRowe  
[mlarowe@safetyweb.org](mailto:mlarowe@safetyweb.org)

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

[Dominate 3rd Annual HealthWatchWisconsin Conference - ABC for Health, Inc., February 2](#)

- [Press Release: Moving Toward Health Outcome Equity in Wisconsin - Wisconsin Council on Children and Families, February 1](#)

## NEWS: Health Care Reform

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

- [Republicans Spurn Once-Favored Health Mandate - by Julie Rovner for NPR News, February 15](#)
- [White House Formally Invites Republicans to Health Care Summit - by Michael D. Shear for \*The Washington Post\*, February 13](#)
- [Health Reform in Limbo, Top Drug Lobbyist Quits - by David Kirkpatrick and Duff Wilson for \*The New York Times\* February 12](#)
- [Obama Meets With Republicans to Bridge Partisan Divide - by Shailagh Murray and Paul Kane for \*The Washington Post\*, February 10](#)
- [States Race to Preempt Health Reform - by Patrick O'Connor for \*Politico\*, February 9](#)
- [On Health Bill, GOPs Road is a New Map - by Robert Pear and David M. Herszenhorn for \*The New York Times\*, February 9](#)
- [GOP Senator is Sworn In, and Democrats Regroup - by Carl Hulse and Jeff Zeleny for \*The New York Times\*, February 5](#)
- [Stalled Health Care Bill Leaves Drugmakers in Regulatory Limbo - by Duff Wilson for \*The New York Times\*, February 4](#)
- [Legislators Sound Off On President's Budget and Health Costs - \*Kaiser Health News\*, February 3](#)
- [Nancy Pelosi's New Health Care Plan - by Patrick O'Connor and Carrie Budoff Brown for \*Politico\*, February 3](#)
- [States Trying to Restart Health Care Push - by Anna Wilde Matthews for \*The Wall Street Journal\*, February 2](#)

## NEWS: Opinion

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

- [Op-Ed: Five Ways to Reform Health Care - by Tim Pawlenty for \*The Washington Post\*, February 14](#)
- [Op-Ed: Ten GOP Health Ideas for Obama - by Newt Gingrich and John C. Goodman for \*The Wall Street Journal\*, February 10](#)
- [Editorial: Five Ideas For Getting Health Care Back on Track - \*USA Today\*, February 8](#)
- [Op-Ed: On Health Care, Dems Must 'Finish the Kitchen' - by E.J. Dionne, Jr. for \*The Capital Times\*, February 8](#)
- [Op-Ed: It's Just You, Democrats - by Ezra Klein for \*The Washington Post\*, February 4](#)
- [Op-Ed: Ditching Health Reform Will Only Dig Us Into a Deeper Deficit - by David S. Broder for \*The Washington Post\*, February 4](#)

## NEWS: Health Care Costs and Access

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

- [Insurer Delays Increase for California Customers - by Kevin Sack for \*The New York Times\*, February 14](#)
- [Bills Stalled, Hospitals Fear Rising Unpaid Care - by Reed Abelson for \*The\*](#)



to obtain, maintain, and finance health care coverage and services.



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

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

[New York Times, February 9](#)

- [Press Release: Sebelius Calls on Anthem Blue Cross to Publicly Justify 39 Percent Premium Increase - U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, February 8](#)
- [When the Patient Can't Afford the Care - by Pauline W. Chen, MD. for The New York Times, February 5](#)

### NEWS: Supporting the Disabled

Click below for the latest articles on Disability Law and Supports:

- [Press Release: Social Security Adds 38 New Compassionate Allowance Conditions - Social Security Administration, February 11](#)
- [Press Release: Social Security Releases 2010 Levels for Substantial Gainful Activity - Social Security Administration, February 10](#)

---

This newsletter was generated using

**WriteSendTrack**  
email marketing made simple

subscribed as [EmailAddress]

[Edit Profile](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)

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