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The HealthWatch Wisconsin Update Newsletter

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

March 15 , 2010

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New Format!

The HealthWatch Wisconsin **Update is getting a make-over**, with wider columns and easy to read colors. **Having troubles watching our videos?** We're using NEW software! You may have to download [Microsoft Silverlight](#). **Want to print this newsletter** and read it later? Access an easy-to-print version [HERE](#).

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Local HealthWatch Coalition Meetings:

Cover the Uninsured Week is March 14-20

Join us in celebrating "Cover the Uninsured Week," an annual event to spread the word about the many people throughout our state and country who go without health insurance. Here are a few things to watch for:

- A special edition of the HealthWatch WatchDog coming on March 18--the same day as the scheduled House of Representatives vote on health reform!
- We're talking to area media about coordinated patient advocacy to reduce uninsurance in Wisconsin
- We're sharing our popular publication "Your Medical Debt Survivor Guide" for **FREE** for a limited time! [Get Your Copy Here!](#)

Plan Your Own Events or Projects!

Need some help getting started? The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has some ideas and planning guides:

- Host an [enrollment event \(pdf\)](#) at a local hospital, community center or school and [register](#) your event;
- Organize a [health coverage forum \(pdf\)](#) with the community or key stakeholders; or
- Distribute [information](#) about available low-cost and free health coverage programs to uninsured individuals and families.
- Reference the Cover the Uninsured [planning guides](#) online to help you get started
- Check out the latest [news](#), as well as [facts](#) on the issue
- Visit ["How to Help"](#) to learn more.

**CoverThe
Uninsured**
LET'S GET AMERICA COVERED

www.CoverTheUninsured.org

HealthWatch Training: BadgerCare Plus, Core Plan and More!

Barron: TBA, 12:00-1:00pm. Barron County Workforce Resource, Inc., 331 S. Main St., Ste. 6, Rice Lake. Contact [Mike Rust](#) or (715) 485-8525 with questions.

Chippewa: May 11, 2010, 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: April 5, 9:00-11:00am. Harambee Center, 2202 S. Park St., Madison. Contact [Erin McBride](#) or (608) 261-6939, ext. 211 with questions.

Dunn: TBA, 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: May 6, 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: April 14, 9:30am-11:30am. Aurora Family Services, 3200 W. Highland Blvd., Milwaukee. Contact [Kari Mattson](#) or (414) 449-4777, ext. 145 or Tanya Atkinson at (414) 289-3749 with questions.

Milwaukee CHASE (Children's Health Access for the Special and Equal): TBA, 11:30am-1:30pm. ARC of Milwaukee, 7203 W. Center St., Milwaukee. Contact [Brad Holman](#) or (414) 266-3189 with questions.

Polk: March 18, 2010, 10:45am-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](#)

All in One Day! Space is Limited to the First 40

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. Register early to reserve your spot!

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

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 a registration form or View the Agenda.

New Features to the Update:

Coalition Round-Up!

New to the HealthWatch Update Newsletter is a feature that looks at a few HealthWatch Coalitions across the state and shares information being discussed locally. Guest speakers, hot topics, local elections, or special events will be highlighted. Coalition contact people will be listed if you have questions on a story or would like to follow up with the coalition directly. Enjoy this new feature to the HealthWatch Update Newsletter!

Join the Polk County HealthWatch Coalition this Thursday!

This meeting has been in high demand! It will include a teleconference with United HealthCare, Providers and other key stakeholders with HMO enrollment questions in Polk County.

Date: March 18, 2010

Time: 10:45am-12:00pm

Place: Polk County Health Department, Conference Room A & B, 100 Polk County Plaza, Balsam Lake.

Contact: [Mike Rust](#) at (715) 485-8525 with questions.

Dane County HealthWatch meets with Rich Albertoni to Discuss BadgerCare Plus Basic

On March 1, the Dane County Coalition invited Rich Albertoni, Director, Bureau of Enrollment Management, Wisconsin Department of Health Services. Rich attended the meeting to discuss the proposed BadgerCare Basic plan and field questions from Dane County HealthWatch coalition members. Below is a sampling of the Q & A. Both the questions and the answers are paraphrased from the meeting minutes to provide a brief summary of the answer. For more information or to ask additional questions, Contact [Erin](#) at ABC for Health.

Q: Why isn't mental health parity law taken into consideration for certain Medicaid programs?

A: The regulations don't apply to Medicaid fee for service, but do apply to Medicaid Managed Care. Requirements have made it clear that what is meant by "parity" does not mean coverage requirements: the limit can't be stricter for mental health than physical health, for example. If an enrollee wanted to use all 10 doctor visits on a psychiatrist, they can do so. The \$7,500 AODA limit was even lifted for Benchmark Plan.

The competing interest with Basic Plan is to keep premium level affordable, to increase access to providers, look for next steps in the Southeast WI RFP, and a

Schwarz or (608) 785-5841 with questions.

Tri-County Coalition: Winnebago, Calumet and Outagamie Counties. March 23, 2010, 9:00-10:00am, Goodwill Community Center, Menasha Room. Contact Susan Garcia Franz for more information.

Miss the HealthWatch Wisconsin Conference? Buy a CD!

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! [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.

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/

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

new opportunity for access to mental health trying to address access issues through managed care and HMOs. Basic does not have a health needs assessment and is entirely fee for service, so there are no requirements for HMOs.

Dane County HealthWatch members added: Mental health (and the lack of infrastructure) has always been an issue, but now it's getting worse. HMOs are ending their coverage because it's more of a frustration than a service. The limitations are pretty significant, so it comes down to the bureaucracy for providers. A big problem is with how prior authorizations work.

Having Jim Vavra or Jennifer DeYoung come to Dane County HealthWatch Coalition meetings to discuss more of the benefits-side of things in addition to his focus on enrollment would be a great idea.

Q: Why doesn't BadgerCare Basic have appeals and reviews?

A: Basic isn't a federal entitlement program, so the state doesn't have to follow those same requirements. It can't have any other infrastructure for reviews, appeals without charging more. The Department wants to keep the price down, so not following appeal rights is one way to save money. (Of the \$130 premium, \$7 is administrative. If DHS expands the administrative function, then would shift more cost to consumer.) Consumers may request a reconsideration if they are unhappy with a decision. Reconsideration requires writing to the Department or contacting the state somehow—it will be a continuing process.

Q: Please describe the recertification process for Core Plan enrollees (not GAMP)

A: We are still working on that process: there won't be a bypass code. There will be a "renew my benefits process" that involves no physical exam requirements, as the plan only calls for physical in first year. DHS is still working on notices, and requirement language.

Q: What benefits screening for other programs' eligibility (e.g. MADA, EBD, MAPP, SSI...) is provided to Core Plan enrollees?

A: Through ACCESS, the application process will test you for the other programs that use the same application form.

Q: Is there any screening up front, or information on other programs such as SSI, and no assessment of which program is right for you?

A: No. Often, by looking at the back-end, looking at claims, they can tell if someone should be on SSI, for example.

Q: What is the process for pregnant women?

A: If someone is on Core, if they become pregnant they can then "report changes" using Access or calling the enrollment center to change to BadgerCare Plus.

Q: What will happen if the state exceeds the budget limits AND the \$1 million in reserve for BadgerCare Basic?

A: Premiums will go up. We will be aggressively looking at program costs over first few months to see if costs are balancing out. There is no coverage for transplants or other major expenses under Basic. Outlier costs, including components of payment for hospitals (for every hospital service there is a weight to it, which triggers payment), won't be covered under Basic either.

Q: Why are applications for programs other than Core Plan (i.e. EBD, MAPP) being processed at the Enrollment Center? Is there a process in place for sending those applications to the ESC? Are only certain counties involved?

A: ESC has enrollment responsibilities for adults ages 19-64 – so for other types of services, (FoodShare, Family Planning Waiver) those will be processed by ESC. I am not sure why those applications (EBD or MAPP) are going to the ESC, but I will follow up with you.

Cover the Uninsured Week. <http://covertheuninsured.org>

Family Voices— Speaking on behalf of CYSHCN. 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/

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

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: Better Care--Lower Costs: Exploring the Promise of Patient Engagement ([click here](#)). Diagnosing what works for State Medicaid and CHIP Programs - ([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. [click here](#) to read the article and corresponding reports. A narrated slide tutorial on principles and different models of CDHC.

Knowledge Path is a web-based guide from the Maternal and Child

Q: When patients qualify for both Core Plan and Family Planning Waiver, they are not getting on the Core Plan Waitlist, as their application is being processed for Family Planning Waiver only...

A: Individuals using paper applications may be experiencing issues because of the delay in processing those apps (some have stated the problem is occurring for folks who have applied online too). It would make sense that there is a loophole in logic of the software: this is something we will look into.

Milwaukee County HealthWatch Coalition Has Elected New Co-Chairs

The Milwaukee HealthWatch Coalition is happy to announce that Ginger Dzick of United Healthcare and Mary Ryan of the Hunger Task Force have been elected as the new co-chairs of the Coalition! Kari Mattson of Community Advocates and Tanya Atkinson of Planned Parenthood will be ending their two-year terms! Thank you, Kari and Tanya, for your service!

A Series of Great Speakers in Eau Claire!

On March 4, 2010, the Eau Claire HealthWatch Coalition featured speaker Sharon Bessinger, Information and Assistance Specialist for the MATCh Program (Mental Health Assistance for Teens and Children). The next meeting is scheduled for May 6. Carey Olson from Marshfield Clinic Patient Assistance is the speaker. For details, contact [Pat Perkins](#)

Legislative Action Alerts!

A second new feature for the HealthWatch Update mailing list is the Legislative Action Alert! As the Wisconsin legislature prepares for the final floor vote of this legislative session (April 13-22), we will bring you updates on bills important to HealthWatch Wisconsin! For the first edition of the "Action Alert," visit our website where the [Legislative Action Alert](#) issued by HealthWatch Wisconsin on March 12 is posted.

Congress Approves Medicaid Funds

Last week Wednesday, the Senate [jobs bill \(HR 4213\)](#) was passed. Among other features, the bill includes funds to extend unemployment insurance benefits as well as eligibility for the 65 percent COBRA health care credit through the end of the year. The bill also includes an increase in federal assistance for state Medicaid programs, and reverses mandated cuts in reimbursement for doctors serving Medicare patients.

[Senate passes \\$140 billion package to aid job creation, state budgets - by Gail Russell Chaddock for the Christian Science Monitor, March 10](#)

[Senate passes \\$140 billion extension of jobless benefits - by Walter Alarkon for The Hill, March 10](#)

[Senate Passes Tax Extenders and Unemployment Bill - by WEBCPA Staff for WEBCPA, March 10](#)

Last Chance to Vote for the Next HealthWatch Council!

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.

All HealthWatch Wisconsin members have the opportunity to vote for the leadership

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 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](#).

The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society Financial Aid Programs

1. The LLS Patient Financial Assistance Program provides \$150 to patients with any blood cancer diagnosis. Patients may apply at any time during the year. Applications are available [here](#) or by calling the Brookfield office at (262) 785-4220.

2. The National LLS Co-Pay Program covers some blood cancer diagnoses. [Check the website](#) for an updated list. Patients who meet financial guidelines may receive up to \$5000 per year for insurance premiums and reimbursements for out-of-pocket expenses, and benefits are retroactive to July 2009. Current eligible diagnoses include chronic myelogenous leukemia, Waldenstrom macroglobulinaemia, Myeloma, Myelodysplastic Syndromes, all lymphomas, and chronic lymphocytic Leukemia. Call (877)557-2672 or go to www.lls.org/co-pay. You may also email requests to copay@lls.org.

HealthWatch Wisconsin Membership

There has never been a better

of the HealthWatch Wisconsin organization--the HealthWatch Council. A ballot has been emailed to all members of HealthWatch Wisconsin! If you did not receive a ballot, please contact the [HealthWatch Staff](#). The new HealthWatch Wisconsin Council will serve approx. 3-year terms, helping to guide the leadership, training and sustainability of the HealthWatch organization.

Coming Soon: Immigrant Health Coverage Workshops

Stay tuned for an announcement about our **Immigrant Health Coverage Trainings** 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.

BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan: Back to Assembly Committee

The BadgerCare Plus Basic Bill, [SB 484](#), was on the Wisconsin Senate Floor for almost 3.5 hours of debate a few weeks ago passing with a [vote of 17-16](#). The bill returned to the Assembly Health and Health Reform Committee...and not much has happened since. The Bill has one more chance for a floor session: April 13-22, 2010. Watch future editions of the Update for as we track the progress of Basic through the legislature.

Frederica Freyberg interviewed Bobby Peterson on Wisconsin Public Television's "Here and Now" to get advocate's perspective on the BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan. In a feature called "Capitol Insight," a collaboration between Wisconsin Public Television and Wisconsin Public Radio, Frederica has been looking at health care in Wisconsin. [Watch Wisconsin Public Television's Capitol Insight Spot on BadgerCare Plus 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. [View Program Details About Basic](#)

Updates from DHS

Operations Memos

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 10-15](#): Extended Public Benefit Eligibility for Iraqis and Afghans with Special Immigrant Status

New Policy: Beginning December 19, 2009, Special Immigrants from Iraq or

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 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 new report](#) by the National Center for Health Statistics found that less than one third of adults 20-29 had health coverage in 2008.

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](#)

Health Reform Side-by-Side and Calculator Now Reflect White House Proposal
The Foundation has updated its [interactive side-by-side health reform comparison tool](#) to reflect provisions included in President Obama's health reform proposal, unveiled Monday morning in advance of Thursday's reform summit with congressional leaders. The new proposal is based on the bill passed by the Senate in

Afghanistan (Class of Admission Codes SI-1, 2, 3, 6, 7 and 8) are to be treated like they are refugees when determining their eligibility for FoodShare, Medicaid or BC+ for as long as they have this Special Immigration status. This policy applies to these immigrants regardless of when they received this status.

Rationale: The "Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008" and the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008" granted Afghan and Iraqi aliens special immigrant status under section 101(a)(27) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). These laws required that certain Iraqi and Afghan immigrants be treated like refugees for a limited time of six (and later eight) months in determining their eligibility for public benefits. On December 19, 2009, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010, was signed into law, eliminating the eight month restriction and requiring that these immigrants be treated like refugees for as long as they are in that status when determining their eligibility for public benefits.

Ops Memo 10-14 Amended: Transitional Childless Adults (TCLA) Renewal Process (The originally issued [Ops Memo 10-14](#) has been changed to show new steps to create an ACCESS account and complete a renewal.) (Released

New Policy: All Core Plan members who were enrolled in a County General Assistance Medical Program in December, 2008 and who were automatically enrolled in the Core Plan on January 1, 2009 (TCLA Core members) must complete a renewal in order to continue enrollment in the Core Plan. The renewal process can be initiated either online or by phone. To continue enrollment in the Core Plan, the member must: Provide updated information,

- Complete a Health Needs Assessment,
- Submit payment of a \$60 non-refundable renewal processing fee, and
- Provide any verifications requested.

Rationale: Individuals who were enrolled in a County General Assistance Medical Program in December 2008, were automatically enrolled in the BadgerCare Plus Core Plan in January 2009 and did not complete an online or telephone application. This memo provides information on processing the renewals for this group of Core Plan members.

Ops Memo 10-13: BadgerCare Plus Core Plan Waitlist Administration (Released March 1, 2010)

New Policy: There is now functionality of the CARES Worker Web (CWW) to have pages designed to manage the BadgerCare Plus Core Plan Waitlist.

Rationale: The BadgerCare Plus Core Plan Waitlist (Waitlist) was implemented in October 2009. At that time, individuals were added to the waitlist by applying online or by calling the Enrollment Services Center (ESC). The ESC worker had to process the request through the Application Services Tool (AST) to submit the name of the individual to the waitlist. There was no CARES functionality to track the individuals on the waitlist or to update the demographic information. The Waitlist information was stored on a spreadsheet managed by the ESC.

Grapevine Issue: Patient Assistance Programs

December, but incorporates some elements from the House-passed bill and other changes outlined in the new White House summary.

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.

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.

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-**



Patient assistance programs (PAPs) are programs created by drug companies to offer free or low cost drugs to individuals who are unable to pay for their medication. The proposed BadgerCare Plus Basic plan does not include a list of covered drugs. Patients in need of costly medications will pay a reduced rate for drugs listed as part of the State's Badger RX Gold drug plan, or will have to "foot the bill" entirely for the drugs not on that list. For these patients, especially individuals with chronic medical conditions like Diabetes, a patient assistance program can literally be a "life saver." Most of the best known and most prescribed drugs can be found in these programs. While all of the major drug companies have patient assistance programs, every company has its own eligibility and application requirements.

There are a few different ways to identify the patient assistance program that could best help you or the patients you serve.

To start, you may identify either the Drug Name or the Drug's Maker. For example, patients in need of insulin and Diabetes supplies may research "Lantus" the insulin, or "Sanofi-Aventis" the drug maker.

Some web-sites, such as "Rx Assist" sponsored by Astro-Zeneca, allow you to type in either the drug name or drug maker to search for a patient assistance program. You can see that search feature here: <http://www.rxassist.org/patients/default.cfm>. Another web-site, sponsored by the Mississippi Hospital Association provides a 30-page reference guide to drug assistance programs, listed by the drug maker. www.mhanet.org/files/public/patientassistanceprograms.doc

Tell us your thoughts! What patient assistance programs do you recommend? How do you find appropriate patient assistance programs?

■ CKSN Corner ■ Covering Kids with Special Needs



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

- **Family Voices of Wisconsin - A Training on Health Care and Community Supports for Children with Special Health Care Needs and/or Disabilities - April 15 and 22**, Waisman Center, Olin Outreach Office, 122 E. Olin Ave, Madison, WI. 5:00-9:00pm. For more information, [click here](#).
- **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 to register.

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, 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.

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.

- **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.
- **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:

- [Health centers sharing \\$1M GE grant - by the Milwaukee Business Journal, March 15](#)
- [As universities tighten ethics policies, drug firms turn to private physicians, by John Fauber for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, March 14](#)
- [Health care law helps cut through pricing fog - by John Torinus for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, March 13](#)
- [Center for Autism Treatment: Board Certified Behavior Analysts Testify to be Included in the Autism Insurance Mandate - Wispolitics.com, March 11](#)
- [Business group says health costs declining - by the Milwaukee Business](#)

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.

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.

To donate via check, please make

[Journal, March 11](#)

- [Wisconsin Residents with Health Care Stories Get on Bus to Join Protests of Big Insurance CEOs in Washington, D.C. - a press release from Citizens Action Wisconsin, March 8](#)
- [White House Touts Rep. Steve Kagen's Work on Health-Care Reform - by Larry Bivins for the Green Bay Press-Gazette, March 8](#)
- [Special Report: Rural Health - for the Wisconsin State Journal, March 8](#)
- [Rising costs of health benefits puts squeeze on taxpayers, municipalities - by Patti Zarling for the Green Bay Gazette, March 7](#)
- [Life and death in Park Falls - by David Wahlberg for the Wisconsin State Journal, March 7](#)
- [Barrett Pushes MPS on Insurance Costs - by Alan Borsuk for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, March 7](#)
- [Legislation aims for better mental health and addiction treatment - by Colby Robertson for WAOW, News at 9, March 5](#)
- [State ranks 49th in public health funding - by Vince Huth, for The Badger Herald, March 3](#)
- [Governor Signs Bill That Puts Unused Medicines to Good Use - by Sen. Robson, March 3](#)
- [Lawmaker seeks fixed term for insurance commissioner - by Paul Gores for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, March 2](#)

NEWS: Health Care Reform

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

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- [Next Steps: How The Health Bill Could Move Forward - by April Fulton for NPR.org, March 15](#)
- [Closing Arguments For and Against Health Care Reform - by Derek Thompson for the Atlantic, March 15](#)
- [At Ohio Rally, Obama Tries to Personalize the Health Care Bill - by Sheryl Gay Stolberg for the New York Times, March 15](#)
- [Move on student loans could win healthcare votes, House Dems say - by Jeffrey Young for The Hill, March 15](#)
- [Gibbs: By next Sunday, healthcare reform will be the law of the land - by Walter Alarkon for The Hill, March 14](#)
- [House Democrats release bill for Budget markup Monday - by Michael O'Brien for The Hill, March 14](#)
- [Democrats Planning for Health Bill Vote Next Week - by Robert Pear and David Herszenhorn for The New York Times, March 12](#)
- [Democrats Pare Differences Over Health Overhaul - by the Associated Press, March 12](#)
- [New GOP heavyweight takes a few punches from the Democrats - by Walter Alarkon for The Hill, March 10](#)
- [Should we be adding people to Medicaid? - by Joan Alker for Say Ahhh! A Children's Health Policy Blog, March 9](#)
- [Health Overhaul To Expand Medicaid To All Poor Adults - by Rick Schmitt for NPR, March 8](#)
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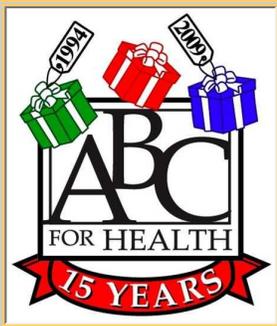
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[and Kristen Holmes for The Philadelphia Inquirer, March 8](#)

- [Parties Begin to Set Reconciliation Battle Plans - by David M. Drucker for Roll Call, March 8](#)
- [Under Health Reform, Medicaid Would Cover Many Childless Adults - by Rick Schmitt for Kaiser Health News, in collaboration with the Philadelphia Inquirer, March 8](#)
- [State Insurance Experts See Flaw in Obama's Plan to Curb Health Premiums - by Robert Pear for The New York Times, March 8](#)
- [Eric Massa's early exit from House may ease healthcare's passage - by Linda Feldmann for The Christian Science Monitor, March 5](#)
- [Ten People Who Could Decide Health Care Reform - by Patrick O'Connor and Carrie Budoff Brown for Politico, March 5](#)
- [House Leaders Push Toward House Vote by Easter - by Erica Warner for Associated Press, March 4](#)
- [Obama Offers to Use Some GOP Health Proposals - by David M. Herzsenhorn and Robert Pear for The New York Times, March 3](#)
- [Full Speech: Obama On Insurance Reform - from Kaiser Health News, March 3](#)

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- [Editorial: A Shortsighted law - Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, March 12](#)
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- [Editorial: The vital role of schools of public health - by Stephen Percy for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, March 11](#)
- [Op-Ed: Health Reform Myths - by Paul Krugman for the New York Times, March 11](#)
- [Op-Ed: Government can be the solution - by Matthew Hayes for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, March 10](#)
- [Op-Ed: Informed Professionals Needed to Fix Health Care - by Nancy Kuester for The Capital Times, March 9](#)
- [Op-Ed: When 'Reconciliation' Equals Leadership - by Richard Cohen for The Washington Post, March 9](#)
- [Editorial: When Niches Rule - Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, March 8](#)
- [Op-Ed: How about an elected insurance commissioner, the Capital Times, March 4](#)
- [Op-Ed: Health Care Summit a Wasted Opportunity, the Capital Times, March 3](#)

NEWS: Health Care Costs and Access

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- [Cost Containment is Key - by Judy Feder for the Center for American Progress, March 15](#)
- [Will Obama's healthcare reform plan cut costs? - by Mark Trumbull for the Christian Science Monitor, March 15](#)

- [Doubling of maternal deaths in US 'scandalous,' rights group says - by Stephanie Smith for CNN.com, March 12](#)
- [When Premiums Go Up 39% - by David Altman for Pulling it Together... The Kaiser Family Foundation, March 10](#)
- [Health Care Eating Away Household Income - by Greg Stiles for the Mail Tribune, March 9](#)
- [Insurance Industry's Financial Ad Blitz: Don't Blame Us For Your High Costs - for the Huffington Post, March 9](#)
- [Having Health Insurance Doesn't Ensure It Will Be Easy to Find a Doctor - by Ruth Samuelson for The Washington Post, March 9](#)
- [Barack Obama and Insurers Wrestle over Rising Rates - by Chris Frates for Politico.com, March 9](#)
- [How Blue Cross Became Part Of A Dysfunctional Health Care System - by Jonathan Cohn for Kaiser Health News with The New Republic, March 8](#)
- [Traumatized Female Vets Face Uphill Battle: Veterans Administration, Geared to Men, Shortchanges Special Needs of Women - by Susan Donaldson James for ABC News, March 2](#)

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