**April Fool's Edition**

The HealthWatch Wisconsin Update Newsletter

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

April 1, 2010

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.

In This Issue:

HEALTH REFORM BECOMES LAW!!

...AND THAT'S NO FOOLIN'!

After nearly a century of contentious debate, health care reform is finally the law of our land. The need for health insurance reform crossed many lines of income, race, gender, and political parties. The lack of reform had stymied Americans as they stumbled through the maze of private coverage and public programs that should help people, but left over 48 million uninsured.

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, which includes health insurance exchanges, changes to private insurance regulation, a boost to local Medicaid programs and more, was signed into law on March 23 by President Obama. Meanwhile, a reconciliation bill with a manager's amendment went from the House to the Senate, back to the House, then to the President, who signed the bill into law in on Tuesday, March 30.

The vote on Reconciliation came after Senate Democrats defeated more than 40 Republican amendments intended to slow or stop the legislation. The final House vote was 220 to 207, and the Senate vote was 56 to 43, with the Republicans unanimously opposed in both chambers.

According to David Herszenhorn and Robert Pear of the New York Times, "the reconciliation bill makes numerous revisions to many of the central provisions in the measure adopted by the Senate on Dec. 24, including changes in the levels of subsidies that will help moderate-income Americans afford private insurance, as well as changes to the increase in the Medicare payroll tax that will take effect in 2013 and help pay for the legislation."

Health Reform Highlights:

Below are just a few highlights of health reform set for immediate implementation. For a full listing, visit the fact sheet prepared by the National Conference of State Legislatures:

- Prohibits plans from imposing pre-existing condition exclusions on children: effective 6 months after enactment. (Beginning in 2014, this prohibition would apply to all persons.) See the latest discussion of whether insurers would comply with this provision! Robert Pear, writing for the New York Times, has been tracking the conversation: March 28: Coverage Now For Sick Children? Check the Fine Print;

Local HealthWatch Coalition Meetings:

- Barron: TBA, 12:00-1:00pm. Barron County Workforce Resource, Inc., 331 S.

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**Health Reform Details:**

- **Pre-existing Condition Exclusions:** Effective 6 months after enactment. (Beginning in 2014, this prohibition would apply to all persons.)

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**Health Reform Highlights:**

- **Affordable Care Act (ACA):**
  - Health insurance exchanges
  - Changes to private insurance regulation
  - Boost to local Medicaid programs
  - Signage of the bill into law on March 23 by President Obama

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**Reconciliation Bill:**

- Passed with amendments
- Includes numerous revisions to the ACA
- Signed into law on March 30, 2010

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**Health Reform Provisions:**

- **Children:**
  - Prohibition on pre-existing condition exclusions
  - Effective 6 months after enactment
  - Prohibition applies to all persons starting in 2014

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**Health Reform Impact:**

- **Increased Coverage:**
  - Millions of Americans gained health insurance coverage
  - Improved access to quality healthcare

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**Health Reform Resources:**

- **Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA):**
  - [Fact Sheet](#)
  - [New York Times Coverage](#)
  - [Reconciliation Bill Details](#)

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**Questions and Answers:**

- What is the Affordable Care Act?
  - A comprehensive health reform bill signed into law on March 23, 2010

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**Related News:**

- [Coverage Now For Sick Children? Check the Fine Print](#)
  - [New York Times](#)
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 CHASE (Children’s Health Access for the Special and Equal):** TBA, 11:30am-1:30pm. ARC of Milwaukee, 7203 W. Center St., Milwaukee. Contact Kari Mattson or (414) 449-4777, ext. 145 or Tanya Atkinson at (414) 289-3749 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.

**Polk:** TBA, 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 Schwarz or (608) 785-5841 with questions.

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

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**Limited Space Remaining for Eau Claire Workshop!**

**HealthWatch Training: BadgerCare Plus, Core Plan and More!**

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 Call to register: 608-261-6939 ext. 210.

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**Welcome New Members of the HealthWatch WI Council!**

The results of the 2010 election for the HealthWatch Wisconsin Council members are in! Congratulations to:

- Dr. Tom Schlenker, Madison Dane County Public Health
- Susan Garcia-Franz, Well Woman Coordinator/Planned Parenthood
- Jodi Joyce, Group Health Cooperative
- Jennifer Winter, Managed Health Services
- Julie Baryluk, Polk County Health Department

The HealthWatch WI Council serves as the advisory committee for the HealthWatch Wisconsin Organization and helps guide the project’s activities toward achieving our goals. The Council provides leadership and advice to HealthWatch Wisconsin as we work to transform the public health landscape and increase access to care and coverage for people in Wisconsin through training, education, and collaborative partnerships.

Council members were formally adopted by the HealthWatch Executive Committee on April 1, 2010. The three-year term for each new Council member will officially begin on July 1, 2010, to co-incide with the new membership year of HealthWatch Wisconsin. The next meeting of the full
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.

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

The Kaiser Family Foundation has updated information on their website, including:

- Summary of Final Healthcare Reform Law
- A printable comparison of the new health reform law (the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act), the House-passed Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, and last year's House-passed bill

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 Council will be in October 2010. Help us welcome these new members to the Council!

Family Health Benefits Bill-Status Report!

Health Reform is the law of the land and people across the country are preparing for changes. Bobby Peterson of ABC for Health comments, "Wisconsin is in better shape than most states, but we can do better. The health reform bill's new rules and requirements may be overwhelming for consumers. We need to help people connect to new and emerging public and private health insurance programs. The new changes will be confusing and we must prioritize actions that help people obtain and maintain health care coverage."

In preparation for a changing health care landscape, ABC for Health partnered with the Department of Health Services and the Office of The Commissioner of Insurance as well as lead sponsors Senator Miller and Representative Donna Seidel to develop the “Family Health Benefits Bill” (AB 878/ SB 633) to lay the foundation to support a statewide network of Health Benefits Counselors in Wisconsin.

Next Steps: The Family Health Benefits Bill went to Executive Session in the Senate Committee on Health, Health Insurance on March 30 for a vote--ending in a tie. The Bill went to the Assembly Committee on Health and Healthcare Reform on March 31 for a vote and passed 8-4. The Bill will move to the Joint Finance Committee and to the full Assembly for a vote during the April floor session.

Media Attention: CBS news affiliates, the Wisconsin State Journal, and Wisconsin Public Radio have all covered our progress on the “Family Health Benefits Bill” Assembly Bill 878, Senate Bill 633.

- Listen to Bobby Peterson’s comments on Wisconsin Public Radio, March 25
- Watch Health Benefit Advocate, Kenton Zink describe his work with patients, March 24
- Read the ABC for Health Press Release regarding Public Hearings, March 24

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!

The Polk County HealthWatch Coalition Meeting Summary:
On March 18, the Polk County HealthWatch Coalition, along with providers and key stakeholders held a teleconference with United HealthCare to discuss HMO enrollment questions.
Contact: Mike Rust at (715) 485-8525 with questions.

Dane County HealthWatch Schedules Guest Speaker
Rhonda Grabko of Automated Health Systems will join the Dane County Coalition on Monday, April 5 at the Harambee Center (2202 S. Park Street, 3 of 12 4/1/2010 4:38 PM
Madison). Rhonda will discuss HMO enrollment for BadgerCare Plus Core Plan and SSI, and share thoughts on the various kinds of enrollment exemptions.

Contact: Erin McBride at (608) 261-6939 ext. 211 with questions.

**Legislative Action Alerts!**

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 three editions of the "Action Alert," visit our website where the Legislative Action Alert series issued by HealthWatch Wisconsin is posted.

**BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan: Tracking through the Legislature**

The BadgerCare Plus Basic Bill, SB 484, was on the Wisconsin Senate Floor for exciting debate a few weeks ago passing with a vote of 17-16. The Bill went to the Assembly Committee on Health and Healthcare Reform on March 31 for a vote and passed 8-4. The Bill will move to the full Assembly for a vote during the April floor session.

**Updates from DHS**

**Medicaid Eligibility Handbook**

Release 10-01 of the Medicaid Eligibility Handbook was made today, effective April 2, 2010.

**Operations Memos**

Below, find Wisconsin's Department of Health Services (DHS) Operation Memos (Ops Memos) or information updates, with brief summaries and/or 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 10-30:** Wisconsin Works (W-2) Policy Updates on Cooperation with Child Support and Child Support Assignment and Distribution (Released March 31, 2010)

New Policy: This Memo focuses on improvements to: Communication and collaboration between the W-2 Agency and CSA; and updated information by W-2 Agencies to W-2 applicants/participants about assignment and distribution of Child Support payments, to improve W-2 applicants'/participants' choices regarding the financial well-being of their families.

**Ops Memo 10-29:** W-2 Screening and Assessment (Released March 30, 2010)

**New Policy:** This memo includes a new release of Chapter 5 of the W-2 Manual, now titled Screening and Assessment. It also provides an overview of the screening and assessment policies that have changed in Chapter 5 and includes the release of two new W-2 medical assessment forms.

**Ops Memo 10-28:** Disregarding Making Work Pay (Released March 30, 2010)
New Policy: The purpose of this memo is to instruct local agencies to exclude tax refunds from the Making Work Pay tax credit when counting income for the Wisconsin Shares eligibility or co-payment purposes, Wisconsin Works, Emergency Assistance, and Job Access Loans.

**Ops Memo 10-25: Preprinted Mail-In Renewal Forms and Process**

(Released March 30, 2010)

**New Policy:** To help make it easier for children to retain their health care coverage, the State has made preprinted renewal forms available for children receiving BadgerCare Plus or Medicaid (This preprinted renewal form can also be used for EBD Medicaid, Family Planning Waiver, and Caretaker Supplement mail in renewals.) Starting April 1, 2010, the paper renewal forms can be used to complete the annual review required for each program. Individuals can also complete their review in person, over the phone, or using the new online renewal process (access.wisconsin.gov). When it is time for the annual review, families will receive the renewal packet in the mail from their case worker. This packet will include: a Printed Case Summar, a Renewal Cover Letter (dhs.wi.gov/em/forms/iforms.htm); and a Renewal Signature Page (dhs.wi.gov/em/iforms/iforms.htm). Please note that individuals who also have FoodShare benefits can renew their benefits through the paper renewal form, but must also complete their FS interview.

**Ops Memo 10-24:** Earned Income, Homestead, and Other Tax Related Income (Released March 24, 2010)

**New Policy:** This Memo provides Tax Year 2009 information and reminds Wisconsin Works (W-2) Agencies and others of the importance of notifying program participants of the financial advantages of state and federal Earned Income Tax Credits (EITC), the State Homestead Credit (HC), the federal Child Tax Credit (CTC) and other available tax credits for low-income families. This memo also provides information on where low-income, non-English speaking and elderly families can obtain free tax return preparation assistance in Wisconsin.

**Ops Memo 10-22:** Wisconsin Works (W-2) Work Program Auto Disenrollment (published on March 17--not released until April 1, 2010).

**New Policy:** Several changes over the last couple of years (Ops Memo’s 09-18 and 06-27) have been made to help ensure that W-2 cases are closed properly. This final phase will end activities and automatically disenroll W-2 participants who have no W-2 placement and no W-2 eligibility. This will help ensure that performance standards are not erroneously counting individuals who are not actually receiving W-2 services.

**Ops Memo 10-21:** Disregarding Income for Temporary Census

Employment for FoodShare (Released March 22, 2010) Effective March 1, 2010

**New Policy:** The State announced a new policy change for individuals participating in or interested in participating in the Wisconsin FoodShare program who are temporarily employed by the US Census Bureau. Income for both full-time and part-time census takers and enumerators for the 2010 Census WILL NOT be counted as earned income in determining FoodShare benefits as long as the employment is temporary. (This income has always been disregarded for health care programs.) Please note that income from permanent employment with the US Census Bureau WILL be counted as income for FoodShare and Medicaid.

**Ops Memo: 10-17:** BadgerCare Plus Certification for Court Ordered Kinship
Updated data from the Annie E. Casey Foundation on the death rates of children ages 1-14 and teenagers ages 15-19 are available for 2006 for all states and the nation.

**Violent Crime Offenses and Occupational Fatalities**

Updated data from the US Department of Justice on the rate of violent crime offenses per 100,000 inhabitants are now available for 2008. Also added for 2008 are the latest state-level data from the BLS on occupational fatalities.

**Disability Prevalence**

The most recent information based on Cornell University’s analysis of the American Community Survey (ACS) on the percentage of adults with disabilities is available for all states and the nation for 2008.

**Cancer**

The latest data from the CDC and the National Cancer Institute (NCI) on the overall cancer incidence rate per 100,000 population, the cancer incidence rate by gender, and the cancer incidence rate by race/ethnicity have been added for all states and the nation for 2006. Updated information from the Agency for Healthcare Quality and Research (AHRQ) on the rate of deaths due to colorectal cancer per 100,000 population is available for 2005.

**Public Place Smoking Bans**

New information from the American Nonsmokers’ Rights Foundation on states that do not allow smoking in public places including workplaces, restaurants, bars and gaming areas have been added for all states for 2010.

**Health Coverage & Uninsured Health Insurance Status by Income Level**

2007 and 2008 Current Population Survey data on the health insurance status of the nonelderly with incomes up to 133% of the federal poverty level (FPL) are now available for all states and the nation.

**Medicaid & CHIP**

Per-Capita Clawback Rates under ARRA

New data from CMS on the phased-down state contribution per-capita rates with increased federal matching assistance percentages (FMAP) under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) have been added. The ARRA increased FMAP will be applied to so-called “clawback” payments. The ARRA increased FMAP clawback rates will be applied to states that met the requirements.

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**New Policy:** If a child is in a court ordered kinship care placement, her Medicaid/BadgerCare Plus eligibility will now be determined by the Child Welfare Agency, not the County Economic Support Worker. (Children in VOLUNTARY kinship care placement will continue to have their eligibility determined by the County ES worker.) Families affected by this procedure change can expect to get a negative notice in the mail. Pay close attention to that notice, as that letter should simply terminate the county's handling of the case, and should NOT terminate the child's benefits. There should be no gap in coverage.

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**CASE TIP: Federal Poverty Guidelines Stay at 2009 Levels**

- Congress has taken action to keep the 2009 poverty guidelines in effect until at least March 31, 2010.

It took an act of Congress to keep the 2009 poverty guidelines in effect well into 2010. Why? The Consumer Price Index annual average for 2009 went down. Without action, Health and Human Services would have had to issue 2010 poverty guidelines that were lower than the 2009 poverty guidelines. The US Department of Health and Human Services Web Site provides the following detail on the actions Congress has taken on this matter:

1. On December 19, 2009, Congress enacted and the President signed the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010, which included a provision to freeze the Department of Health and Human Services poverty guidelines at 2009 levels in order to prevent a reduction in eligibility for programs including Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and child nutrition, through March 1, 2010. A Federal Register notice about this initial extension of the 2009 poverty guidelines was published on January 22, 2010.

2. On March 2, 2010, Congress enacted and the President signed the Temporary Extension Act of 2010, which included a provision that replaced “March 1, 2010” with “March 31, 2010”.

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**Grapevine Issue: Vandals Strike Cover the Uninsured Week!**

Late in the evening on March 18, the 'Cover the Uninsured Week' banner was stolen out from the front of ABC for Health's Madison office, located in the former Mifflin Street Co-op Grocery. "It's an ironic theft to have our banner stolen during the week when Congress is considering historic health care reform," said Bobby Peterson, public interest attorney and director of ABC for Health. "We are surprised and even saddened that this non-partisan, community-oriented symbol would be the target of theft. Our staff and students would love to have our banner - a memento, a symbol of our work, and an item we've used for the last five years to commemorate Cover the Uninsured Week - returned!"

ABC for Health would be grateful for any help in getting the banner back! If you have any information, don't hesitate to contact us.

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**CKSN Corner**

Covering Kids with Special Needs
payments,” the amount states pay to the federal government as required by the Medicare Prescription Drug Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA). Data are available for the first quarter of 2009 through the second quarter of 2010.

Health Costs & Budgets
Tobacco Settlement
New data from the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids on tobacco settlement payments received by the states are now available for all states and the nation for 2009.

Providers & Service Use
Rural Health Clinics
Updated information from CMS on the total number of Medicare certified rural health clinics as of January 2010 is now available for all states and the nation.

Medical School Graduates
The latest data from the Association of American Medical Colleges on total medical school graduates and medical school graduates by gender have been added and are available for all states and the nation for 2009.

Minority Health
Medical School Graduates
Updated state-by-state information from the Association of American Medical Colleges on medical school graduates by race/ethnicity and medical school graduates by Hispanic ethnicity has been added for 2009.

Statehealthfacts.org is a Kaiser Family Foundation website.

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 you are lending your voice and passion toward developing a more comprehensive system of health care and coverage.

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.

- 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.
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 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.

**DHS Resources: BadgerCare Plus Core Plan:**

- To Apply Online (ACCESS)

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**NEWS: Health Care Reform**

- New law gets Wisconsin close to health care for all - by Julie Sneider for the ThirdCoast Digest, March 29
- What impact will the new health care law have on Wisconsin - Joy Cardin with DHS Secretary Karen Timberlake, Wisconsin Public Radio, March 29 (Click to Listen)
- Health care status quo was unsustainable, Obey says in teleconference - by DJ Slater for the Wausau Daily Herald, March 29
- National health care reform will significantly impact insurers - by Corinne Hess for the Milwaukee Business Journal, March 29
- Wanted: Doctors for rural clinics - by David Wahlberg for the Wisconsin State Journal, March 28
- Special training programs help place rural docs - by David Wahlberg for the Wisconsin State Journal, March 27
- Health care reform is good for small business and job growth in Wisconsin - by Harry Sanders, Jr for The Cap Times, March 27
- Health leaders view reform as starting point - by Corinne Hess for the Milwaukee Business Journal, March 26
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- Van Hollen wants to sue over health care law - by Scott Bauer for the Associated Press, March 25
- Counselors tend to patients worries – by Mark Johnson for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, March 24
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- Health care reform mirrors Wis. Programs - by Tony Galli for WKOW, March 22
- Wisconsin Insurance Commissioner Statement Regarding House of Representatives Vote on Health Insurance Reform, March 20
- Seclusion and restraints in schools: readers respond - by Shawn Doherty for the Cap Times, March 20
- Wisconsin providers support health care measure - by Guy Boulton for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, March 17
- Health centers sharing $1M GE grant - by the Milwaukee Business Journal, March 15

**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:

- 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
- New law gets Wisconsin close to health care for all - by Julie Sneider for the ThirdCoast Digest, March 29
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- Health leaders view reform as starting point - by Corinne Hess for the Milwaukee Business Journal, March 26
- Small business owners wary of health care reform - by Stacy Vogel Davis for the Milwaukee Business Journal, March 26
- Van Hollen wants to sue over health care law - by Scott Bauer for the Associated Press, March 25
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- Health care reform mirrors Wis. Programs - by Tony Galli for WKOW, March 22
- Wisconsin Insurance Commissioner Statement Regarding House of Representatives Vote on Health Insurance Reform, March 20
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