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The HealthWatch Wisconsin Update Newsletter

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

June 1 , 2010

Vol. 6 No. 10

HealthWatch Wisconsin

A Project of ABC for Health, Inc.

A statewide membership assuring a more competent, coordinated public health workforce.

To Print:

Want to print this newsletter and read it later? Access an easy-to-print version [HERE](#).

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Local HealthWatch Coalition Meetings:

Barron: TBA, 12:00-1:00pm. Barron

HealthWatch Membership: Join or Renew Today!

A New Membership Year Begins in ONE MONTH!

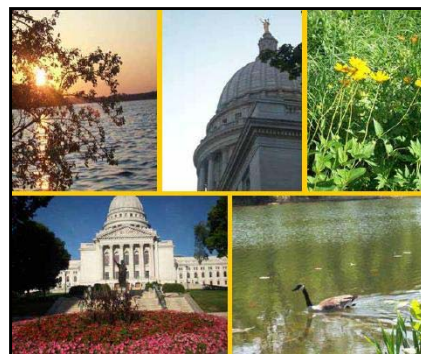
June is your last chance to [Join or Renew](#) your membership in HealthWatch Wisconsin and **still be eligible** for our big prizes! Join **BEFORE JULY 1st to be eligible to WIN:**

1) Our First **GREEN BAY PACKER TICKET PRIZE DRAWING**, to be held **July 2nd**. One lucky winner will receive two indoor deluxe club seat tickets to the very first pre-season game being played at Lambeau Field:

Packers v. Cleveland Browns Saturday, August 14, 2010, 7:00PM

Be sure to keep alert for more Packer ticket drawings in the next few weeks!

2) **A One-Night Stay in the Park Suite, Inn on the Park, Capitol Square Madison, WI!** One individual will be able to relax in beautiful Madison, right across from the Capitol, weekly farmer's market, summer Concert on the Square, and more!



How to Join:

A new membership drive for 2010-2011 has begun! Take 5 minutes to complete this [MEMBERSHIP FORM](#) to make sure you are connected to great materials, information and events.

Join as an individual member for \$30

- OR -

Get together with co-workers and join as an organization for only \$120

The Strength of HealthWatch Wisconsin:

In this past year alone, HealthWatch has connected over 1,100 viewers to on-demand trainings. Combine that with over 1,150 attendees at over 25 in-



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

Chippewa: TBD, 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: June 7, 9:00-11:00am. Harambee Center, 2202 S. Park St., Madison. Contact [Erin McBride](#) or (608) 261-6939, ext. 211 with questions.

Dunn: TBD, 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: September 2, 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: June 9, 9:30am-11:30am. Aurora Family Services, 3200 W. Highland Blvd., Milwaukee. Contact [Kari Lerch](#) or (414) 449-4777, ext. 145 or [Ginger Dzik](#) at (414) 443-4527 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: 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. May 25, 9:00-10:00am, Goodwill Community Center, Menasha Room. Contact [Susan Garcia Franz](#) for more information.

Coming Soon: Immigrant

person training events and HWW reached over 2,200 individuals with information, resources and education in an era of health reform!

Among other accomplishments, the membership elected brand new members of the Leadership Council and celebrated the inaugural class of HealthWatch Award Winners in Advocacy, Outreach, Media and Legislative Leadership.

To continue leading the way through health care reform, we need your help!

Joining or Renewing your HWW membership today gives you:

- Access to 12 publications valued at over \$200 including the NEW "My Guide to National Health Reform," available Fall 2010.
- Access to reduced trainings, workshops, and conferences on health care hot topics, including online trainings through the HWW Training Portal site.
- A voice in a state-wide advocacy organization that works toward quality and accessible health care for people across Wisconsin!

Join an organization committed to unifying the public health workforce, with emphasis on teaching, training, and information sharing! The membership year runs July 1, 2010-June 30, 2011. Questions? Call HealthWatch Wisconsin staff for more information: (608)261-6939 ext. 210.

BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan Training

The HealthWatch Wisconsin On-Demand Training Portal is Finally Here!

The HealthWatch Wisconsin On-Demand Training Portal makes a dramatic entrance into the realm of public health education with a presentation on the new BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan.

This unique training web site has been in development as the staff of HealthWatch Wisconsin have worked with software experts to create a user-friendly, enjoyable learning environment. Individuals can access the training web site, enter a user name and password, and select a video from a large training library on topics such as "An Introduction to BadgerCare Plus," "Katie Beckett Medicaid," or "Navigating a Fair Hearing." Topics cover the spectrum of public and private insurance programs and are created at many levels of difficulty.

To debut this training library, HealthWatch Wisconsin has made the very first video, on a very timely topic, available for FREE!!

Enrollment in BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan opens June 1! Now is your chance to learn the latest on eligibility, enrollment, covered services, and consumer protections. Be ready to help individuals across Wisconsin transition from the Core Plan waiting list into the newly minted Basic Plan buy-in program.

While learning about Basic, enjoy the brand-new, Online Training Portal! From the convenience of any computer with access to the internet, you'll be able to login to the training portal, select the video training from our growing video library, and then sit back, relax, and learn about the Basic Plan!

The BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan On Demand Webcast is available as of June 1, 2010 at 12:00pm and will be available for viewing as frequently as you like for one month after being posted.

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.

New Resources

Here is May's **Health Tracking Poll**, provided by the **Kaiser Health Foundation**; it shows that many are still confused about Health Care Reform.

Confusion over the new health reform law remains widespread:

- 44% of the public were confused in May
- 35% say they do not understand the impact of the law on themselves and their families
- 61% report feeling they do understand what that impact will be

Where do Americans get their information about health reform?

- 68% from friends and family
- 63% from cable news programs
- 55% from broadcast news programs

Americans remain divided on health reform:

- 41% hold favorable views of the law
- 44% hold unfavorable views
- 14% undecided or unsure

Why support health reform?

- 47% said increasing Americans' access to health insurance and health care
- 12% said making health

LOGIN NOW TO WATCH:

[Click here](#) to go to the HWW On Demand Site. As you will be a new user, click [Register](#) to make an account - be sure to fill in all of the fields (there aren't that many). Then [login](#) and go to the Quiz Page. Once there, you'll be able to take a quiz on BadgerCare Plus Basic (5 questions - don't sweat it!) and when you complete the five questions, you'll be able to view the HealthWatch Wisconsin BadgerCare Plus Basic Training. When you've finished watching it, you'll be asked to take the quiz again to show off what you've learned.

Problems with the site? No Problem! Give us a call (608-261-6939 ext. 204) or email avanspankeren@safetyweb.org and we can talk you through the process--from login to logout!

About the Training:

Join ABC for Health as we dig into the following topics as the first opportunity for enrollment nears:

- Introduction to BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan
- Enrolling in Basic
- Covered Services
- Troubleshooting
- Appeals?
- Refresher on Core Plan Eligibility
- Core Plan Renewals

Other BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan Trainings: If you missed the Department of Health Services Training on May 26, 2010, you can view an archived version of it [here](#). Just be sure to click 'Division of Health Care Access and Accountability' on the left-hand side.

If you work for a provider, tune into a web cast specific to you in July-September. Watch ForwardHealth's portal for provider updates and the announcement of the training logistics.

BadgerCare Plus Basic: Enrollment Opens June 1

Governor Jim Doyle signed the BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan into law on April 30, 2010. This health care insurance plan potentially impacts the over 45,000 people who are now on the waiting list for the BadgerCare Plus Core Plan.

How To Enroll

To enroll in the Basic Plan, you must be on the Core Plan Waiting List. It's not too late to join the growing waiting list! To do so, either "[Apply for Benefits](#)" online or call the Enrollment Services Center at 1-800-291-2002. You will get a letter to confirm you have been placed on the list.

If you are *already* on the Waiting List, you don't need to do anything right now. In a few weeks, you will receive a fact sheet and instructions on how to enroll in Basic.

Monthly Premiums and Enrollment Dates for the Basic Plan:

- All members must pay a premium of \$130 per person, per month for

insurance and health care more affordable

Why those don't support reform?

- 27% said the cost of reform to the country and to individuals
- 17% didn't like the government's role in the change

Where the data comes from: This Kaiser Health Tracking Poll was designed and analyzed by public opinion researchers at the Kaiser Family Foundation. The survey was conducted May 11 through May 16, 2010, among a nationally representative random sample of 1,210 adults ages 18 and older. Telephone interviews conducted by landline (803) and cell phone (407, including 125 who had no landline telephone) were carried out in English and Spanish. The margin of sampling error for the total sample is plus or minus 3 percentage points. For results based on subgroups, the margin of sampling error may be higher. The full question wording, results, charts and a brief on the poll can be viewed [online](#).

Links of Interest

World Progress in Maternal and Child Health, and the Future Role for the U.S.:

This Kaiser Family Foundation forum examined the evolving U.S. role in improving global maternal, newborn, and child health as well as global progress toward reducing child and maternal mortality by 2015. [Click Here](#) to watch the video of the May 24 forum.

StateHealthFacts.org goes Mobile - be sure to check out the [State Health Facts website](#), a useful resource for identifying the uninsured in Wisconsin and other states.

The U.S. Government and International Family Planning & Reproductive Health: This Kaiser Family Foundation [fact sheet](#) examines the U.S. role in international family planning and reproductive health worldwide, including the history of U.S. involvement, current programs and funding, and key issues.

coverage in the Basic Plan.

- Enrollment in the Basic Plan always starts on the 1st of the month. Which month coverage starts depends on when one pays the first premium.
 - If your first premium is received before 4:30 p.m. on the 15th of the month, your enrollment will start on the first of the next month.
 - If your first premium is received after 4:30 p.m. on the 15th of the month, enrollment will be delayed a month.

For example: If you sign up and pay your first premium between June 1 and June 15 by 4:30 p.m., your coverage will start July 1. If you sign up and pay your first premium between June 15 at 4:30 p.m. and June 30 by 4:30 p.m., your coverage will begin on August 1.

- Each month members will get a premium payment slip in the mail.
- A full premium payment will be due on the 5th of each month for coverage the next month. These premiums can be paid through the mail using the premium payment slip.
- If an individual fails to pay a monthly premium **in full** by the 5th of the month, coverage will end and the individual will not be able to re-enroll in the Basic Plan for 12 months.
- Individuals on the Basic Plan will be invited to enroll in the Core Plan as openings are available based on funding, in the order in which they applied.
- For more information, including covered services, visit the [Basic Plan Web Page](#).

BadgerCare Plus Core Plan Renewals:

Renewing Your Core Plan for the First Time?

Not only is it time for BadgerCare Plus Basic to begin, but families who registered for BadgerCare Plus Core Plan last year in June will be coming up for renewal!

- Current enrollees will get a letter in the mail that will indicate "it is time to renew" Core Plan benefits.
- Renewal applications must be submitted in the "renewal month" or the following month
- If not submitted in time, the individual will have to apply for the waiting list.
- Step 1: Start the Renewal Application within the first 5 days of the renewal month.
- Step 2: Submit the Renewal Application by the end of the renewal month or the following month
- Step 3: 30 days to pay the \$60 fee
- Step 4: 30 days to provide the required verifications
- NOTE: Even if all the steps are completed "in time," any steps completed after the month following the renewal month will create a gap in eligibility.

Help individuals complete all necessary steps to either get on the Core Plan Waiting list or Renew ASAP!

- When helping individuals renew Core Plan benefits, do your own eligibility review:

The U.S. Government's Efforts to Address Global Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health: The Global Health Initiative and Beyond: This [report](#) examines the U.S. role in improving global maternal, newborn, and child health, including the heightened focus placed on these issues by the Administration's Global Health Initiative. Information provided by the [U.S. Global Health Policy Program](#), Publication Number: 8074, Publish Date: May 24, 2010.

DiversityRx and **AHRQ** released a new webinar, [NCOA Multicultural Health Care Standards and Distinction Program](#), which features representatives from the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). They review the process of developing viable goals and standards that guide organizations on improving cultural and linguistic services and reducing health disparities.

The Engelberg Center for Health Care Reform at the Brookings Institution hosted a national conference to discuss the health care quality issues that face vulnerable populations. Surgeon General Regina M. Benjamin spoke about the critical need for improved health care quality and equitable care for all Americans. To see the webcast of Regina M. Benjamin's speech and other presentations, [click here](#).

Families USA's latest issue brief, [Reducing Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities: Key Health Equity Provisions](#), discusses how health reform will improve language access and cultural competence, support community health centers, strengthen the federal Office of Minority Health, increase workforce diversity, and reauthorize the Indian Health Care Improvement Act.

Families USA also released a fact sheet, [What Will the New Health Reform Law Do in the First Year?](#), which provides information on provisions that will be implemented early.

National Council of La Raza released [U.S. Citizen and Immigrant Treatment Chart for Health Care Reform Legislation](#), which looks at how the new

- Does the enrollee now have Access to Insurance?
- Is the individual eligible for a different benefits program?
 - BadgerCare Plus: pregnancy, children
 - Elderly, Blind, Disabled Medicaid: disability determinations, worsening medical conditions
 - Medical Assistance Purchase Plan: disability determinations, worsening medical conditions, ability to work
 - Health Insurance Risk Sharing Plan (HIRSP): medications, therapies, mental health treatments needed that Core Plan didn't cover
- Due Process Under The BadgerCare Plus Core Plan:
 - Appeal Denials: You have a legal right to a written explanation of the denial of service, reduction of coverage, or termination of coverage.
 - How to Appeal: Attempt to resolve the matter through a phone call or letter to the Enrollment Service Center staff. If that doesn't correct the problem, Contact the Division of Hearings & Appeals and Request a Medicaid Fair Hearing
- There is NO Appeals Process Under BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan! Consumers unhappy with a decision should request a reconsideration (in writing) from the Department of Health Services.

Refresher: Changes to Core Plan Covered Services

As a reminder, BadgerCare Plus Core Plan covers basic services, including Primary and Preventative Care. These covered services include:

- Physician services/doctor visits
- Hospital services (Inpatient and Outpatient)
- Chiropractic services
- Laboratory and radiology services
- Mental health (if provided by a Psychiatrist)
- Emergency room visits
- Emergency ambulance rides
- Emergency dental services only
- Therapy - physical/occupational/speech/language
- Durable medical equipment and disposable supplies (example...
- Limited drugs - prescriptions, certain generic and OTC
- Smoking cessation drugs and services

As of January 1st, 2010, the following benefits were added:

- Podiatry services for diagnosis and treatment of the feet and ankles (co-pay of \$0.50-3.00 per service, per provider, per year)
- Hospice services for members who are terminally ill and for their family members (no co-pay)
- Home health services for 30 days following an inpatient hospital stay, if ordered by the doctor (no co-pay)
- Health education for members with asthma, diabetes, or hypertension (no co-pay)

And the following services were changed:

- Prescription drug co-payments changed to \$4.00 for generics and \$8.00 for brand-name drugs (\$24.00 per provider, per month co-pay)

health reform law treats U.S. citizens, legal immigrants, and undocumented immigrants.

Calls for Submissions and Volunteers

ABC for Health is seeking legal interns for Fall 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 \(ACCESS\)](#)
- [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 1-888-415-2116**. (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

limit)

- Outpatient hospital visits are limited to 25 outpatient visits per member per enrollment year (Emergency room visits don't count toward the limit)
- ER visits for members with family income at or below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level will have a \$3.00 co-payment (If you are admitted to the hospital, the emergency room co-payment will be waived. You will then pay the inpatient hospital co-payment)

Another COBRA Subsidy Extension Unlikely

While Congress was once considering a [new plan](#) that would have extended COBRA subsidies through the end of 2010 as part of the [American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act of 2010](#), it seems that Democrats have [scaled back](#) their initial proposal in order to get votes, affecting both the COBRA subsidies and the 'Doc Fix' provision for Medicare. In order to keep the it from stalling, both provisions were dropped from the Bill, which means that people laid off after June 1st will not be getting COBRA to help pay for their continued health insurance and will be paying whole premiums, despite being newly unemployed, if they want to remain insured.

Coalition Roundup!

Local HealthWatch Coalitions have been busy! Below is a brief look at some events, announcements, and news from around the State. Coalition contacts are listed if you have questions on a story or would like to follow up with the coalition directly.

At the **Dane County HealthWatch** Meeting, June 7, Josh Weisbrod from HIRSP will be coming in to talk about changes to HIRSP and the federal risk pool. If you are unable to attend, please keep an eye on the HealthWatch website for the minutes from the meeting - we'll be asking Josh plenty of questions, including what the new HIRSP program(s) will look like, who will be targeted for benefits, and when they start!

The **Milwaukee County HW Coalition** is reminding its members and advocates to take part in Townhall Meetings, if there are questions on the new BadgerCare Plus HMO enrollment process. In July, August, and September, BadgerCare Plus Standard and Benchmark members in Milwaukee, Racine, Kenosha, Waukesha, Ozaukee, and Washington counties will need to choose an HMO. Members will receive an enrollment packet in the mail providing information about the HMOs and instructions on how to choose.

Wisconsin's Department of Health Services will be holding Townhall Meetings to discuss the HMO Enrollment process and answer questions and concerns that advocates, providers, and members may have. The details for the meetings are as follows:

For Advocates and Providers:

- June 8th: 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm at Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare - Wauwatosa 201 N. Mayfair Rd
- June 14th: 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm at UMOS 2701 S. Chase Ave

Note: Additional staff will be available at the advocate and provider sessions to answer questions on provider-related questions, but all are welcome to attend whichever session works best for them. No RSVPs are necessary.

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 MILES 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.

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!](#)

Member Focused:

- June 8th: 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center, 1531 W. Vliet Street
- June 14th: 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm at UMOS 2701 S. Chase Ave

Note: This does not affect members who are enrolled in SSI Medicaid, Medicaid for the Elderly, Blind, or Disabled (EBD), or BadgerCare Plus Core Plan. HMOs in Milwaukee, Racine, Kenosha, Ozaukee, Washington, and Waukesha counties that serve SSI Medicaid members and HMOs in Milwaukee that serve the Core Plan will not change.

Also in Milwaukee HW: With the changes to HMOs in Milwaukee, another growing concern is non-emergency medical transportation for Milwaukee residents receiving Medicaid benefits, particularly if they become enrolled in a different HMO and need to start getting to appointments on the other side of the city. HWW will be keeping an eye on this issue as it unfolds.

Helping the Helpers: A Look at Compassion Fatigue

Summer vacations are right around the corner. Take some time to relax-- really relax. It not only is good for your health, but may also be necessary to extend your career. The concept of "compassion fatigue," that is, the feeling of stress, anxiety, anger or exhaustion due to the daily assistance of others in high stress environments is not new, but researchers are now looking at the spectrum of caregiving services impacted.

Day in, day out, workers struggle to function in care giving environments that constantly present heart wrenching, emotional challenges. Affecting positive change in society, a mission so vital to those passionate about caring for others, is perceived as elusive, if not impossible. This painful reality, coupled with first-hand knowledge of society's flagrant disregard for the safety and well being of the feeble and frail, takes its toll on everyone from full time employees to part time volunteers. Eventually, negative attitudes prevail. There is hope, however, as long as providers and workers remember to take care of themselves as well as others. Take a look at these articles for tips on how to stave off compassion fatigue:

- [The Costs of Caring - by George C. Brown of the Wisconsin State Bar](#)
- [Understanding lawyer compassion fatigue in Wisconsin: Public defenders participate in study - by Karle' Lester, Wisconsin State Bar](#)
- [Overcoming Compassion Fatigue - by John-Henry Pfifferling and Kay Gilley for the AAFP](#)
- [Healing the Healer - by the American Medical Student Association](#)

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/or

Rent the ABC for Health Studio

ABC for Health has developed a web casting studio with state of the art technology to reach a mass audience in the comforts of their own homes or offices. Agencies and organizations are invited to rent this studio space. [Click here](#) for more information.

Support Our Efforts!

On behalf of the staff and students at ABC for Health, thank you for being a subscriber to the HealthWatch Wisconsin Update and WatchDog. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to ABC for Health, to keep projects like HealthWatch Wisconsin sustainable! **To make a donation, please click the donation button** to be re-directed to our PayPal site where you can donate with a credit card.

[Make A Donation](#)

To donate via check, please make the check payable to "ABC for Health, Inc.," at 32 N. Bassett St., Madison, WI 53703. We greatly 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!**

Contact Us

Have ideas, events, or success stories to share? [Email your suggestions!](#) All submissions should be limited to 150 words.

HealthWatch Wisconsin Update Staff

[Bobby Peterson](#)

[Adam VanSpankeren](#)

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

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:

Operations Memo 10-42: Wisconsin Works (W-2) in Access (Released May 27, 2010)

New Policy: Effective June 11, 2010, the W-2 Program will now be included in the Am I Eligible portion of the ACCESS website. This will allow individuals to assess their potential eligibility for W-2.

Operations Memo 10-39: Birth certificates for Puerto Rican individuals (Released May 26, 2010)

New Policy: Ops Memo 10-39 is meant to inform local agencies of a change that could affect people born in Puerto Rico who apply for Medicaid programs, BadgerCare Plus, or FoodShare on or after July 1, 2010. A new law enacted by the government of Puerto Rico will invalidate all certified copies of birth certificates issued by the Puerto Rico Health Department before July 1, 2010. Thus, these birth certificates will no longer be acceptable as verification of US citizenship (for Medicaid or BC+) or identification (for FoodShare) for applications filed on or after July 1, 2010.

Operations Memo 10-36: Local IM Agency and Enrollment Services Center (ESC) Coordination (Released May 26, 2010)

New Policy: Ops Memo 10-36 clarifies existing expectations and outlines new ones for Local IM Agency and Enrollment Services Center interactions and cooperation with application processing and ongoing case management. Now, local IM agencies will provide contact information for two or three staff that will be designated ESC Coordinators. These Coordinators will have security clearance to update ESC cases, including confirmation of BCLA closures. The goal here is to increase efficiency and cooperation between the different agencies and the ESC.

Congratulations members of HWW! Because of the issues raised by ABC for Health and HealthWatch Wisconsin, the procedure for ESC "outreach" has changed!

Operations Memo 10-41: BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan (Released May 26, 2010)

New Policy: This memo is the official DHS announcement of the BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan, which begins July 1, 2010. The BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan is high-premium, limited coverage health insurance plan designed to help childless adults who have been on the Core Plan waiting list.

Operations Memo 10-40: Direct Deposit of W-2 Benefits Payment (Released May 17, 2010)

New Policy: The purpose of this Operations Memo is to inform Wisconsin Works (W-2) Agencies that a statement to encourage direct deposit of W-2 benefits into a checking or savings account 2010 is being added to the monthly W-2 check stub. The check issued on May 28, 2010, will be the first check with the new statement. The following statement will appear on the stub: Get your W-2 payment on time and safely every month. Get your W-2 check by direct deposit (EFT). Ask your worker how to do it. This rule is effective June 1, 2010.

Provider Updates

benefits and services. ABC for Health's mission is to provide information, advocacy tools, legal services, and expert support needed to obtain, maintain, and finance health care coverage and services.



(608)261-6939

info@safetyweb.org

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

Coverage of Cervarix® and Changes to the Coverage of Gardasil®

Effective for dates of service (DOS) on and after December 1, 2009, Cervarix® is a covered service for female members ages 19-26 years of age. Effective for DOS on and after May 1, 2010, Cervarix® will be available through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program and will be covered for Wisconsin Medicaid and BadgerCare Plus female members ages 9-18 years of age. Cervarix® is covered by Wisconsin Medicaid, the BadgerCare Plus Standard Plan, the BadgerCare Plus Benchmark Plan, and the BadgerCare Plus Core Plan. Effective for DOS on and after December 1, 2009, Gardasil® will be covered for both male and female members. Gardasil remains age restricted for members ages 9-26 years of age. Gardasil® is covered by Wisconsin Medicaid, the Standard Plan, the Benchmark Plan, and the Core Plan. Gardasil® is not a covered service for the FPW program.

Portal Fundamentals Training Sessions for Dentists

The Department of Health Services will be conducting ForwardHealth Portal fundamentals training for dentists beginning in July 2010. These training sessions will provide an overview of the public and secure areas of the Portal, as well as a specific focus on the newly available Portal claims functions for dentists. Registration for these sessions is required.

BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan Training Available for Providers

The Department of Health Services (DHS) is conducting provider training for the BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan in June 2010. The Basic Plan is a self-funded plan that focuses on providing BadgerCare Plus Core Plan waiting list members with access to vital, cost-effective primary and preventive care.

CASE TIP: The Timing of Premiums for BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan

Once enrolled in BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan, individuals will have to pay a \$130 premium payment each month. Remember this important deadline: Premium payments, made in full, are due by the 5th of each month. Enrollees can expect to receive a "payment slip" in the mail close to the 20th of the month prior to the month in which the premium is due. If the enrollee wants to pay using ACCESS.GOV website, they will have from the 20th of the current month to the 10th of the next month. **Please Note: a late premium payment may result in a 12 month restrictive re-enrollment period.**

Grapevine Issue: Health Care Reform Advisory Council



We've learned that the Office of Health Care Reform has formed an Advisory Council. Below is a list of members - these folks are responsible for advising the Office as they implement national health reform for the state of Wisconsin.

- Jim Riordan, CEO of WPS Health Insurance
- Mark Moody, President of WEA Insurance Trust
- Larry Rambo, CEO of Humana
- Peter Farrow, CEO and General Manager of Group Health Cooperative
- Steve Youso, CAO of Security Health Plan
- Nancy Wenzel, CEO of the Wisconsin Association of Health Plans
- Bill Smith, State Director for the National Federation of Independent Businesses
- John Toussaint, MD, President of the Wisconsin Health Information Organization
- Chris Queram, President and CEO of the Wisconsin Collaborative for

Healthcare Quality

- Tim Johnson, President of Agents for Change/the Insurance Center
- Fred Coan, President of VISTA Benefits/Wisconsin Association of Health Underwriters
- Susan Turney, MD, CEO and Executive Vice President of the Wisconsin Medical Society
- Steve Brenton, President of the Wisconsin Hospital Association
- Leo Brideau, President and CEO of Columbia St. Mary's (Milwaukee)
- Ed Harding, President of Columbus Community Hospital
- Mary Starmann-Harrison, CEO of SSM Health Care - WI
- Kathryn Kuhn - Vice President of Government and Community Affairs for the Medical College of Wisconsin
- Craig Sammit, President and CEO of the Dean Healthcare System
- Dr. Douglas Reding, MD at Marshfield Clinic
- Tim Size, Executive Director of Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative
- Stephanie Harrison, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association
- Bill Orth, Vice President of the Wisconsin County Human Service Association
- And, of course, Bobby Peterson, Executive Director of ABC for Health

It also looks like the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce, the Board on Aging and Long Term Care, and Citizen Action will also be represented on the Advisory Council.

The Office of Health Care Reform is chaired by Health Services Secretary Karen Timberlake and Insurance Commissioner Sean Dilweg; they have a website, which can be viewed [here](#).

CKSN Corner

Covering Kids with Special Needs



Mark Your Calendars Now

Check Out These Excellent Events in 2010!

- **WINMILL Training the Trainers Seminar - June 3 & 4, 2010**, at IndependenceFirst, 540 South 1st Street, Milwaukee, WI 53204. 4:00 - 7:30 PM, June 3; 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM, June 4. Attendance required both days! For parents, students, service providers, and more - topics include transitioning from school to life after school, putting on successful workshops and seminars, and information for marketing seminars.
- **CMS Low-Income Health Access Open Door Forum - June 15**,

2010, at 2:00 PM, The Low Income Health Access ODF addresses the concerns of the beneficiary advocates, providers, and information intermediaries throughout the country interested in improving access to Medicare and Medicaid for lower income Americans. Generally, CMS addresses are new guidance or initiatives in programs for people with low incomes, such as the Medicaid and SCHIP programs. Dial **800-837-1935; ID: 76349201**

- **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](#)

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.

NEWS: Health Care in Wisconsin

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

- [Free health clinic re-organizes, prepares for more big demand - by Phil Pfuehler for the *River Falls Journal*, June 1](#)
- [Coalition pushes for transparency between doctors and drug companies - by Jessica VanEgeren for the *Capital Times*, May 31](#)
- [Businesses prepare to handle health care reform - by John Torinus for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, May 29](#)
- [Wisconsin health insurance exchanges in the works - by Shemane Mills for *Wisconsin Public Radio*, May 28](#)
- [School administrators look at changing health insurance providers to save money - by Adam Rodewald for the *Northwestern*, May 28](#)
- [U.S. Sen. Feingold: Introduces measure to bring down price of prescription drugs - by Zach Lowe and Katie Rowley for *WisPolitics*, May 25](#)
- [Neumann pledges health care opposition - by Andrew Beckett for the *Wisconsin Radio Network*, May 25](#)
- [Too few dentists, too much pain in rural Wisconsin communities - by](#)

- [David Wahlberg for the *Wisconsin State Journal*, May 23](#)
- [Neenah, Menasha may join Oshkosh and Winnebago County in discussions about consolidating health departments - by Jeff Bollier for the *Northwestern*, May 19](#)
- [WHA Press Release: Expectant Parents Can Find Hospital Birth Care Services, Information Online - by Mary Kay Grasmick for the *Wisconsin Hospital Association*, May 19](#)
- [New law to extend young adults' coverage under parents' plan - by Guy Boulton for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, May 16](#)

NEWS: Health Care Reform

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

- [Americans may give health care law a chance - by Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar for the *Associated Press*, June 1](#)
- [Republicans criticize Obama administration brochure on health-care overhaul - by David S. Hilzenrath for the *Washington Post*, May 28](#)
- [Employers Urged to Act Now to Expand Health Plans - by Robert Pear for the *New York Times*, May 28](#)
- [How The Tax Bill Would Affect Health Care Programs - by Andrew Villegas for *NPR*, May 27](#)
- [Democrats Scale Back Medicare 'Doc Fix,' COBRA Subsidy Extension In Jobs Bill - by Andrew Villegas for *Kaiser Health News*, May 27](#)
- [Study: States will bear little cost of Medicaid expansion under health-care law - by Alec MacGillis for the *Washington Post*, May 27](#)
- [Some Recent Grads Face Health Care Coverage Gap - by Julie Rovner for *NPR*, May 27](#)
- [Health Care Study Calls Risk Pool Money Lacking - by Kevin Sack for the *New York Times*, May 26](#)
- [Popular benefit of health-care law excludes military families - by David Hilzenrath for the *Washington Post*, May 26](#)
- [U.S. states eye bill on extra healthcare funds - by Kim Dixon and Diane Craft for *Reuters*, May 25](#)
- [FDA to Disclose More Details on Drug, Food Safety - by Jennifer Corbett Dooren for the *Wall Street Journal*, May 19](#)
- [AMA opposes 'doc fix' in tax legislation - by Julian Pecquet for *The Hill*, May 18](#)
- [Mass. Senate approves bill to contain health costs - by Steve LeBlanc for the *Associated Press*, May 18](#)

NEWS: Opinion

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

- [Op-Ed: With health reform, familiarity is breeding contempt - by Michael Gerson for the *Washington Post*, May 28](#)
- [Op-Ed: Health Care Study Calls Risk Pool Money Lacking - by Kevin Sack for the *New York Times*, May 26](#)
- [Op-Ed: Closing a gap - a *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* Editorial, May 24](#)
- [Op-Ed: Health Care Reform and the Courts - a *New York Times* editorial, May 20](#)
- [Op-Ed: Keeping routine medical care out of hospital emergency rooms - by Jennifer Brokaw for the *Washington Post*, May 18](#)
- [Op-Ed: Future of health care looks bright - by Dr. Michael Warren for the *Daily News*, May 18](#)

- [Op-Ed: Consumers should see health care price tag - by the *Press Herald*, May 18](#)
- [Op-Ed: Learning to live with imperfect health-care plan - by Richard Feldman for the *Indiana Star*, May 18](#)
- [Op-Ed: Waste in health care? For some, it's profit - by Joanna Weiss for the *Boston Globe*, May 18](#)
- [Op-Ed: Health reform's next test - by Jim Yong Kim and James N. Weinstein for the *Washington Post*, May 17](#)
- [Op-Ed: Napalm, Big Health Insurance, and Divestment - by Rob Stone, M.D. for the *Huffington Post*, May 12](#)
- [Op-Ed: Ten Things You Can Do for Healthcare Reform - by the Editors of the *Nation*, May 5](#)

NEWS: Health Care Costs and Access

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

- [On health care, lobbyists flex muscle - by Christopher Rowland for the *Boston Globe*, May 31](#)
- [Healthcare reform costs shift to cash-strapped states - by Lisa Lambert for *Reuters*, May 26](#)
- [Study of healthcare law rebuts states Medicaid costs - by Alec MacGillis for the *Washington Post*, May 26](#)
- [Millions of Medicaid kids don't get medical exams - by Kelli Kennedy for the *Associated Press*, May 24](#)
- [Global Death Rates Drop for Children 5 or Younger - by Denise Grady for the *New York Times*, May 23](#)
- [National Restaurant Assn. and UnitedHealth join on coverage effort for restaurant workers - by Noam N. Levey and Tom Hamburger for the *Los Angeles Times*, May 21](#)
- [Many Young Adults Will Wait For Health Coverage After All - by Julie Rovner for *NPR* on *Kaiser Health News*, May 20](#)
- [Kids Become Prime Growth Market For Prescription Drugs - by Scott Hensley for *NPR*, May 19](#)
- [Kids With Mental Health Issues Make Less Money As Adults - by Whitney Blair Wyckoff for *NPR*, May 18](#)
- [Workplace Set to Remain Key Source of Health Coverage - by Anna Wilde Matthews for the *Wall Street Journal*, May 17](#)

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