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The HealthWatch Wisconsin Update Newsletter

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

June 15 , 2010

Vol. 6 No. 11

HealthWatch Wisconsin

A Project of ABC for Health, Inc.

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

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Local HealthWatch Coalition Meetings:

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.

My Coverage Plan Secures NIH Grant!

New Health Coverage Plan Technology Approved

My Coverage Plan, Inc. Secures a Major NIH Research Grant to Reduce Health Disparities in Wisconsin

Madison, WI - My Coverage Plan, Inc., a Madison-based for profit subsidiary of ABC for Health Inc., received a major new grant for up to four years and \$1.2 million from the National Institutes of Health's Small Business



Innovation Research (SBIR) Program to support and accelerate the development of new health coverage information technology (pat. pend.). "Our new My Coverage Plan technology is groundbreaking," says Bobby Peterson, public interest attorney, founder of ABC for Health, Inc., and President of My Coverage Plan, Inc. "The new company will create a web-based software solution to the vexing problem of correctly identifying and maximizing myriad public and private health care coverage options for both health consumers and providers. Our partnership with ABC for Health combines years of experience, expertise, and energy related to correctly identifying health care coverage strategies for patients." ABC for Health is a leading Wisconsin public interest law firm that has helped families navigate the maze and bureaucracy of health care financing and coverage programs for over 16 years.

Despite the passage of Health Reform, our systems continue with a complex interplay of public and private health care coverage options. Proactive benefits coordination is just one of the proven strategies to reduce avoidable health disparities related to a lack of coverage or adequate insurance. In the process, Peterson says My Coverage Plan technology will promote increased access to healthcare while reducing levels of uncompensated care for health care providers.

My Coverage Plan began as a "garage built" database used to conduct client interviews and identify coverage options for families. ABC for Health tested this model at St. Mary's Hospital, Madison, WI – now the outpost partner for the NIH Grant – and discovered that the hospital saved between \$27-\$30 for every \$1 spent on pro-active health benefits counseling services for patients. Now, My Coverage Plan aims to take that model and streamline it for commercial use to reduce avoidable health disparities in Wisconsin and perhaps the nation.

"Madison is home to many successful start-up companies. My Coverage Plan will only enhance the areas culture of high tech job creation and growth." Peterson concludes, "We are honored and humbled to receive this prestigious award of funding. We are confident in our product development plan and

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: Picnic for July! Date
TBD. Next Meeting: August 2, 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: July 14, 9:30am-11:30am. Aurora Family Services, 3200 W. Highland Blvd., Milwaukee. Contact [Kari Lerch](#) or (414) 449-4777, ext. 145 or [Ginger Dzick](#) 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 Health Coverage Workshops

eager to move forward with testing and implementation."

HealthWatch Membership: Join or Renew Today!

A New Membership Year Begins In Just Two Weeks!

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



Last Chance! 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

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-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.

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.

- 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.

HIRSP and the Federal High Risk Pool

At the June 7 meeting, the Dane County HealthWatch Coalition welcomed Josh Weisbrod from HIRSP (Wisconsin's Health Insurance Risk Sharing Plan) to provide updates on the status of HIRSP in an era of health reform. As the new Federal High Risk Pool conversation is advancing, one thing is becoming clearer: it's as complicated as you thought. Josh led a discussion that helped shed some light on a few issues.

HIRSP will be administering the Federal High Risk Pool for the state of Wisconsin and is hoping to begin enrolling people as early as July 1, for coverage beginning August 1. Here are the eligibility requirements for the Federal High Risk Pool:

- Applicant must be U.S. Citizen or lawfully present in the United States (a Federal rule)
- Applicant must have a pre-existing medical condition
- Applicants must be uninsured for 6 months to be eligible for the Federal pool - any form of insurance will bar them from the program; Please note: People **can** be eligible for the BadgerCare Plus Core Plan, Basic Plan, or Benchmark Plan, but they **cannot** have enrolled.

The Federal High Risk Pool will have a premium based on standard market rates for individual health insurance. The premium rates for the Federal Pool are expected to be lower than the full HIRSP premium rates. HIRSP will not be allowed to offer a low-income subsidy for the Federal Pool.

In a [copy of the letter](#) from Wisconsin's Department of Health Services to people on the BadgerCare Plus Core Plan Waiting List regarding the new BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan, more guidance on the Federal High Risk Pool is provided. Please see page 6 for information about HIRSP and the new Federal High Risk Pool.

For more information, please contact [Josh Weisbrod](#) at HIRSP directly or [Adam VanSpankeren](#) at ABC for Health.

BadgerCare Plus Basic Enrollment: Reactions After the First Two Weeks!

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.

Updates from DHS

New ACCESS Handbook Released!

On June 4, DHS released a new version of the ACCESS handbook. See it [here](#).

Operations Memos

Below, find Wisconsin's Department of Health Services (DHS) Operations 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:

Operations Memo 10-46:

Renegotiating the Terms of Job Access Loan (JAL) Repayment (Released June 14)

New Policy: The memo informs Wisconsin Works (W-2) agencies that there is a process that allows them to add in-kind payments to a loan that was originally structured to be repaid in cash only. The repayment terms of a JAL may be renegotiated up to the third late or missed payment. When a JAL is renegotiated before the 15th of the month, the next payment and in-kind hours are due on the 25th of that month. If the renegotiation is done after the 15th of the month, the next payment and in-kind hours are due on the 25th of the next month.

Operations Memo 10-39: Birth Certificates for Puerto Rican Individuals (Released May 26)

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.

Provider Updates

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

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 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

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.

Introducing the BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan

Individuals on the waitlist for the Core Plan can begin enrolling in the BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan on June 1, 2010, with benefits starting on July 1, 2010. The Basic Plan is a self-funded plan that focuses on providing Core Plan waitlist members with access to vital, cost-effective primary and preventive care. This option will allow members to have some minimal form of coverage until space becomes available in the Core Plan and will help prevent bankruptcy due to excessive medical debt.

Coverage of Certain Medical Services Under the BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan

Following is an overview of the covered medical services under the Basic Plan. Refer to the [Online Handbook](#) on the ForwardHealth Portal for more information on covered services, policies, and procedures.

Ambulance Services Under the BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan

Ambulance services covered under the Basic Plan are limited to emergency transportation by land or air ambulance. Non-emergency transportation by ambulance is not covered under the Basic Plan.

Ambulatory Surgery Center Services Covered Under the BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan

The Basic Plan covers up to five ASC visits per member per enrollment year. A visit is defined as all ASC services delivered on the same date of service (DOS). Visits that exceed the Basic Plan service limitations are considered noncovered. Surgeries for services not covered under the Basic Plan (e.g., transplant surgeries) are not covered.

Dental Services Covered Under the BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan

A limited number of dental services are covered under the Basic Plan when performed as emergency services. Refer to the Attachment of this ForwardHealth

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:
 - 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.

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 in the sidebar if you have questions on a story or would like to follow up with the coalition directly.

First, HealthWatch Coalitions are reporting a strong response to Core Plan renewal calls; it looks like people are being found and are successfully renewing their benefits for the next year and getting their physicals when necessary.

Dane County HealthWatch would like to thank Josh Weisbrod from HIRSP for coming in to talk about changes to HIRSP and the new Federal Risk Pool at the June 7 Dane County HealthWatch Meeting. See the above news story for more details on the new Federal Risk Pool. [Josh](#) can be reached at 608-441-5777 for direct questions related to HIRSP and the new pool. We look forward to inviting him to speak to other coalitions in the near future. Dane County HealthWatch will be following up to see how enrollment is going for the new Federal High Risk Pool. For more information, please contact [Adam VanSpankeren](#).

Both the **Chippewa** and **Eau Claire County HealthWatch Coalitions** have been encountering problems dealing with getting people's FoodShare benefits renewed after they have been dropped at the six-month review. Fortunately, both have found help in their county Economic Support offices, who have been able to pull the cases from the state and correct the

Update for Current Dental Terminology (CDT) codes that are covered under the Basic Plan when performed as emergency services. ForwardHealth defines emergency dental care as an immediate service that must be provided to relieve the member from pain, an acute infection, swelling, trismus, fever, or trauma. By indicating the designated CDT procedure codes on claims for Basic Plan dental services, emergency service is implied. Providers should retain documentation of emergency services in case of a future audit.

Disposable Medical Supplies Covered Under the BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan

The Basic Plan covers ostomy supplies, disposable medical supplies (DMS) that are required with the use of durable medical equipment, and preferred blood glucose test strips. Non-preferred diabetic supplies are not covered under the Basic Plan.

Durable Medical Equipment Covered Under the BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan

The Basic Plan will reimburse up to \$500.00 for DME per member per enrollment year. The cost of DME repairs counts toward this service limitation. The cost of blood glucose meters do not count toward this service limitation. Durable medical equipment that exceeds the \$500.00 service limitation is considered noncovered. Prior authorization is not required for DME under the Basic Plan. Prior authorization is not accepted for nonpreferred diabetic supplies.

End-Stage Renal Disease Services Covered Under the BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan

End-stage renal disease (ESRD) services covered under the Basic Plan are the same as those covered under the BadgerCare Plus Standard Plan, the BadgerCare Plus Benchmark Plan, and the Core Plan. End-stage renal disease services include dialysis and other kidney-related services for members with a diagnosis of ESRD who do not qualify for Medicare ESRD services. Note: End-stage renal disease service providers who submit claims as an ESRD facility are not subject to the Basic Plan's outpatient hospital limitations. Refer to the June 2010 ForwardHealth

problems. Likewise in Southern Wisconsin, Second Harvest has been a strong ally for getting people access to FoodShare benefits. For more information on Second Harvest, please contact [Gina Wilson](#).

Also in **Chippewa**, [Rose Marsh](#) has been volunteering at the Open Door Clinic and has been helping people enroll in BadgerCare Plus Basic. Nice work, Rose!

Milwaukee County HealthWatch had some good news, as well, with regard to the BadgerCare Plus HMO enrollment contract debacle going on in that region. Although Managed Health Services have now filed a protest, which has put the publishing of the new HMO information on hold, the state has not rolled everyone into fee-for-service plans (where the non-emergency medical transportation issues ensue) and has allowed them to continue going to their existing HMOs, at least for the time being. New cases however, as of April, are being pushed into fee-for-service plans indefinitely.

CASE TIP: Prescription Drug Coverage For Basic Enrollees

Individuals on the wait list for the Core Plan began enrolling in the BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan on June 1, 2010. When benefits begin (for some as soon as July 1, 2010) enrollees can anticipate the following prescription drug coverage. First, it is important to note that the Basic Plan has a closed drug formulary; only the following drugs are covered:

- Certain generic drugs
- A limited number of over-the-counter drugs
- Humalog insulin, Humalog Mix insulin, and Lantus insulin
- Tamiflu
- Relenza

Providers and other interested individuals may refer to the BadgerCare Plus Basic National Drug Code List on the Pharmacy page of the [ForwardHealth Portal](#) or may consult the [ePocrates Web site](#) for a list of drugs covered by the Basic Plan.

Grapevine Issue: Plug Pulled on Office of Health Reform Advisory Council!



The Advisory Council to Wisconsin's new Office of Health Reform that we described in the Grapevine of the [last HealthWatch Wisconsin Update](#) has been **disbanded**, presumably due to an increased volume of vitriol coming from parties feeling neglected. At this time, it appears likely that key stakeholders will still be available to provide input as the Office moves forward with the implementation of Health Reform.

CKSN Corner
Covering Kids with Special Needs

Update (2010-51), titled "Hospital Services Covered Under the BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan," for more information on hospital services covered under the Basic Plan.

Hospice Services Covered Under the BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan

Hospice services covered under the Basic Plan are the same as those covered under the Core Plan. The table in this memo lists the reimbursable hospice revenue codes with the appropriate corresponding Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) procedure code under the Basic Plan.

Hospital Services Covered Under the BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan

The following hospital services are covered under the Basic Plan: Inpatient hospital services; Outpatient hospital services; Rehabilitation hospital stays; and Emergency room services.

Pharmacy Services Covered Under the BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan

The Basic Plan has a closed drug formulary. Providers may refer to the BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan National Drug Code List on the Pharmacy page of the [ForwardHealth Portal](#) for a list of drugs covered by the Basic Plan.

Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and Speech and Language Pathology Services Covered Under the BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan

The Basic Plan covers the same physical therapy (PT), occupational therapy (OT), and speech and language pathology (SLP) services as the Core Plan. Refer to the Online Handbook on the [ForwardHealth Portal](#) for covered services, policies, and procedures. The Basic Plan covers up to 10 visits in each therapy discipline (PT, OT, and SLP) per member, per enrollment year. Cardiac rehabilitation visits are counted towards the 10 visits allowed for PT. A therapy visit is defined as all therapy services delivered on the same date of service (DOS) by the same rendering provider.

Links of Interest

Seminar: What does the new Health Care Reform mean to you and your business? Presented by Wegner LLP, CPAs & Consultants at the Madison



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

- **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](#).
- **Care in the Community Conference - Wednesday, September 22, 2010**. Radisson Hotel, Wauwatosa, WI. A conference to provide families and providers who care for children and youth with special health care needs with the information and tools they need. For more information, see www.maxishare.com/conferences

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:

- [950 volunteers from across Wisconsin will help WDA Mission of Mercy](#)

Office, 2110 Luann Lane, Madison, WI 53713, either June 29, 2010 at 7:30am -OR- June 30, 2010 at 11:30am. For questions or to register, please contact: [Christin Biermeier](#) or by phone: 608-356-3966

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.

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.

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-

deliver \$1 million in free dental care in Sheboygan - from the [Wheeler Report](#), June 15

- [Insurance on county agenda](#) - by Joe Potente for the [Kenosha News](#), June 14
- [More Reasons To Welcome The Smoking Ban](#) - by Corrinne Hess for the [Milwaukee Business Journal](#), June 14
- [Early response good for BadgerCare Plus Basic](#) - by Andrew Beckett for the [Wisconsin Radio Network](#), June 9
- [Press Release: Sen. Robson, Rep. Sheridan: Applaud new 4-year nursing program](#) - Press Release from [WisPolitics](#), June 7
- [White House: Seniors in Wisconsin to host local meeting, participate in health care tele-town hall meeting with President Obama](#) - Press Release from [WisPolitics](#), June 7
- [Grant will pay for computer system for community health centers](#) - by [Guy Boulton](#) for the [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#), June 4
- [Gundersen, Mayo models of health care, HHS chief says](#) - by Terry Rindfleisch for [La Crosse Tribune](#), June 4
- [U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services: HHS awards \\$83.9 million in Recovery Acts funds to expand use of health information technology](#) - Press Release from [WisPolitics](#), June 3
- [Walker Appoints New Health and Human Services Department manager](#) - by Steve Schultze for the [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#), June 2
- [Reform leads to bigger role for community health centers](#) - by [Guy Boulton](#) for the [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#), June 2
- [State opens applications for new low-income health plan](#) - by Patrick Marley for the [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#), June 1

NEWS: Health Care Reform

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

- [Rising Costs: A Health Care Challenge For Democrats](#) - by Julie Rovner for [NPR](#), June 15
- [Health-care law would allow college graduate to rejoin their parent's plan](#) - a Q&A from the [Washington Post](#), June 15
- [Report: Employers to see 2011 medical costs jump](#) - by Tom Murphy for the [Wisconsin State Journal](#), June 14
- [New Health-Reform Campaign Puts Democratic Candidate in a Tough Spot](#) - by Kate Pickert for [Time](#), June 14
- [Doctors' group wants more accuracy from insurers](#) - by Carla K. Johnson for the [Associated Press](#), June 14
- [Gov't puts employers on notice over health costs](#) - by Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar for the [Associated Press](#), June 14
- [Healthcare industry fights for White House role in innovation](#) - by Julian Pecquet for [The Hill](#), June 10
- [Health insurance, check. But what about dental?](#) - by Susan Heavey for [Reuters](#), June 9
- [Medicaid Cut Places States in Budget Bind](#) - by Kevin Sack for the [New York Times](#), June 7
- [Two Health Care Adversaries Find a Need to Collaborate](#) - by Robert Pear for the [New York Times](#), June 4
- [Obama extends benefits of gay federal workers](#) - by Ed O'Keefe for the [Washington Post](#), June 3
- [White House defends healthcare law as reducing budget deficit](#) - by Julian Pecquet for [The Hill](#), June 2
- [What The New Health Law Means For You](#) - by Phil Galewitz for [Kaiser](#)

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:

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Recent HealthWatch WatchDog Episodes:

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Lifeline and Link-Up Services!

Telecommunications assistance is

[Health News, June 2](#)

- [Insurance regulators miss early deadline on premium spending - by David S. Hilzenrath for the Washington Post, June 2](#)
- [Critics Question Study Cited in Health Debate - by Reed Abelson and Gardiner Harris for the New York Times, June 2](#)

NEWS: Opinion

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

- [Op-Ed: Memo to Wisconsin Democrats - Try harder - by Emily Mills for the Isthmus, June 15](#)
- [Editorial: Small businesses should worry as Obama administration fills in details of health-care law - by the Jackson Citizen Patriot Staff, June 15](#)
- [Op-Ed: Father Hehir and the Health Care Debate - by Michael Sean Winters for America magazine, June 14](#)
- [Opinion: Change how we deliver mental health care - by Karen Avery, Kristina Finnel and Peter Hoeffel for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, June 14](#)
- [Debate: Obama Spins Seniors on Health Reform - for AOL News, June 14](#)
- [Editorial: Plenty of room remains for health care abuses - by the Voice of Aurora for the Aurora Sentinel, June 14](#)
- [Op-Ed: With health care lawsuits, states hope for victory but plan for defeat - by Jake Grovum for Stateline, June 14](#)
- [Editorial: Independent views on health reform - by the MetroWest Daily News, June 13](#)
- [Editorial: A costly lesson in the value of transparency in health care - from the Akron Beacon Journal, June 13](#)
- [Op-Ed: Obama faces rare defeat on health help for jobless - by Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar for the Wisconsin State Journal, June 12](#)
- [Op-Ed: Study: health reform good - for the Hutchinson News, June 9](#)
- [Op-Ed: A call to action on health disparities - by Brian D. Smedley for the Baltimore Sun, June 8](#)
- [Op-Ed: Health care opinions may change in time - by William F. O'Brien for the Edmond Sun, June 7](#)
- [Editorial: Sacramento Should Scrap Mental Health Cuts - for the Sacramento Bee, June 4](#)

NEWS: Health Care Costs and Access

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

- [Sheryl and Jay Raether of Oconomowoc to share children's health story with members of Congress, White House administration - by Larry Bivins for the Post Crescent, June 15](#)
- [1 in 5 medical claims processed inaccurately, AMA says - by Bruce Japsen for the Chicago Tribune, June 14](#)
- [More firms use dependent care audits to control health costs - by Jared Bilski for the CFO Daily News, June 14](#)
- [Bringing Comparison Shopping to the Doctor's Office - by Claire Cain Miller for the New York Times, June 10](#)
- [Small Business Healthcare - Benefits from Employer Group Health Insurance Plans - by Karen Byrd for the Red, White, and Blue Press, June 9](#)
- [Uninsured not driving increase in ED visits - by Christine S. Moyer for American Medical News, June 9](#)

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.

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.

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 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.



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info@safetyweb.org

- [The Health Care Economy: New Questions About Costs, Quality and Care](#) - by Merrill Goozner of the *Fiscal Times* for *Kaiser Health News*, June 8
- [Sick children get guarantee of health coverage](#) - by Bruce Japsen for the *Chicago Tribune*, June 7
- [Doctors and Hospitals Say Goals on Computerized Medical Records are Unrealistic](#) - by Robert Pear for the *New York Times*, June 7
- [Report Examines What People Pay For Long-Term Care Insurance Protection](#) - by the *American Association of Long-Term Care Insurance*, June 7
- [COBRA Subsidy Starts Running Out For Some As Congress Grapples With Extension](#) - by Andrew Villegas for *Kaiser Health News*, June 4
- [The Revolving Door at the Hospital](#) - by Ron Winslow for the *Wall Street Journal*, June 2

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