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The HealthWatch Wisconsin Update Newsletter

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

July 15 , 2010

Vol. 6 No. 13

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: July 21, 9:00-10:00am. Barron County Workforce Resource, Inc., 331

Federal High Risk Pool Accepts Applications TODAY!

Wisconsin is expected to begin taking applications for the [Federal Health Insurance Risk Sharing Plan](#) (Federal HIRSP) on **July 15, 2010 for an August 1 effective date**. Administered through the existing Wisconsin HIRSP authority, the Federal HIRSP plan will have different eligibility and application requirements from what we know as the existing State HIRSP plan. To qualify for the Federal Pool, a person must:

1. Be a citizen or national of the United States, or be lawfully present; and
2. Have a preexisting medical condition; and
3. Been uninsured for at least 6 months before applying for the HIRSP Federal Plan.

Keep your eye on the [HIRSP website](#) for new details as they become available. Be sure to visit the [Frequently Asked Questions Tab](#) for the interaction of BadgerCare Plus Core Plan and Basic Plans with Federal HIRSP.

The HIRSP Authority has released several handouts to help consumers and public health workers navigate the new program:

- Here is a [letter](#) from the HIRSP Authority, outlining their role in administering the new HIRSP Federal Program;
- Click [here](#) to view rates for the new Federal HIRSP Program; Click [here](#) for the State HIRSP rates;
- Check out the application for Federal HIRSP [here](#); and
- Please view this [comparison of the two HIRSP Programs!](#)

If you have any other questions about Federal or State HIRSP, please call the HIRSP Authority: 608-441-5777.

Also, stay tuned for a special webinar presentation on the new HIRSP program presented by the HIRSP Authority, filmed at ABC for Health's own studio!

Registration is Now OPEN: "Immigrant Health Coverage Options Workshops"

Join the staff of ABC for Health on September 14 in Madison or September 16 in Milwaukee as we spend 3 hours digging into public benefits options for nonqualified immigrants, undocumented immigrants with citizen children, changes in new legislation affecting immigrants

Back by Popular Demand!

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: Picnic for July - Today, July 15! 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: August 11, 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: August 12, 10:30am-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. TBD, 9:00-10:00am, Goodwill Community Center, Menasha Room. Contact [Susan Garcia Franz](#) for more information.

It's Not Too Late To Join

with legal permanent resident status, and more!

Attention HealthWatch Wisconsin Members: The cost of this workshop is significantly reduced because you are a member! Thank you for joining HealthWatch Wisconsin. Not a member? It's not too late to join and take advantage of significant savings. Select the "registering for HealthWatch AND this Workshop" option on the registration form! ABC for Health will be in an area near you:

<p>Madison Tuesday, September 14, 2010 9:00am-12:00pm Alliant Energy Center, Monona Room 1919 Alliant Energy Center Way Madison, WI 53713</p>	<p>Milwaukee Thursday, September 16, 2010 1:00pm-4:00pm Boy Scouts of America 330 S. 84th Street Milwaukee, WI 53214</p>
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Register Today:

Please **CLICK HERE** to download a registration form. Print, Complete and Return your registration form to ABC for Health via **Mail: 32 N. Bassett St., Madison, WI 53703** or **Fax: (608)261-6938**.

Live or Work Outside the Greater Madison or Milwaukee Area?

You can have exclusive access to this workshop on-demand--delivered straight to your desktop. **Check Future Editions of the Update Newsletter for information on how to register** to receive the training via web cast.

A Second Packer Ticket Prize Drawing! Keep Those Memberships Coming!

If you have yet to join HealthWatch Wisconsin or renew your membership, now is your chance! **Join or Renew** by July 15 and be eligible for the second Green Bay Packer Ticket Prize Drawing. On Friday, July 16, HealthWatch Wisconsin will be drawing the name of one lucky winner of **TWO INDOOR DELUXE CLUB SEAT TICKETS** to:

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



You have to be a member to be eligible to win! **Follow this link** for registration information or call HealthWatch Wisconsin to register or renew over the phone: (608) 261-6939 ext. 215.

Save the Date: HealthWatch Wisconsin Fall Conference

We're looking ahead to October--Mark your calendar for HealthWatch Wisconsin's:

The Changing Landscape of Insurance after Health Reform
a full day of workshops

Thursday, October 28, 2010
9:00am-4:30pm
Inn on the Park



HealthWatch Wisconsin!

The 2010-2011 membership year has begun, but it's not too late to join! Take 5 minutes to complete and return our [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.

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.

OCI Bulletin

The Office of the Commissioner of Insurance has released a new bulletin (June 25) to All Insurers Authorized to do Business in Wisconsin. The bulletin summarizes a whole slew of newly enacted legislation: 2009 Wisconsin Acts 146, 165, 218, 275, 282, 285, 342, 343, 344, 346, and 369. See the summaries [here](#).

Updates from DHS

New FoodShare Handbook:

Medicaid Eligibility

22 S. Carroll Street, Madison, WI 53703

Reduced registration cost will be available for members of HealthWatch Wisconsin! [Join HealthWatch Wisconsin](#) to take advantage of savings throughout the year! Mini-Conference sessions will be led by regulators, policy makers, and advocates in Wisconsin, including Wisconsin's Commissioner of Insurance Sean Dilweg; Representatives from Wisconsin's Health Insurance Risk Sharing Plan; Bobby Peterson and Attorneys from ABC for Health; members of the Wisconsin Legislature; and more!

HealthWatch Wisconsin will debut its new publication "My Health Reform Guidebook for Wisconsin" at this event! The publication is included FREE for members of HealthWatch Wisconsin!!

Continuing education credits will be offered for attorneys, social work, and other professions. A light breakfast and lunch and conference CD will be included in your reservation cost! Further details will be released as confirmed. See you in Madison in October!

Save the Date: FoodShare Outreach Conference!

Join Second Harvest of Wisconsin, together with a statewide network of community partners as they host the first annual FoodShare Outreach Conference!



- **Title:** Swipe Out Hunger: Putting food on your table and money in your community through FoodShare
- **Date:** Friday, September 17, 2010
- **Place:** Radisson's Paper Valley Hotel, 333 West College Avenue, Appleton, WI 54911
- **Accommodations:** A block of rooms will be available. Watch for details in upcoming announcements.
- **Time:** 8:00am-3:30pm. Registration opens at approximately 8:00am, conference adjourns by 3:30pm. *Note: The conference will end in time to allow for travel; individuals celebrating Yom Kippur can arrive home before sundown.*
- **Fee:** Nominal fee to cover meal expenses.
- **Registration:** Watch future newsletters for information on how to register!

Why Attend?

Currently, only an estimated 66% of eligible households participate in FoodShare Wisconsin (formerly known as food stamps), ranking below the national average. FoodShare not only puts healthy, nutritious food on the table for our low-income families, children, and seniors: the USDA estimates that every \$5 spent with FoodShare generates \$9.20 in local economic activity, additional resources that no Wisconsin community can afford to turn away.

On September 17, join the network of public and private community partners throughout the state who are committed to increasing FoodShare enrollment by integrating outreach activities into their daily business without taking on extra projects. Many of us interact with potentially eligible families and individuals every day - we can make them aware of FoodShare, help them access benefits, and break the stigma long associated with "getting food stamps!"

Opportunities to Develop New Coalitions!

Attention Local Public Health Departments:

Opportunities exist to form new, sustainable HealthWatch Coalitions. ABC for Health, Wisconsin's Department of Health Services, and HealthWatch Wisconsin are helping to support a sustainable, inter-connected network of new community-based HealthWatch Coalitions to promote access to and retention of health care

Handbook:

A new version, **Release 10-02 of the Medicaid Eligibility Handbook** was made today. Many of the sections have earlier effective dates. Here is a list of the most important changes, by section:

5.10.1--MAPP Introduction
 15.3.14--Payments to Native Americans
 16.1--Asset Intro
 16.6.7--Ho Chunk Tribal Trusts
 16.7.6--Treatment of Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC) Entrance Fees
 16.81.4--Home Equity over \$750,000
 17.1--Divestment Introduction
 17.2.1--Divestment Definition
 17.3.1--Look Back Period
 17.4--Exceptions
 17.5--Penalty Period
 17.6--Multiple Divestments
 17.10.1--Life Estates Introduction
 17.10.5--Purchase of a Life Estate in the Home of Another Person
 17.11--Annuities
 17.12--Promissory Notes
 17.14--Both Spouses Institutionalized
 17.17--Undue Hardship

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 10-29

Attachment: W-2 Screening and Assessment (attachment amended July 9)

New Policy: Effective May 1, 2010, new assessment tools and two new medical forms will be put into effect. In addition, several policy suggestions will be under consideration.

Operations Memo 10-55: Southeast Wisconsin HMO Enrollment Project (Released July 9)

New Policy: Effective July 17, 2010, individuals in six Wisconsin counties (Milwaukee, Racine, Kenosha, Waukesha, Washington and Ozaukee) on the BadgerCare Plus plan will have to choose one of four HMOs to provide them with continued medical and dental coverage. If an individual does not choose a provider after 90 days, they

coverage for children. Coalitions are strongly encouraged to include local health departments as the key stakeholder. Your County can create a coalition to develop a sustainable plan to connect and maintain family connections to health coverage, care, and resources.

Getting Started:

Start by identifying community partners and leaders, including representatives from hospital systems, Head Start, parents, Birth-to-3 Coordinators, public health nurses, economic support workers, school nurses and counselors, advocates, employers, and members of the faith community. Then, watch for an RFP! The Wisconsin Department of Health Services and HealthWatch Wisconsin will issue a call for proposals to invite coalitions to compete for funding. We will prioritize coalition development for low-enrollment, under-performing or health disparity locations across Wisconsin. In fact, HealthWatch Wisconsin will prioritize coalition development where local health departments take a leading role. After funding, HealthWatch Wisconsin will continue to help with ongoing technical consultation and leadership training. We will be looking for areas that can DEVELOP and SUSTAIN a coalition, after the start-up assistance is complete.

Wisconsin United for Health Meets TODAY!

Digging into Concern Areas: Read our Issue Papers!

After constant participation and watch-dogging of the BCBS saga over the past several years, ABC for Health has made several observations and recommendations to the WUHF Board of Directors, as well as to the administrators of the two Medical Schools' endowments. Based on our substantial time and research, we have identified four major issues of concern that the WUHF Board must address. Do you want to dig into some particular issues of concern in a bit more detail? Read our Issue Papers Here:

- [Issue Paper #1: The 35% - 65% Split in Funding Distribution](#)
- [Issue Paper #2: Misdirection of Funds](#)
- [Issue Paper #3: Conflict of Interest and Non-Competitively Awarded Grants](#)
- [Issue Paper #4: Supplanting of Funds](#)

Watch Our Video!

Understanding the ins-and-outs of the conversion fund and its impact on the public health of Wisconsin can feel like "inside baseball." You don't have to be an expert in health policy to get involved! In fact, just reading these alerts and participating in conversations about how money is distributed in Wisconsin for public health is important. For an easy-to-understand summary of the WUHF meeting and what to expect, [Watch our Video!](#)



HHS Calls for Public Comment on Proposed HIPAA Changes

HHS to Improve Patient Privacy

The US Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) has considered restricting the disclosure or sale of health information and expanding an individual's rights to access information. To do this, HHS is required to issue a "[notice of proposed rulemaking](#)" to modify the HIPAA Privacy, Security, and Enforcement Rules.

will be assigned one.

Operations Memo 10-52: Child Care Provider Certification (CCPC) System Changes - New Caregiver Law (Released July 9)

New Policy: Effective July 12, 2010, three changes went into action. 'Date of check field' can be modified so the next check date defaults to three or twelve months (1); when the CPS check date is entered, the system leaves the 'date of next check' date empty because none are required (2) and there is a mandatory field to be completed after a background check, if there is a record, mark 'yes' and enter a comment (3).

Operations Memo 10-53: Core Plan Waitlist Bypass for Basic Members Diagnosed with Cancer (Released July 9)

New Policy: Effective July 1, 2010, individuals on BadgerCare Basic, diagnosed with cancer, not including non-melanoma skin cancers, can bypass the waitlist for BadgerCare Core Plan. The individuals must be on the Basic plan in order to skip the waitlist. If they are approved to bypass, their application can begin processing immediately.

Operations Memo 10-54: Preprinted Mail-In Renewal Forms: CWW Updates (Released July 8)

New Policy: Effective July 19, 2010, CARES Workers Web will allow employees to automatically mail or print the Case Summary, Renewal Summary Page and Renewal Signature Page.

Operations Memo 10-39: Birth Certificates for Puerto Rican Individuals (Amended) (Released July 7)

New Policy: Effective October 1, 2010, Puerto Rican Birth Certificates filed on or before October 1, 2010 are no longer considered valid. This is a change to the original invalidation date of on or before July 1, 2010. The new three month window gives Puerto Rican citizens time to apply for and receive their new birth certificate, while their previous one is still valid.

Operations Memo 10-51: FoodShare Eligibility for EBD Households (Released July 1)

New Policy: *Income:* Effective immediately, households that include an elderly or disabled member with gross household income over 200% of the FPL

The Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act, enacted as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, is designed to promote the widespread adoption and standardization of health information technology. In order for the new law to be enacted to its fullest, HHS will have to modify the HIPAA Privacy, Security, and Enforcement Rules to strengthen the privacy and security protections for health information. In so doing, it is predicted that the workability and effectiveness of the HIPAA rules will be improved.

The proposed modifications to the HIPAA Rules include:

- Provisions extending the applicability of certain of the Privacy and Security Rules' requirements to the business associates of covered entities,
- Establishing new limitations on the use and disclosure of protected health information for marketing and fundraising purposes,
- Prohibiting the sale of protected health information,
- Expanding individuals' rights to access their information and to obtain restrictions on certain disclosures of protected health information to health plans,
- Provisions designed to strengthen and expand HIPAA's enforcement provisions.



The public is [invited to comment](#) on the provisions of the proposed rule for 60 days following publication in the Federal Register.

[View the Joint Statement on Building Trust in Health Information Exchange through Privacy and Security](#), issued by OCR Director Georgina Verdugo and Dr. David Blumenthal, the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology.

BadgerCare Plus Basic and Core Plans: Status Report

BadgerCare Plus Basic and Core Plans: Status Report

BadgerCare Plus Basic, the new program for individuals on the Core Plan waiting list, began enrolling members in BadgerCare Plus Basic on June 1 with benefits beginning in July. Rich Albertoni, Director, Bureau of Enrollment Management at DHS provided the Update with the following status report on Basic enrollment:

- As of June 15, 2010, the total number of individuals enrolled and eligible for benefits to begin in July was 1,681
- As of July 8, 2010 (at 5 p.m.) total enrollment had increased to 2,146

If you assisted individuals with their Core Plan applications or know someone who had applied for Core Plan after October 9, 2009, be sure to let them know the steps needed to get OFF the Core Plan waiting list and ON to the Basic Plan! Individuals should have already received a mailing that included a fact sheet and instructions on how to enroll. Similar to Core Plan enrollment, individuals should call 1-800-291-2002 or visit www.access.wisconsin.gov to apply. Remember, enrollment in the Basic Plan always starts on the 1st of the month. Which month coverage starts depends on when the applicant pays her first \$130 monthly 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

Core Plan Renewals

must be tested for FoodShare using the regular SNAP rules. Under the regular SNAP rules, these households have no gross income limit, but must have net income that does not exceed 100% FPL. *Assets:* Households tested under the regular SNAP rules must have countable assets at or below \$3000. The [FoodShare Handbook Chapter 4.4](#) has been updated with the current policy regarding when to count or exempt assets.

Provider Updates

[Durable Medical Equipment Place of Service Codes for Members Residing in a Facility for Developmental Disabilities](#)

Facilities for developmental disabilities (FDD), are reimbursed through their daily rate for durable medical equipment (DME) reasonably associated with the care of residents, such as manual wheelchairs. Reimbursement for some specialized DME items, such as powered mobility equipment and custom wheelchair positioning systems, is not included in the daily rate. These items may be separately reimbursable when medically necessary and when prior authorized by ForwardHealth.

[July 2010 Preferred Drug List Review and Other Pharmacy Policy Changes](#)

This ForwardHealth Update provides an overview of the changes to Preferred Drug List (PDL) drug classes. Providers may refer to the following resources on the Pharmacy page of the [ForwardHealth Portal](#) for the complete list of preferred and non-preferred drugs for drugs covered by the benefit plan: The Wisconsin Medicaid, BadgerCare Plus Standard, and SeniorCare Preferred Drug List-Quick Reference; The BadgerCare Plus Core Plan Brand Name Drugs-Quick Reference. Effective July 1, 2010, any BadgerCare Basic member, that is diagnosed by a physician as having any cancer besides non-melanoma skin cancers, can bypass the Core Plan waitlist and apply. The individual must be currently enrolled in Basic before approval to bypass the waitlist.

Links of Interest

Medicaid Primer

The Kaiser Family Foundation has released an updated version of their

Individuals who registered for BadgerCare Plus Core Plan in June of last year must be ready to renew their benefits!

- 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.

Share These Tips for Individuals with Core Plan Renewals:

- Members should get their physical before the end of their renewal month
- Make sure address is current
- Change address either by calling the Enrollment Service Center (ESC) or by filling out a report in your "MyACCESS" account
- Check the due date of renewal on the MyACCESS account page
- Renewal notices should have been mailed 45 days before its due date
- If you have any questions about the renewal process, please start with looking at the renewal chapter in the [ACCESS Handbook](#).

Remember!

For more information on BadgerCare Plus Basic, don't forget to check out the [HealthWatch Wisconsin Training Site](#). Registration is simple, and we have a **FREE** training webcast available for viewing after a 5 question pre-quiz on the BadgerCare Plus Basic Program.

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.



Dane County HealthWatch will be exchanging a July Coalition Meeting for a Summer Picnic! Join us for an outing to the Madison Mallards Game! [Click Here](#) to view the invitation and details. For more information, please contact [Adam VanSpankeren](#).

Dane County HealthWatch may be moving its meeting place from its long-time home at the Harambee Center after the summer - stay tuned for more details on this potential development.

Barron County HealthWatch is doing a presentation about BadgerCare Plus and the Core Plan's relationship to COBRA for the Workforce Resource Office in Rice Lake on July 21. **Polk County HealthWatch** will be doing a similar presentation, to be scheduled for early August. Also, Polk County HealthWatch is working on a Free Clinic, and Polk County HealthWatch members are preparing to get involved in some direct advocacy and case work.

CASE TIP: BadgerCare Plus and Access to Private Insurance

Medicaid Primer, which provides an overview of Medicaid and its components, and now also discusses Medicaid's role in Health Reform. Check out this valuable resource [here](#).

Employee Benefits Security Administration Page

The Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA), a division of the United States Department of Labor, recently updated their home page. Check it out [here](#).

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 (MIIES) contacts:

Phone: 1-888-947-6583 (voice) 711 (TTY)
 Mail : Milwaukee Enrollment Services Center (MIIES), P.O. Box 05676, Milwaukee, WI 53205-0676
 FAX: (414) 438-4580

Having trouble determining if someone is eligible for BadgerCare Plus, after learning of their access to private insurance? The [BadgerCare Plus Handbook](#) can help!

Tucked into the BadgerCare Plus Handbook, Chapter 7 is a step-by-step guide to determine whether an individual meets all the "BC+ insurance access/coverage requirements." The guide is written in "interview form" and asks the applicant a series of 19 questions.

The interview is followed by a series of 11 questions for individuals likely eligible for BadgerCare Plus Prenatal program as well! Visit the [BadgerCare Plus Eligibility Handbook, Chapter 7.8](#) for this useful resource.

Still confused on how private insurance and BadgerCare Plus work together? **Plan on attending our October 28, 2010 Conference** at Madison's Inn on the Park! One workshop will be devoted to the topic of "dual eligibility" and coordinating private insurance with BadgerCare Plus coverage for families.

Grapevine: Healthiest Wisconsin 2020



The new state health plan has been released and is available to preview. [Healthiest Wisconsin 2020](#): Everyone Living Better, Longer has two major goals: to improve the health of Wisconsin residents in all stages of life, and to eliminate health disparities to achieve health equity. However, DHS has not yet revealed a clear plan on how they intend to achieve these goals or how they plan to address serious disparities like those in dental care and coverage and mental health parity.

It's always an appropriate time to comment! What are your thoughts? Let the Grapevine know: Email bmcbride@safetyweb.org to make your voice heard.

For more information on Healthiest Wisconsin 2020 or to voice your opinion directly to the State, [email Margaret Schmelzer](mailto:Margaret.Schmelzer@state.wisconsin.gov), the State Health Plan Director.

CKSN Corner

Covering Kids with Special Needs



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

- **Center for Health Care Strategies Webinar: Models for Improving Medicaid Primary Care: Lessons for Health Reform - Tuesday, July 27, 2010, 12:00 - 1:30 pm.** This 90-minute webinar will describe the evolving model of primary care, as well as practice-based transformation strategies underway in two states. For more information or

In Person: 1220 W Vliet Street -or- UAMOS 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 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.

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

to register, see the Center for Health Care Strategies [web page](#)

- **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
- **Midwest Autism Conference - October 10-12, 2010.** La Crosse Center, La Crosse, WI. Join the UW-La Crosse Continuing Education Department and Chileda, Inc. for a comprehensive conference covering strategies that support individuals on the Autism Spectrum in school, home, and treatment environments. For more information, go to <http://www.uwlax.edu/conted/mac/> or call Karen Langaard to register, 1-866-895-9233.

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:

- [Press Release: Feingold Announces Opening of New Pre-Existing Condition Health Insurance Plan - the Office of Senator Russ Feingold, July 15](#)
- [State health care shortfall could reach \\$850 million - by Patrick Marley and Jason Stein for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, July 14](#)
- [Shilling on health care reform committee - for the La Crosse Tribune, July 14](#)
- [State overhauls BadgerCare program - by Matt Hrodey for the Milwaukee News Buzz, July 14](#)
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