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The HealthWatch Wisconsin Update Newsletter

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

August 16 , 2010

Vol. 6 No. 15

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: TBD, 9:00-10:00am. Barron 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.

A Mother Gets Her Day in Court

Last Wednesday, a mother calmly sat on the witness stand in Federal District Court and told her story of frustration and medical necessity to Judge Barbara Crabb. Sharon Mondry, a mother of a ten-year old boy and former employee of American Family Insurance, once again took on the powerful insurance industry in a seven-year odyssey over a denied claim. Ms. Mondry and Zev, her young son with Autism, and her attorneys at ABC for Health, Inc. brought legal action after Zev's speech therapy was denied coverage. The case previously was argued in front of the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals, where American Family was held responsible for failures to provide the plan documents used to deny Zev's speech therapy. Judge Rovner, drafting the opinion of the Court, wrote "American Family had an obligation to obtain those documents...To hold otherwise would, in our view, allow a claims administrator to 'hide the ball' from the participant, depriving her of access to the very documents that the claims administrator is saying are dispositive of her claim." American Family, after Ms. Mondry's success at the 7th Circuit, unsuccessfully attempted an appeal to the US Supreme Court. The case was remanded back to the Federal District Court for the Western Region to determine the damages stemming from American Family's delays in providing Ms. Mondry the information she needed to properly appeal the benefits denial.



On Wednesday, August 11, 2010, Judge Barbara Crabb entered "summary judgment" in favor of Ms. Mondry, finding she was, as the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals had directed, "entitled to summary judgment, finding American Family failed in its statutory obligation to produce plan documents...and therefore is liable for statutory penalties."

Ms. Mondry then presented evidence to Judge Crabb, while asking her to conclude that American Family violated its fiduciary obligation to her by failing to comply with its statutory obligation. The Court will rule on the count of "breach of fiduciary duty" and will determine statutory damages owed to Ms. Mondry in the coming weeks. "Ms. Mondry's strength through this entire process--of over seven years--and the clarity the Courts are giving to self-funded insurance plans provides hope for consumers everywhere," noted Attorney Bobby Peterson at ABC for Health, Inc., the non profit, public interest law firm in Madison that represents Ms. Mondry.

September Workshops: "Immigrant Health Coverage Options"

ABC for Health will hold live, in-person trainings for all skill levels



Chippewa County Courthouse, Room 121, 711 N. Bridge St., Chippewa Falls. Contact [Rose Marsh](#) or 1-800-400-3678 with questions.

Dane: September 13, 9:00-11:00am.
LOCATION TBD. 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: September 8, 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: TBD, 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 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.

in Madison and Milwaukee this September! Join us as we spend 3 hours digging into public benefits options for nonqualified immigrants, undocumented immigrants with citizen children, changes in new legislation affecting immigrants with legal permanent resident status, and more! This training starts with "the basics" and advances to "intermediate" level strategies! Not sure if it's appropriate for you? Call ABC for Health at (608)261-6939 ext. 210! 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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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**. Attention HealthWatch Wisconsin Members: This workshop is FREE 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!

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. The link will become available approximately one week after the live trainings have concluded.

Enforcement Missing from Health Reform

Now that we are almost six months in to our new era of health reform, national experts are just now starting to worry about how to make insurance plans accountable. ABC for Health has actively pursued consumer protections throughout the process of health reform. Before the passage of health reform legislation, ABC for Health developed the "Family Health Benefits Bill," a proposal that emphasized the importance of strong patient advocacy, including Health Benefits Counseling and Health Care Navigator services to help patients to connect to both coverage and health care services. "Health reform proposals must include infrastructure support to develop state networks for individual or family advocacy, outreach and education for patients," argued Bobby Peterson, Director of ABC for Health, in July 2009. Bobby expressed concern about a "Field of Dreams" mentality of some in Congress of "If we build it they will come." In reality and in our experience at ABC, we know that people need sophisticated help to appropriately *connect* to new systems of health care and coverage, and *maintain* that coverage, which may include an appeals process. As health care reforms a multi-payor system, Bobby argued, "we need to include meaningful enforcement mechanisms in reform proposals to ensure compliance with program rules. We have models that can be duplicated across health reform. Look at the Medicaid due process hearing structure, for one. This allows for a patient to challenge problems, while including options for judicial review and attorney fees for certain prevailing consumers."



Now, health reform is a reality, and states are unsure if they have the necessary legal authority to carry out the responsibilities being placed on them by provisions of health reform. Insurance commissioners are asserting they do not have clear authority to enforce consumer protection standards. Commissioners' authority is typically over state-regulated plans. Provisions of health reform plop federally-regulated plans onto the shoulders of State Commissioners. The standards take effect next month. [In an article for the New York Times](#), Robert Pear and Kevin Sack look

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- 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.

Legislative Council Committee to Meet

Legislative Council Special Committee on Health Care Reform Implementation will meet Thursday, August 19, 2010 at 10:00am at the State Capitol, room 412-E. The committee is Chaired by Rep. Jon Richards and Sen. Jon Erpenbach. The Vice-Chair is Sen. Alberta Darling.

- [Click Here](#) to see a Meeting Agenda
- [Click Here](#) to see a Committee Member Listing

Relevant Handouts for Meeting:

- [Document](#), *FOCUS on Health Reform*, "Health Reform Implementation Timeline," Kaiser Family Foundation (June 15, 2010).
- [Document](#), *State Legislators' Check List for Health Reform Implementation FY 2010*, by Rachel Morgan R.N., BSN, Senior Health Policy Specialist, National

at how Federal and state officials are searching for ways to plug the gap. "Otherwise, the ability of consumers to secure the benefits of the new law could vary widely, depending on where they live."

A Closer Look at Enforcement Provisions for Statutory Violations of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA):

The vast majority of changes in the PPACA affecting insurance exist as amendments to the Public Health Service Act, Medicaid, or Medicare. Most enforcement will take place under the existing provisions of those acts. This section allows each state to "require that health insurance issuers that issue, sell, renew, or offer health insurance coverage in the State in the individual or group market meet the requirements of this part with respect to such issuers." This section will now apply to ERISA self-funded plans, too. We can foresee some problems and potentials for abuse: States may not enforce the requirements at all. In this situation, it would then be up to the Secretary of CMS to enforce these provisions on a case by case basis. Secondly, the provisions may be systematically under-enforced by the government entities charged with enforcing them--this could potentially include CMS, should the demand for their assistance become too great. Finally, these provisions generally do not allow for private rights of action, meaning consumers will most likely not be able to sue if insurers don't live up to their obligations.

Boost to Medicaid and BadgerCare Plus Coming to Wisconsin

The U.S. House on Tuesday, August 10, passed [HR 1586, the Education Jobs and Medicaid Assistance Act](#), which was quickly signed into law by President Barack Obama. The Education Jobs and Medical Assistance Act will provide states with a total of \$26 billion for teachers and health care programs. For Wisconsin, the impact could be as large as \$365 million, with just over half (\$185 million) going to Medicaid programs and the remaining \$180 million to prevent teacher layoffs. The funding is necessary to relieve an estimated \$647 million out of an \$850 million deficit in Wisconsin's budget for BadgerCare Plus and other Medicaid programs. The funding preserves additional federal matching money. The legislation was approved mainly along party lines by a vote of 247-161.

For another look at the longevity of the Medicaid boost, check out this article, "[Medicaid Cutbacks Not The Same As Private Insurance Rescission](#)," by Jonathan Cohn for *Kaiser Health News*, which looks at the future of Medicaid under health reform and outlines some possible problems with its expansion and the expansion of covered populations. For a humorous take on how quickly this bill was passed and signed into law, [listen](#) to August 14th's "Wait Wait Don't Tell Me," Opening Panel Round: "A Congressional Fill in the Blank" on National Public Radio.

Sacrificing FoodShare for BadgerCare Plus? The aid for the states' Medicaid is to be paid for mostly by closing a tax loophole used by multinational corporations and by reducing food stamp benefits for the poor.

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



Conference of State Legislatures (July 15, 2010).

- [Document](#), *State Implementation of National Health Reform: Harnessing Federal Resources to Meet State Policy Goals*, by Stan Dorn, prepared for State Coverage Initiatives by the Urban Institute (July 2010).

Updates from DHS

BadgerCare Plus Handbook Updated

Below. On August 12, Wisconsin's Department of Health Services released an updated version of its BadgerCare Plus Handbook. Check it out [here](#). For quick reference, DHS released a memo of the consolidated changes. Read it [here](#).

ACCESS Handbook Updated

Below. On August 5, Wisconsin's Department of Health Services released an updated version of its ACCESS Handbook, version 10-03. Check it out [here](#).

Provider Updates

All HealthCheck Services Are Now Covered Under the BadgerCare Plus Benchmark Plan

This ForwardHealth Update announces that HealthCheck interperiodic visits and HealthCheck "Other Services" are now covered for all BadgerCare Plus Benchmark Plan members 20 years old and younger. Benchmark Plan Covered HealthCheck Services. The Benchmark Plan covered services now include all four areas of HealthCheck:

- HealthCheck screenings.
- Interperiodic visits.
- Outreach services.
- HealthCheck "Other Services."

HealthCheck services for Benchmark Plan members is the same as HealthCheck services for BadgerCare Plus Standard Plan members. Effective for dates of service (DOS) on and after January 1, 2010, HealthCheck interperiodic visits are covered. Providers may submit claims for

- **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 observing Yom Kippur can arrive home before sundown.*
- **Fee:** Nominal fee to cover meal expenses.
- **Registration:** Please [click here](#) to download a registration form!

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 benefits 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!"

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
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! 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 workers, and other professionals. 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!

Coalition Roundup!

Local HealthWatch Coalitions have been busy! Below is a brief look at some events, announcements, and news from around the



HealthCheck interperiodic visits retroactively. Effective for DOS on and after August 15, 2010, HealthCheck "Other Services" are now covered. HealthCheck "Other Services" require prior authorization (PA) before the service may be provided. Providers may begin submitting PA requests for HealthCheck "Other Services" immediately.

Copayments: No copayments may be charged for a HealthCheck screening provided to a member 17 years of age and younger. A \$1.00 screening copayment must be collected from any member between 18 and 20 years of age for HealthCheck screenings only. No copayments may be charged for interperiodic visits, HealthCheck "Other Services," and outreach services.

Returning Payment: For claims for interperiodic visits that were previously denied or never submitted to BadgerCare Plus, the provider may have received payment from the member for the services. Providers are required to return to the member the full payment amount received from the members for the HealthCheck service. Providers are reminded that Medicaid reimbursement is considered payment in full.

Links of Interest

[Health Calendar for Wisconsin, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#)

[Health Care Toolkit, US Chamber of Commerce](#)

[Health Archive, Ezra Klein for the Washington Post](#)

[Health Care Reform Explained, AARP](#)

[HealthCare Notes, August, 2010 from HealthCare.gov](#)

- [August 16, 2010, Reining in Excessive Health Insurance Premium Increases](#)
- [August 12, 2010, Getting Your Kid Covered and in the Game](#)
- [August 11, 2010, Celebrating Community Health Center Week](#)

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.

Tri-County HealthWatch met Tuesday, July 27! The meeting had a healthy attendance and went smoothly. The Tri-County HealthWatch Coalition is now interested in working with ABC for Health to bring a training to the Fox Valley.

Please contact [Susan Garcia-Franz](#) if you would be interested in attending a training in that area.

Dane County HealthWatch met Monday, August 2nd where Guest Speakers: Katie Sepnieski and Bill Murray, DHS Division of Long Term Care, introduced themselves and their office and gave an excellent presentation on the Autism Waiver and related issues such as screening and procedures. For more information, please contact [Adam VanSpankeren](#). While this meeting was at the usual location (2202 South Park Street), Dane County HealthWatch will be moving its meeting place from its long-time home at the Harambee Center for its next meeting on September 13 (the first Monday of September is Labor Day). Stay tuned for more details - Dane County HealthWatch: expect mass emails later this month! Also, for another highlight of what happened at the Dane County HealthWatch meeting, check out the Grapevine, below.

Polk County HealthWatch's August 12 meeting and presentation on BadgerCare Plus and the Core Plan's relationship to COBRA has been postponed. New date and time TBD.

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 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.

Have questions or want more information at this time? Contact [Brynne](#) at ABC for Health (608) 261-6939 ext. 210.

CASE TIP: "School Based Services 101"

The Wisconsin Medicaid "School-Based Services" (SBS) benefit defines the services that can be reimbursed by Wisconsin Medicaid for medically necessary services provided to Medicaid-eligible children in Wisconsin schools. This benefit was designed to increase federal funding to Wisconsin schools to help pay for medically related special education and related services.

- **August 10, 2010, [Another Round of Donut Hole Rebate Checks Drop This Week](#)**
- **August 09, 2010, [What is the Donut Hole?](#)**
- **August 06, 2010, [Strengthening Medicare: The Trustees Report](#)**

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- UAMOS Job Center Southeast, 2701 South Chase Ave. -or- clients can call 211 for information on a community

Be aware that the SBS benefit only covers services that are listed in the child's Individual Education Program (IEP). (Therefore, each public school child who receives school-based services must have an IEP—a document that specifically identifies the special education and related services for the child.)

Services covered under the school-based services benefit include:

- Speech and Language Pathology, Audiology, and Hearing Services
- Occupational Therapy Services
- Physical Therapy Services
- Psychological, Counseling Social Work Services
- Nursing Services
- Attendant Care
- Special Transportation Services
- Other Developmental Testing and Assessments

For more detailed information about the SBS benefits, including access to the WI Medicaid SBS Handbook, please [click here](#).

Grapevine: HMO Enrollment Freeze?



Individuals enrolling in BadgerCare Plus need to select an HMO in their area shortly after their benefits start. Usually, the enrollee would choose an HMO that includes their regular doctor, clinic, or hospital in its network. Some individuals may not have the option to choose an HMO either because all of the available options are full, they were in a region where individuals were "auto-enrolled" in an HMO, or they were assigned an HMO after having missed the enrollment deadline.

At the August 2, 2010 Dane County HealthWatch meeting, ABC for Health heard about a possible HMO "enrollment freeze." We sought clarification to see the impact that would have on BadgerCare Plus enrollees. It is critical to note that an enrollment freeze, as it is ominously dubbed, is not a freeze on HMO *choice*. Instead, it is a "freeze" on the distribution of informational packets about the HMOs.

For example, the State stopped sending out BadgerCare Plus Standard and Benchmark Plan HMO enrollment packets for the six RFP counties on May 1, 2010 and stopped sending them to the rest of the state on June 7, 2010. (SSI and Core enrollees were not affected and packets continue to go out to recipients who are enrolled in those programs.) As of right now, the state intends to resume sending out Standard and Benchmark Plan packets on October 4, 2010.

The important thing for advocates to remember is that individuals can still request enrollment in a particular HMO or request an HMO change, even if they haven't been provided with information on that HMO.

CKSN Corner Covering Kids with Special Needs



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 the comforts of their own homes or offices. Agencies and organizations are invited to rent this studio space. [Click here](#) for more information.

Mark Your Calendars Now

Check Out These Excellent Events in 2010!

- **Expanding Health Care Access for Underserved Populations - Wednesday, August 25, 2010**, from 8:30am to 4:30pm. By the Wisconsin Hospital Association - check out the brochure [here](#). More registration information should be available soon.
- **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
- **2010 Fall Conference - Autism Society of Wisconsin - Thursday, September 23, 2010 - Friday, September 24, 2010**. Wintergreen Resort, Wisconsin Dells, WI. Registration by mail or fax only. Click [here](#) for the registration form and more information.
- **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](#)

Wisconsin's Department of Health Services has released a new Maternal Child Health/Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs [UPDATE](#)

NEWS: Health Care in Wisconsin

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

- [Doctor blames death on drug denial - by John Fauber for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, August 12](#)
- [Investment partners see opportunities in health care - by Kathleen Gallagher for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, August 12](#)
- [House Approves Bill to Aid States - by Naftali Bendavid for the Wall Street Journal, August 11](#)
- [City to hold several child health fairs - by Tia Ghose for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, August 11](#)
- [Wisconsin to get \\$365 million in aid for teachers, health programs - by Patrick Marley for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, August 10](#)
- [Enforcement of Wisconsin smoking ban hazy - Larry Sandler for the](#)

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!**

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!](#)

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](#)

[Brynne McBride](#)

[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

[Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, August 9](#)

- [No big increase in health charity with job losses - by Guy Boulton for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, August 8](#)
- [Press Release: Youth Smoking Rates Drop Dramatically - by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, contact Beth Kaplan, August 5](#)
- [UWM School to be at Pabst - by Tom Daykin for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, August 2](#)
- [Press Release: Plan to Establish School of Public Health in Downtown Milwaukee - by Thomas Luljak for the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee, August 2](#)
- [Texas Maintains Highest Number of Uninsured, Mass. Lowest - by Elizabeth Mendes for Gallup, July 30](#)

NEWS: Health Care Reform

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

- [Innovative health programs counter primary care shortage - by Rita Rubin for USA Today, August 16](#)
- [Some States Are Lacking in Health Law Authority - by Robert Pear and Kevin Sack for the New York Times, August 14](#)
- [Health insurance limits are rising, if regulators approve - by Julie Appleby for USA Today, August 13](#)
- [HHS tightens enrollment period for individual coverage for children - by Doug Trapp for American Medical News, August 11](#)
- [Insurers seek more flexibility to avoid health reform mandates - by Julian Pecquet for The Hill, August 11](#)
- [Health Policy Brief: Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan - for Health Affairs.org and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, August 10](#)
- [Republican Party tries for health reform repeal - by Simmi Aujla for Politico, August 10](#)
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