

Medicaid Threats & Medical Debt Symposium

Strategies. Stories. Solutions.

AGENDA

Thursday, May 15, 2025, 8:30am - noon

Appleton Public Library

8:00am	<i>Registration Opens – light breakfast refreshments will be available.</i>
8:30am-8:35am	Welcome & Introductions
8:35am-9:35am	Medicaid Under Threat – ABC for Health’s Atty. Brynne McBride reviews potential threats to Medicaid & BadgerCare Plus, health coverage programs relied on by almost 1 in every 5 people in Wisconsin. Recent executive orders, budget frameworks, and proposed rules could reduce access to care, increased medical debt, uncompensated care, and worsened health.
9:35am-9:40am	Patient Story –Confronting medical bills and debt.
9:40am-10:10am	Assessing the Health Needs of the Community – Heidi Keating, Public Health Planner at Winnebago County Public Health talks about the Tri-County Community Health Improvement Coalition and its work to take stock of the needs of the community in its Community Health Needs Assessment
10:10am-10:15am	Patient Story –Confronting medical bills and debt.
10:15am-10:30am	Short Break
10:30am-11:10am	Hospital Financial Assistance Policies & Practices – ABC for Health’s Atty. Bobby Peterson outlines federal requirements of a “Community Health Needs Assessment” (CHNA). He highlights elements of ABC’s own report on the community. He shares recommendations for improvements in hospital collection practices and the need for better, proactive patient assistance in these challenging times. ABC for Health’s Atty. Tim Hennigan shares specific hospital examples from ABC’s report.
11:10am-11:25am	Fighting Forward: Challenging Medical Debt – Speakers identify ways to promote proactive methods to help patients avoid collections and connect to health care coverage with tips and sample letters included in our <i>FREE</i> Fighting Forward: Challenging Medical Debt Guide!
11:25am-11:30am	Patient Story –Confronting medical bills and debt.
11:30am-11:55am	The SafetyWeb Network and a Promising Path Forward – ABC for Health’s Brynne McBride profiles a successful medical debt legal service intervention partnering a public interest law firm with free and charitable community clinics.
11:55am-12:00am	Closing Comments

