



## **STATE BUDGET PROVIDES NEW MONEY FOR KIDS**

Thanks to the work of many advocates and the commitment of state legislators, the state budget provides new money for children's long-term support needs across Wisconsin. Special thanks to Representative Kitty Rhodes, and State Senators John Lehman, Mark Miller and Robert Jauch. The new state budget, for the 2007-2009 biennium, was passed by both houses (the Assembly and the Senate) of the Wisconsin State Legislature on October 23, 2007.

The Joint Finance Committee, passed on a 15-1 vote, the allocation of \$4.7 million in new state general purpose revenue (GPR) dollars dedicated to children's long term support needs. This budget item was retained in the final state budget. These funds, coupled with federal matching dollars, will bring nearly \$9.5 million in new money for the purpose of serving children statewide. The Council for Children with Long Term Support Needs, in collaboration with the Department of Health and Family Services, will determine how these funds will be allocated to Wisconsin counties over the next year and a half.

Additional areas of interest for children that were funded in this biennial budget are:

- The expansion of BadgerCare to include all children in the state without health insurance. The expansion is called BadgerCare Plus. This initiative also includes additional funds to support new and innovative ways of providing dental care;
- An additional \$53.6 million for special education programming in public schools;
- \$20 million to expand Family Care to serve 27,200 people by the end of the biennium (compared with 10, 300 people served in February 2007). This is particularly notable for youth with long-term support needs who are transitioning into the adult service arena; and
- The creation of a new Department of Children and Families, consolidating programs from other departments. Medicaid and Children's Long Term Support programs will remain at the Department of Health and Family Services.

Thanks to all who participated in the budget process. Your efforts clearly helped

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## **Family to Family Health Information and Education Network**

Family Voices of Wisconsin is delighted to welcome two new faces. Linda Keegan, our new Training and Outreach Coordinator, will be the contact person for facilitating "Did You Know" trainings across the state. We are also so pleased that Nancy Olson is working as a consultant with us on expanding our training activities in northern Wisconsin.

And speaking of trainings, the "Did You Know" curriculum will be fully translated in

Spanish by the middle of January. Please contact Linda if you are interested in an English training, a Spanish training or a bilingual training. Individual modules can also be scheduled. Details on the "Did You Know" training and the contents of its modules can be found on the Family Voices of Wisconsin web site at [www.wfv.org/fv](http://www.wfv.org/fv). Linda can be reached by phone at 608-219-7007 or by email at

[lindak@fvofwi.org](mailto:lindak@fvofwi.org)

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## WEB WATCH

*For additional resources related to the articles in this newsletter, you can visit the following sites:*

### Family Voices of Wisconsin

[www.wfv.org/fv](http://www.wfv.org/fv)

### National Office of Family Voices

[www.familyvoices.org](http://www.familyvoices.org)

### Medicaid Benefits and Eligibility

<http://>

[www.dhfs.state.wi.us/Medicaid/index.htm?ref=hp](http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/Medicaid/index.htm?ref=hp)

<https://>

[access.wisconsin.gov/access/](https://access.wisconsin.gov/access/)

### BadgerCare Plus

<http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/badgercareplus/>

## Did You Know? Now You Know!

### Medicaid 101

The federal Medicaid program began in 1965 as a way to provide individuals with basic health-care services. Medicaid is jointly funded by the federal government and each state government. Because states contribute to the Medicaid program, they each have a right to determine what is in their Medicaid "state plan." Each year, state plans can change coverage and eligibility rules, as well as the scope and amount of services.

Wisconsin has a fairly generous state plan, compared with those plans in many other states. Wisconsin provides basic Medicaid services, which every state must provide, including physician and nursing services, inpatient hospital and nursing home services, home health nursing services, family planning services, nurse midwife services, and rural health clinic services. Wisconsin's state plan also includes:

- Chiropractic services
- Dental services
- Home and community based waiver services

- Hospice care
- Medical supplies and equipment
- Mental health day treatment
- Mental health and psychosocial rehabilitative services
- Optometric services
- Outpatient hospital services
- Personal care services (see insert for more on this service)
- Physical and occupational therapy
- Podiatry services
- Prenatal care coordination
- Respiratory care services
- Skilled nursing home services
- Speech, hearing and language disorder services
- Substance abuse services
- Transportation to obtain medical care

Eligibility to participate in the Medicaid program is determined by income and/or disability. Eligibility determination varies, depending on if you are a child or an adult. Children who receive Medicaid need to have a "redetermination" prior to their 18th birthday to continue to receive Medicaid benefits. To find out if you are eligible for Medicaid services, you can use the ACCESS web site (see Web Watch).

## Around 1

### Upcoming Trainings

The next "Did You Know? Now You Know!" training will be in two parts on Saturday, January 19 and Saturday, February 16, 2008 in Pittsville, WI (Wood County) from 9:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. each day. This training is free, and will include lunch and many useful printed materials. Registration is limited to 25 people; please call Jill Nelson at 1-866-640-4106 for additional information and to register.

### Hold the Date!

The annual Circles of Life Conference — Wisconsin's annual gathering for families of children with disabilities and the professionals who support them — will be held on April 24 and 25 in Eau Claire. Registration information can be found at <http://www.wfv.org/circle/>

### Circles of Life Awards

Do you know a professional who

has gone the extra mile to provide quality services and programs for children with developmental and related disabilities and their families? Maybe you know a parent who has made outstanding efforts and given of themselves to enrich the lives of all families of children across Wisconsin? Or maybe you know a parent educator who has shown dedication to helping parents who have children with disabilities — someone who has gone above and beyond their job description?

If you do, honor this special person by nominating him or her for the Elsie Shaw Awards. These awards, are presented at the annual Circles of Life Conference.

Information on the Elsie Shaw Awards nomination process is located on the Circles of Life website at: <http://www.wfv.org/circle/>

# Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs News

## New Northeastern Regional Center for CYSHCN Announced

As of January 1, 2008, the Northeastern Regional Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Center will be at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin—Fox Valley in Neenah. CHW-FV brings a wealth of experience in the area of working with families, their children, and community partners. Contact information will be available in early January and can be found at: [http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/DPH\\_BFCH/cshcn/WI\\_CSHCN\\_MAP.htm](http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/DPH_BFCH/cshcn/WI_CSHCN_MAP.htm)

*(Note: The previous center had been located at St. Vincent's Hospital in Green Bay.)*

## Resources from the Peds Pulmonary Center at UW-Madison

A series of transition booklets for youth moving to adult care has been prepared by pediatric and adult care

members of the University of Wisconsin Pediatric Pulmonary Center (PPC) and Diabetes Teams. The booklets, created for adolescents and their families, are designed to help them learn more about cystic fibrosis, pulmonary disease, diabetes, and neuromuscular disease, with an emphasis on how to take charge of their own care. It reflects the teams' philosophy and commitment to helping young adults and their families make a smooth transition from the pediatric to adult care. The publications include information on the stages of transition, checklists to help children and families set and achieve transition goals, and common questions and answers about transition concerns. Electronic copies of these publications are available at: [www.uwppc.org](http://www.uwppc.org). For additional information, or to order hard copies, please contact Kate Kowalski at 608-262-7457 or by email at: [kmkowalski@pediatrics.wisc.edu](mailto:kmkowalski@pediatrics.wisc.edu)

## Policy Update

### BadgerCare Plus begins in February 2008

BadgerCare Plus is an innovative state-sponsored health-care plan that expands Medicaid coverage to Wisconsin residents and ensures that all children, regardless of income, will have access to affordable health care. This program begins on February 1, 2008. Individuals enrolled in BadgerCare Plus will be called "members."

BadgerCare Plus has two benefit plans—the Standard Plan and the Benchmark Plan. The plan in which you are enrolled will depend on your income. Most families with incomes below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) will be in the Standard Plan. Those families with incomes above 200% will be in the Benchmark Plan. The plans have different bene-

fits and co-payments.

If you are currently enrolled in family Medicaid, Badgercare, or Healthy Start, you will be automatically enrolled in BadgerCare Plus and you will not have any changes in your benefits. If you are in an HMO (Health Maintenance Organization), you do not have to change your HMO. If additional information is needed, your case worker will contact you. If you are not currently receiving Medicaid, you can determine your eligibility for BadgerCare Plus on line at [www.access.wi.gov](http://www.access.wi.gov) beginning February 1, 2008.

If you have specific questions about BadgerCare Plus, you can call member services at 1-800-362-3002, or send an email to: [BadgerCarePlus@dhfs.state.wi.us](mailto:BadgerCarePlus@dhfs.state.wi.us)



Children and Youth with  
Special Health Care Needs

## CYSHCN CENTERS

Call with your  
questions!

**Northeastern Region**  
Children's Hospital of  
Wisconsin—Fox Valley

Neenah

(contact information  
will be available in  
early January)

**Northern Region**  
Marathon County  
Health Department

Wausau

1.866.640.4106

**Southeastern Region**

Children's Hospital  
Milwaukee

1.800.234.5437

**Southern Region**

Waisman Center  
Madison

1.800.532.3321

**Western Region**

Chippewa County  
Department of Public  
Health

Chippewa Falls  
1.800.400.3678

**Great Lakes Inter-  
Tribal Council  
(GLITC)**

Lac du Flambeau  
1-800-472-7207



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### About Family Voices of Wisconsin

Family Voices of Wisconsin is part of a national grassroots network of families and advocates who support children with disabilities and/or special health care needs. We provide information, training and support around health care and community supports to families throughout Wisconsin. Family Voices is dedicated to strong collaborative partnerships between families and essential allies to improve the systems of supports and services for children. A core commitment of Family Voices is to involve and support parents in decision-making roles that affect program design and policy recommendations on local, regional and statewide levels.

### Feedback Welcome

We want to make sure that this newsletter is an effective resource for you. If you have any comments, or wish to provide news and information for publication, please contact Barbara at [barb@fvofwi.org](mailto:barb@fvofwi.org) We look forward to your ideas and suggestions!