



Department of Health Services - State of Wisconsin Town Hall Results Advocate (BadgerCare Plus Program)

Gwen

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

I write you today to implore you to stop any efforts either led by yourself or the Wisconsin Legislature that would jeopardize Federal funding for food stamps. Nearly 800,000 Wisconsinites rely on Federal funding to help feed their families, and all the resources used by Wisconsin families participating in FoodShare Wisconsin come from Federal dollars. I am aware that the USDA has informed your administration that efforts to privatize administration of FoodShare Wisconsin would lead to the withholding of Federal funding. We know that there are no state funds to make up for any loss and losing these funds would be catastrophic for low-income Wisconsinites. Participation in FoodShare Wisconsin has nearly doubled over the past few years. The average number of monthly recipients has grown from 372,308 in 2006 to 743,836 in 2010.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

None

Survival Coalition

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

LONG TERM CARE: A. Increase integrated employment services in Long Term Care B. Reduce administrative costs in Family Care, IRIS and Partnership C. Increase utilization of self-directed supports in Long Term Care D. Implement the recommendations of the Wisconsin Council on Children with Long Term Support Needs to streamline services E. Implement a standardized set of performance and outcome indicators for LTC services to improve outcomes and generate cost efficiencies F. Reduce the use of institutions G. Strengthen partnerships with the Dept of Public Instruction and improve accountability and supports for appropriate transition programs ACUTE & PRIMARY CARE: A. Improve integrated care coordination B. Take advantage of savings in health care reform C. Explore arrangements with federally qualified health centers D. Study cost-benefits of referring WI Veterans to federally funded VA benefits E. Explore expanded access to private insurance benefits F. Explore the capacity of private health plans to continue coverage past childhood G. Improve continuity of care and access to eligible benefits for released inmates H. Explore strategies to keep Medicaid recipients from going on and off the program I. Improve the prior authorization process J. Allow direct purchase of durable medical supplies and equipment K. Re-examine the Medicaid hotline L. Keep the door open for consideration of provider assessments COMMUNITY BASED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES: A. Provide alternatives to existing inpatient and emergency department services B. Increase the use of certified peer specialists C. Increase the use of wraparound services for youth and parent peer specialists D. Expand consumer run recovery centers E. Implement county system changes

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

None

Erin

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

I strongly suggest reimbursing Licensed Midwives for services in out-of-hospital settings such as home or free standing birth centers. It will not only save the state significant amounts of money but improve outcomes for mothers and babies.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

I personally had a hospital birth while on the equivalent of Badger Care in another state several years ago. Had I been given the option of using a Licensed Midwives, the state would have saved about \$8,000 for the birth of my child. Licensed Midwives undergo specialized training to deliver babies in out-of-hospital settings, provide safe and cost-effective care that is proven to reduce low-birth weight and preterm births, two of the leading causes of infant mortality as well as the long-term costs associated with maternity care.

Sheryl

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

Make any increases in copay means tested. Any copays is difficult for those who have virtually nothing. If they can't get services because of lack of money for copays, access to proper medications (treatment) is worthless and a waste of money if there can't be consistent treatment. Medicaid patients don't have choices in treatment providers so they aren't empowered (in self direction). Penny wise, pound foolish would be to restrict or eliminate services to achieve cost savings and then have to pay for more jail services, pay more for emergency room services, etc. We need to expand the PACT program for consistent treatment in the community.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

Cost effective would be to institute the Health Homes as indicated in the Affordable Health Care Act.

Phil

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

Keep level of funding to medical services at same level, particularly to those with greatest needs: mentally ill, poor, and children.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

Continue to support programs that aid people at home. Focus on local support through county funding. Avoid cuts that impair preventative care for mentally ill children and aged.

Diann

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

Get going on setting up the insurance exchange needed for when the Affordable Care Act takes effect. Set up the exchange so it is fair to people with mental illness and addiction issues.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

When setting up the insurance exchange change the financial incentives for hospitals and doctors so that the new health care system will result in cost savings.

Carrie

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

Knowledge of and increased support/finances on agencies/programs that support/advocate and assist individuals with mental illness. In the long run, these programs save a lot more \$ as these individuals are less likely to have as many crisis situations, therefore will not need as many hospitalizations.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

None

Mike

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

Regionalize the services in WI. 72 counties create way too much overlap. For instance, reorganize around Lake Winnebago Area from Fond Du Lac to Green Bay and combine services.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

Make the new National Mental Health Law work to attract more psychiatrists to our state to eliminate the wait times that drive up costs.

Sara

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

Call for a task force in Dane County, lets get moving forward. (consumers & advocates) We need to get moving on the exchange program in Dane County. Lets not get behind! 2013 is coming.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

None

Sharon

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

Governor Walker is on the right tract, doing a good job. Bring more psychiatrists to WI.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

One size does not fit all - only the ones in need. Take out waste and fraud.

Robinson

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

Licensed Midwives, who undergo specialized training to deliver babies in out-of-hospital settings, provide safe and cost-effective care that is proven to reduce low-birth weight and preterm births, two of the leading causes of infant mortality as well as the long-term costs associated with maternity care. I had my baby at home with a Licensed Midwife, it was the best experience of my life (and very cost effective). I have friends with Badger Care who were not able to deliver their baby home because of their insurance. This system is completely backwards, if a woman chooses to birth at home she should have that option.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

Research shows that mothers who deliver under the care of a Licensed Midwife experience as much as a five-fold decrease in cesarean surgery. Cesarean surgeries now account for over 1/3 of deliveries nationwide, many of which are both preventable and a major contributing factor to the rising costs of maternity care.

Tehmina

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

I am writing to you today to request that the Department of Health Services offer Licensed Midwives (LM) to be an eligible Medicaid provider in the state of Wisconsin. Licensed Midwives, who undergo specialized training to deliver babies in out-of-hospital settings, provide safe and cost-effective care that is proven to reduce low-birth weight and preterm births, two of the leading causes of infant mortality as well as the long-term costs associated with maternity care. Each time a Medicaid/BadgerCare mother who seeks to give birth at home or in a freestanding birth center under the care of a Licensed Midwife is denied access to her services, it costs the state thousands of dollars in unrealized savings. This is not only a cost saving suggestion but also increases women's access to quality care, providing more choices and a healthier community. Thank you for your consideration.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

None

Melo

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

Maternity & Childbirth

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

Cover the cost of home births!

Prown

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

By authorizing reimbursement for Licensed Midwife Services under BadgerCare, the Department could save taxpayers thousands of dollars in unrealized savings each year as well as improve birth outcomes for low-income families, which in turn lowers the long-term costs associated with maternity care. Please see a summary of the research in question 9 below. Note that the State of Washington's Licensed Midwife program referenced in question 9 is of the same size and scope as Wisconsin's program, but Washington spends roughly ten times as much as Wisconsin does in administrative costs, yet the program still saves the state ten times the cost of paying for it. So the Washington numbers are a conservative estimate of the savings that can be realized in Wisconsin.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

Independent Study Demonstrates Significant Cost Savings and Improved Outcomes Under the Care of Licensed Midwives
Washington State Data Demonstrates Cost Savings to Medicaid and Private Insurance Under Licensed Midwife Care for Babies Delivered in Out-of-Hospital Settings. Total savings to Medicaid of over \$3 million per budget cycle
Medicaid cost savings of nearly half a million dollars per budget cycle in cesarean reduction alone. Combined savings to public and private insurance of over \$2.5 million per budget cycle in cesarean reduction alone. Total cost savings to the state from the care of Licensed Midwives is approximately 10 times the cost of administering the program. Cost savings achieved with under 2% of births in the state taking place in private homes and freestanding birth centers under the care of a Licensed Midwife. Subsequent analysis by Washington State shows \$3939 in savings for each out-of-hospital birth
Improved Outcomes for Women and Infants Under Licensed Midwife Care. Significant reductions in low-birth weight and premature births, two of the primary contributing factors to infant mortality and the long-term costs of maternity care. Significantly reduced rates of cesarean section surgery, one of the largest costs associated with maternity care in the U.S. Lifetime health benefits to babies reflected in significantly higher rates of breastfeeding under the care of Licensed Midwives. Improved outcomes achieved with neonatal mortality rates equal to those of low-risk hospital births. About The Study: Commissioned by the Washington State legislature to determine whether the costs of administering the state's Licensed Midwife program are offset by the economic benefits of Licensed Midwife Care. Conducted by the independent firm, Health Management Associates, under contract by the Washington State Department of Health. Analyzes all costs associated with Licensed Midwife care, including those associated with hospital transfers when necessary. Research team included a health economist, physician, obstetric nurse, public health professional, and other experts. Health Management Associates used the Department of Health's First Steps Database of Medicaid claims and other healthcare economic indicators, as well as a thorough literature review, to perform the study and establish its conclusions. 'Midwifery Licensure and Discipline Program in Washington State: Economic Costs and Benefits,'
www.washingtonmidwives.org/assets/Midwifery_Cost_Study_10-31-07.pdf

Leibfried

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

None

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

I know that Badgercare helps lower income persons, but perhaps some measures would be: Increasing co pays for services, especially ER visits- could waive the fee if the person is admitted. Perhaps this is already a policy- but generic drugs unless MD prescribes must be name brand. Some health insurance plans do a mail order pharmacy service 3 months at a time for maintenance prescriptions that do not often change.

Kristina

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

SIMPLIFY enrollment, higher reimbursement for dentists so that more people have access to preventive dental care- would save the money we spend for Medicaid emergency dental care (abscessed teeth, root canals, etc)

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

==Require that Medicaid managed care organizations have provider networks with vision providers available to all Badgercare recipients in their own communities, and redo contracts so that people are able to go to the same place for eye exam

Jefferson County

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

1. Lower the asset limit for spousal impoverishment 2. do not allow special cases to have more than one house 3. give workers access to IRS records to verify assets 4. count community spouse individual retirement accounts (IRAs) as an available asset 5. have family care MCOs reduce their administrative costs 6. eliminate non-functional eligible family care 7. reduce nursing home personal allowance 8. restructure family care rent expense 9. change MAPP work requirement 10. expedite process for veterans aid and attendance eligibility 11. asset test for BaderCare Plus 12. lower the income limit for BadgerCare plus 13. not cover certain drugs 14. eliminate client meals, lodging and medical transportation 15. end BadgerCare when a child turns 18 instead of 19 16. raise co-pays 17. enact nmore benefit limits 18. have all recipients assigned to an HMO 19. lower the percentage an employer must pay for health insurance before customer has to accept the employer insurance

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

None

j

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

The Governor's budget adjustment bill calls for the Department of Health Services to seek waivers from the federal government that will help the state reform the way it administers Medical Assistance programs. Given that the waiver requests may impact nearly every aspect of Medical Assistance programming it would be prudent to open the waiver process to the public.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

None

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

None

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

Restructuring departments to reduce government costs.

Taylor County Board of Supervisors

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

The current biennium budget calls for the centralization of Medicaid programs, eliminating local access to economic support services. Without the knowledge and experience of local personalized assistance many citizens will lose their benefits.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

None

Tony

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

Support community health centers. The freeze on BadgerCare basic leaves many uninsured who still have health problems. Invest in education strategies about teen/unplanned pregnancies. Public employees didn't cause shortfall.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

Raise sales tax by \$.01. Generate more money, don't cut programs.

Rhonda

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

Has seen peoples condition improve while being on BadgerCare. It enables them to seek treatment, use medication, and receive regular care that they otherwise wouldn't if uninsured. This reduces hospitalization, increases access to dental care, prevents people from waiting until they are very sick to get help.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

Health Centers are ready to be a partner and a solution to address health care needs.

Kathy

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

All around communication, staff is not knowledgeable on available resources.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

None

Connie

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

Consider a single payer plan for health care. Do not cut Medicaid programs or family planning. The 36 countries who have better and less expensive care have either a single payer or some hybrid of a single payer plan.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

BadgerCare should be income based and asset based.

Helen

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

Please don't abandon seniors and poverty families or those on the border.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

None

Wes

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

Cutting funds to programs like IRIS for people with disabilities is no the place to find cost saving ideas.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

Boosting the state sales tax by just 1% would bring \$860 million dollars per year in revenue. This method of sharing would be fair to all income levels. We need to create a revenue to solve our budget crisis not cut services from people who need them the most.

Lisa

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

None

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

People should be required to pay a higher copay for office visits, urgent care, and emergency appointments as well as perscriptions.

Susan

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

Absolute focus in health improvement.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

None

Kim

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

Improve efforts to diagnose and treat Alzheimer's disease and related disorders sooner. Improve integrated care coordination. Study cost benefits of referring WI veterens to federally funded VA benefits. Provide alternatives to existing inpatient and emergency department services. Consider the unintended costs of freezing family care.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

None

Johanna

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

Son is a medically involved child with Down syndrome. We were extremely grateful for the support we received from Katie Beckett. My son has been on and off waiting lists for Family Support and the Children's Long Term Waiver for a number of years and is still waiting to receive benefits from the Children's Long Term waiver. I seriously doubt that the lists have been caused by over funding.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

1)JB Medical - we should be using a WI based company and allowed to purchase superior products for less money than what JB allows. 2)We should investigate cost savings that could be generated from repurposing durable medical equipment and augmentative communication devices no longer in use (Katy's Kloset). 3)Privatization doesn't always mean cost savings. Need a single, consolidated intake for programs and waivers. 4)Deeply concerned about county and state services reaching some of the most at risk, underserved people. Many low income participants don't have access to supports and computers. 5)Find ways to more fully include children with disabilities in typical classrooms and school programs. Early intervention and supports are everything. 6)Emergency rules should not go into effect because this will remove the voices of consumers of the programs from the process. The disability community has a saying Nothing about us, without us .

Richard

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

I wish to comment on any possible cuts in Wisconsin medical assistance programs. Cuts would create a hardship. My wife has multiple sclerosis, and has been in a nursing home since November of 1998. She is bedridden , but is totally mentally aware. As you can imagine her monthly expenses are huge. Without the state long term care aid I don't know what I would do. My resources, I'm retired, couldn't keep her in for a week. I don't know if medicare would cover anything else. I'm going from payday to payday and would not be able to take over any payments. I need the help I currently get! Don't take it away from me, and all the others who need it.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

None

Renee

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

badercare is important to a lot of families and under on of obamas laws is that health care is to be available to all. some people cant afford to pay for it but still need it for their kids to be seen by a doctor. if you take this away where does that leave the families that are struggling? food stamps are also important as well for families to be able to get food for thier kids. we are supposed to help people not take the help away

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

None

Bobbi

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

Badger Care is a critical safety net for Wisconsin. My divorced daughter, mother of 4 children, works long hours to make ends meet. Without Badger Care, her children would have no medical coverage. My friend works 2 jobs to pay her bills. She is a cancer survivor. But her small employer had to stop offering health care insurance because after she had cancer, the insurance rates skyrocketed and the owner could no longer afford to offer coverage to her handful of employees. People like her who work hard should have medical care--it should not be a privilege for only the wealthy. Don't take funding away from Badger Care. People in Northern WI struggle just to put food on the table. This is not a recession; it is a way of life here. Add co-pays for Emergency Room visits, but don't take the safety net away from the state's most vulnerable.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

None

Kay

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

None

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

Reduce the amount of paper by sending the clients their letters through their email. Charge higher premiums for families as their income goes over 300%.

Debbie

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

I am the mother of a 30 year old musician who is currently insured by Badgercare. NO ONE would insure him before this, (after he was dropped out of the blue - no reason given- never missed a payment etc.). Though we and he could pay for it, no one would take our money! It was a parent's nightmare - no insurance for their child. Yes, he is an adult - but apparently not a good risk. Badger care was our only hope and once applied for, he was insured! WHEW! Now it's all in jeopardy again. . . PLEASE DO NOT TAKE AWAY BADGER CARE! It really is the only place who would insure my son. I beg you! I know so many people his age who only WISH they'd signed up like my son did. . . . so now they have nothing. PLEASE - this is not right in the wealthiest nation on earth. We can do better!

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

None

Quinton

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

The Department of Health Services could improve by assuring that all of Wisconsin residents have needed access to health coverage and promoting healthy lifestyle choices. In particular, the Badger Care program provides much needed support to our most vulnerable families. At minimum, the program should be maintained at the current level.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

Integrate more health promotion and risk reduction strategies into overall approach of DHS and refine data system so that billing and actual patient care align.

Terri

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

Inefficiencies of the contracted fiscal agent services that people with disabilities and family members have to deal with on a daily basis.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

Allowing funding for family and consumers to mentor each other, organize, and share info about new strategies, cost effectiveness, employment, networking, training, etc. WI DHS PATHways to Independence. Microboards are cost effective way to cut down the cost for middle person bureaucracies.

Thomas

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

Against all cuts to poor and tax cuts to the rich.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

None

David

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

Protect BadgerCare eligibility, benefits, and affordability. Cuts don't save money, they just shift costs. The primary goal should be to sharply curtail the ineffective management of high risk patients with chronic illnesses. BC must reduce the number who over-utilize hospital emergency rooms and over utilize hospitals in general.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

DHS should create clear incentives to HMO's and health care providers to identify early all patients with chronic conditions, strategically target resources on the small percentage of high cost hot spot patients who account for over 50% of costs, and whose care is frequently mismanaged, provide effective primary and preventative care to the balance of those with chronic illnesses.

Ronald

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

In 2008 my son joined family care program due to a traumatic brain injury. I retired from the State early to care for my son. Family Care with MCO's involved is more of a business model of health care not a consumer model. The primary goal is no longer the welfare of my son but cost control.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

None

Dorothy

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

Inner city people need ins, can't afford to go to private doctors. What do you expect people to do when you cut their ins?

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

None

Molly

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

Can't ask people living in poverty to pay premiums or copays.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

None

Tito

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

Diversify access by supporting lower cost providers and health facilities that desire to care for vulnerable populations - Community Health Centers.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

Support FQHC's which have demonstrated lower cost alternatives to quality care.

Joanne

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

Don't require seniors who are on the very successful and cost saving state pharmacy assistance program called SeniorCare to also have a Part D plan. This will hurt many seniors who can not afford Medicare Part D in addition to all their other expenses.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

SeniorCare has been very successful due to the fact that they run the program very much like the VA runs their drug program, by making deals with the drug companies in the form of rebates and etc. Consider making changes in Medicare Part D in order to drive down the prices of drugs by again running the program more like the Veterans Administration does. Medicare Part D currently has too many choices for seniors. The majority of my seniors do not have computers and thus are unable to pick the most cost saving plan for themselves.

peter

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

Financially support job coaches and senior care workers more appropriately to coincide with this economy

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

decrease the amount paid to the political representatives and cut back on travel expenses for these individuals

Jari

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

None

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

1)Ensure participants have access to cancer screenings to detect cancers early. 2)Provide counseling services, medications and other proven strategies to help participants quit smoking. 3)Counsel participants about healthy eating and physical activity. 4)Provide participants with a regular source of care.

Marcia

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

Keep IM workers in county still with changes made.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

1)Raise copays. 2)Have all recipients assigned to HMO's. 3)Lower the income limits for BadgerCare. 4)Lower percentage that employer must pay for health insurance (it's now 80%) before customer has to accept the employer insurance.

Becky

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

Waitlist for Family Care & IRIS is devastating for families. Continue with implementation of family care and IRIS. Centralized IM - poor, untimely service.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

For years studies consistently show community services are more cost effective than institutional/nursing home care.

Megan

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

None

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

Continuing to provide universal care for pregnant women in WI regardless of legal status will save money by avoiding the greater expense of health care for premature & low birth weight infants. Also, Medicaid reimbursement for non-nurse midwives (certified professional midwives) is a low cost, safe alternative to hospital birth which is associated with high patient satisfaction.

Carol

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

Not all BadgerCare recipients are free loaders and not wanting to work. For example daughter is single mother going to school and needs the coverage for her son. There is no broadband access in rural areas, and seniors can't use computers so who will help them? Concerned about waiting list when programs are capped. You will either be serving people on the front end (programs) or back end (ER visits).

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

Must let Family Care programs run their course to balance the cost and see the benefits.

Margaret

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

Create a separate provider category for licensed midwives.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

While offering coverage from BadgerCare to have a LM (licensed midwife) the state would save millions. Washington State, whose LM program is comparable to WI saved \$3.1 million per budget cycle, while providing excellent outcomes for low-income mothers and babies.

Shawn

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

Quality of IRIS workforce is lower. Invest in workforce, pay workers well. WI Quality Home Care Authority set up training structures that the budget repair bill abolished.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

People should have the right to move from long term care to IRIS to save money.

Heather

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

None

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

Reduce or eliminate alien emergency (AE) services.

Cheryl

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

None

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

Subrogating liability claims with accident insurers.

Liza

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

Providing access to health insurance to more people in Wisconsin. The Basic Plan was eliminated, leaving many people waiting to get on the Core Plan, which as you know, has a very long wait list.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

Early intervention is critical. Health problems need to be identified early on so further deterioration or critical incidents are minimized. If medical disorders are not caught early on, the cost can be astronomical, which if the individual cannot afford to pay the bill, then the cost gets passed on to taxpayers. People who cannot afford insurance will usually not go to the doctor and then if their condition is very bad, they utilize emergency rooms for care, when preventative care/early intervention would have been much more affordable.

horton

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

A 50-something single woman was paying the \$130/month premium while on the Core Plan Waiting list. She has been out of work for two years, and on the verge of homelessness since her benefits do not cover her bills. She cannot afford to pay the new \$200 premium and has had to drop the coverage. Imagine the fear! She is working hard to get a job and does not deserve to bear the brunt of our economic trouble. My suggestion is to stop treating those who need help like second class citizens! Our government needs to stop favoring the rich!

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

None

Amy

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

Organize recall efforts against Walker and the republicans.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

Vote democrat so your budget doesn't get gutted. And raise taxes on the top 1%, which is the only effective and moral thing to do.

Arica

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

Staff appropriately and have better response time - as an advocate for an agency, I waited 1 1/2 hrs for a foodshare question. Plus, be able to meet deadlines, with better communication to consumers.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

None

Emily

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

It is understandable that we have a budget deficit. We also have 85,000+ on the waitlist for BadgerCare Core and a general waitlist for FamilyCare. This represents a huge number in Wisconsin's population that are hurting and, overall, spending more money to get the emergency care that they need.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

Overall, health insurance and case management services help people stay out of emergency care systems and institutionalized settings. At a meeting of enrollment services providers in Milwaukee, Medicaid Director Brett Davis stated that he would like to work toward getting people out of ERs and into Primary Care. He stated that ERs were the most expensive cost to the State. I agree with this statement. Working the budget in order to provide insurance for Primary Care and preventative care through Family Care will, overall, save money for the State.

Willborn

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

I believe there should be some type of asset limit for this program. Many times people are applying for BadgerCare, are self-employed, and have the biggest toys in the County (i.e. large trucks, multiple ATV's, boats, other land, etc.). We get complaint calls from the community questioning how someone can be on BadgerCare and have a \$200,000.00 house, \$50,000.00 truck, etc. This is very discouraging and a sign that people do not budget their money properly to ensure their needs are met before their wants. If this can be addressed better and force the public to meet their needs before their wants, it would force people to be responsible. Public benefits are a great thing for the Elderly and Disabled as well as children but we need to get better about who has access to the benefits and enforce accountability in my opinion.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

Make BadgerCare more like other insurance types where the co-pays could be higher for medications and going to the doctor, no more transportation reimbursement, and I think BadgerCare to families with dependent children should have a premium across the board. It does not have to be large, but they should have to pay something and make them responsible. The services that BadgerCare offers are overly used and something has to be implemented to cut the use down and I think a co-pay would make people think about going to the doctor for every little bump. I also think orthodontics is over used as well because it is free. There should be a co-pay for this as well. Nothing is free anymore, and we are creating unnecessary entitlement by offering things for free when certain populations could pay more. The elderly and disabled populations often have fixed incomes and it is difficult to take on more cost but working families could pay more.

Danielle

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

ACCESS.WI.GOV has proved extremely efficient and helpful for applicants and those renewing their coverage. Difficulties arise when individuals have specific questions and/or need personal communication with an enrollment specialist. The phone triage system keeps members on hold for way too long, using up their limited time, money and patience. Would it be possible to have an electronic Q and A application added to ACCESS? This would be practical, cost-efficient and limit hiring additional specialists to staff the phone lines.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

Do not advocate for reduced eligibility guidelines or increased co-payments and premiums. This will prevent access and deny coverage to many Wisconsin children and families. The uninsured still get medical care when they need it, shifting costs to those who pay with private insurance. The state needs to find additional ways to raise revenue instead of cutting services from those who need it most.

Patricia

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

Review application process, some people apply 3-4 times, not efficient. Read a negative or positive notice, they are difficult to understand.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

None

Sue

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

None

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

The SeniorCare drug program should be kept as is. It works and serves Seniors in WI. It started before Medicare Part D. Please keep this program as is. We need BadgerCare as is. Farmers need it, low wage workers need it. Please keep counties (public workers) in charge of helping aging and disabled people. They know what to do to help.

Jeannie

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

Centralization of IM functions is not the answer to raise families out of poverty. This approach has failed in other states and the initial attempt at this in WI has also failed. Centralization will decrease the numbers of families receiving services, will lead to increased fraud, and likely will result in more CPS activity.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

Yes, completely eliminate divestment. Bring all IM cases back to the counties where benefits are issued timely, families receive links to other services to raise them out of poverty, where fraud is controlled through local means, and where accurate benefits are issued to eligible families.

Ronald

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

Any change that will restrict access to face to face eligibility services, require additional travel and expense, or require use of telephone or computer technology will adversely affect individuals that seek to apply for MA.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

Create 7 administrative regions statewide. Counties within these regions would be contractors for income maintenance services in the specified region.

Kari

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

The waiting lists and closed enrollment are a huge problem and lead to the worsening of health conditions and overuse of emergency rooms which costs far more in the long run.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

Focus more on preventive care, education and the management of chronic health conditions like diabetes. Increase the number of providers so consumers can access care early on in the course of an illness.

Lazarus

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

Overall I think the system is a good system.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

Cut down the choices of providers, have all people who are eligible complete a health survey, raise co payments \$5-\$10 and before they can receive health care that must select a Primary Doctor and take an annual check up to keep their insurance. I think this would cut down on ER visits

Gail

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

Ensure participants have access to preventative services, delayed access to care increases cost.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

None

Hilary

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

Make the online application match up with what the workers actually need. Allow people to check a box as to what program they want to apply for. Train the ESC staff on ALL programs so the consumer does not need to be transferred multiple times before getting help.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

Make ESC more efficient. A lot of time is wasted on employees attempting to contact consumers when they were previously on the phone with ESC and they do not set up appointments with the consumer.

Chris

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

Fire Scott Walker.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

Enroll all homeless, unemployed and uninsurable to stop rising emergency room costs.

Natasha

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

Making healthcare more accessible to those who need it. School based clinics are a must to provide point of service care where it is needed most in the inner city schools. Sometimes the school nurse is the healthcare person the student sees. Parent have to take off work or will not seek healthcare for their child at all because they cannot afford to miss work. This forces them to send a sick child to school and hope they make it through the day. Also programs to help curtail marijuana use among our children.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

Allowing in school clinics for acute care. Incentives for nurse practitioner's to practice in schools. Offer more free community events where they are needed most. Continue to monitor trends and provide evidence based care based on the trends.

Amy

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

Open enrollment back up to people who need access to these services.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

Yes, eliminate the tax breaks for the wealthiest Wisconsinites that Gov Walker keeps enacting. Instead, take care of the hard working citizens of Wisconsin who need help because they are unable to afford insurance.

Doree

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

Please keep CSP funding levels current

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

None

Scott

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

BadgerCare, is very important to farmer families, especially young new farmers. Farmers and rural eligible populations: don't have internet, have hard to figure income, have fluctuating income. 1. In 72 counties, fewer than 40% of farms have high-speed internet. 2. Some farmers have been denied because eligibility workers have a hard time learning to deal with self-employed, losing experienced workers could create problems. 3. Income fluctuations should not mean spotty coverage; they'd rather pay higher premiums during boom times

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

None

Mel

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

Don't cut county mental health, human services, education or any other programs. the biennial budget will decimate those programs, resulting in untold misery and more people being put in jail and dying early.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

Yes. Collect the more than 1 billion in taxes now owed by various Wisconsin Corporations; raise the state tax rate on incomes over \$200,000 and corporations, sufficient to cover the shortfall. DO NOT CUT human services, education etc.

Jeff

What could the Department of Health Services improve?

Expand program to include everyone so businesses do not have to provide ins. State ins only, no private health care.

Do you have any cost savings suggestions for the Department of Health Services?

More preventative care.