



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

**Samantha**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

Cover care by licensed midwives, certified professional midwives, homebirths, and free standing birth center births.

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

By covering homebirths and free standing birth center births attended by CPM or LM under BadgerCare, tax payers would be spared paying the extra thousands of dollars PER BIRTH more that it costs to have a baby in a hospital with an OB or CNM.

**Kari**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

We have 2 women in our dept alone who work full time. Because they are single moms with young children, they also qualify for badgercare. They are both offered insurance through our employer. They earn a decent paycheck. Why then, are they allowed to keep their children on Badgercare. I see how this system is abused. Our employer does offer very good insurance benefits. Granted, family coverage is \$225 a month. Maybe instead of having these kids on badgercare til they are 18, why not pay their monthly premium for their insurance. I think this would save our state a lot of money.

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

None

**Falon**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

The Department of Health Services could provide more choice to women giving birth.

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

The Department of Health Services could cut costs by covering services offered by Licensed Midwives in the state of Wisconsin. Deliveries under the care of licensed midwives are less likely to result in unnecessary cesarean sections and the use of multiple costly interventions. Birth in an out-of-hospital setting is cheaper overall. Women who would otherwise choose birth in an out-of-hospital setting are choosing costly and risky hospital birth because it is covered by their state insurance. If Licensed Midwives were a choice for women receiving Medicaid health benefits there would be a cost savings for the Department of Health Services.

**kara**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

Allow home birth with a Certified Professional Midwife to be covered in the state of WI. It is a safe and cost saving method to provide births that is family friendly and safe.

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

Allow home birth with a Certified Professional Midwife to be covered in the state of WI. The home birth option for birthing is extremely less expensive than hospital births but just as safe when the mother is low risk.

**Justin**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

Information dissemination

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

1. Rewarding individual disease and illness prevention measures. 2. Point of delivery evaluation to ensure that all medical intervention and charges correspond with services rendered.

**Mary Lou**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

Integrating Certified Peer Specialist into mental health services. As a consumer and advocate I believe the specialists have been important part of my recovery. I plan to become a specialist very soon in order to give back to my community.

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

The Yale University study has shown a 44% decrease in hospitalizations for members of Optum Health Services (HMO). If I would have had specialists available to me I wouldn't have had as many hospitalizations which might have saved me from bankruptcy. By not integrating specialists into mental health service systems there has been an overreliance on expensive often less effective treatment options. Those systems are generated toward crisis management rather than crisis prevention. Please mandate the hire of specialists throughout the system including DOC, DVR, & all HMO's contracted by the dept. of health. Specialist need to be paid a living wage with benefits. The consumer can be identified early in the ER or hospitalization thus being provided with the knowledge that specialists have regarding after care. This intervention by the specialist can stop the revolving door many consumers experience without the proper CSPs.

**Georgie**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

Dental care - people need teeth to eat healthy foods. Why let peoples teeth rot? I once was proud of my nice teeth but not any more. Eating well helps mental illness for sure.

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

Look at what AZ has done for the mentally ill, let's have something like that in WI.

**Adam**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

Maintain Medicaid for mental health programs

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

Fund enhanced community programs

**Pam**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

I think there should be more of a proactive approach to prevent serious breakdowns rather than waiting for someone to hurt themselves or others, and then treating them. The costs of hospitalizations, crisis intervention, police involvement, all cost more than it would to take preventative steps.

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

Prevent instead of react. We need long term treatment facilities for the truly mentally ill, it's better than putting in jail or having them live on the streets.

**sandra**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

drop the hmo programs and handle directly. you are paying a middle man which is raising costs and they need allapprovals from the state any way, they make the provider contact the state they do nothing except collect your money.

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

drop the hmo programs and handle claims directly.you are paying a middle man which is raising costs and they need all approvals from the state any way ,they make the provider contact the state they do nothing except collect your money.

**Crystal**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

Better treatment & approachable care

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

With peer support and self direction and respite care homes in 72 counties they are evidence based that work instead of going to ER or psychiatric hospitals before we have a crisis. Have them peer specialist ran. We need CIT officers.

**Terry**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

Utilize peer specialists where possible. This really does work and is cost effective.

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

None

**Ann**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

Be sure folks who have very low income (especially with children) have continued Badger Care pretty much as is for health and dental care. Try to get more dentists to accept BadgerCare.

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

I feel the state needs to know who is getting the states programs, food stamps, BadgerCare, IRIS, Family Care, etc. I have heard that there are people in prison getting many of these programs. Why do they get these services, how do they qualify, or do they. This is probably fraud and I feel these programs need to be scrutinized very carefully. I'm sure these people are selling their benefits to outsiders or are giving them away to outsiders who somehow didn't qualify. This would certainly be cost effective. Somehow get across to people with mental illness when in times of crisis call the crisis center, warm lines, peer specialists and/or ask a nurse instead of running to a hospital ER since thats all they know where to go for help & Medicare pays - very costly choice over the other four.

**Michael**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

Providing access to licensed professional midwives outside of a hospital setting (birth center or home-birth) is a healthy, low cost option for the vast majority of expectant mothers, and would not only improve outcomes for mother and baby, but save money as well.

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

Allow families on BadgerCare Plus to utilize professional midwives outside of the hospital. 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.\* In northern Wisconsin Medicaid women who have been denied Licensed Midwife services are being air-lifted to give birth in Minnesota hospitals due to the closing of OB units in Wisconsin and the severe shortage of OB providers in many rural and low-income areas, costing the state thousands of dollars each year and diverting tax dollars over the border to Minnesota.\* Washington State, whose Licensed Midwife program is approximately the same size as Wisconsin's, commissioned an independent audit of the program which found that LMs saved the state \$3.1 million per budget cycle while providing excellent outcomes for low-income mothers and babies.

**Tracy**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

Cover out of hospital births with Licensed Midwives.

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

With my first birth the total cost of the prenatal and delivery was over \$8000 dollars, this was a simple vaginal birth. My second birth at home with prenatal costs = \$2000. Seems pretty simple to me that the state could save a lot of money by covering home births. Not only are home births less expensive the outcomes are better and save even more money with the reduced risk of complications due to over medicalized birth procedures in hospitals.

**Audrey**

**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-cost associated with maternity care.

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

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 taxpayers thousands of dollars in unrealized savings. Economist David Andersen calculated that a modest increase in out of hospital maternity care nationwide would save the health care system over 9 BILLION annually through reduced costs, improved outcomes, and increase competition in the maternity care market.

**James**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

The department of Health Services could include Licensed Midwives as Badger Care providers.

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

If Licensed Midwives were eligible providers, individuals that would prefer (if they had the badger care option) to work with an LM and that also meet the risk criteria to birth with an LM, could. This would save the state thousands of dollars

**Smith**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

DHS should allow coverage for direct entry, licensed Practical midwives to provide maternity and delivery services to women in their homes. Home birth is safe, efficient and will save tax payers thousands of dollars. By not allowing home birth (which costs only btwn \$1500-3800 in Milwaukee compared to the \$7000+ bill a hospital charges) women are at a disadvantage and discriminated against for making their own medical choices. Women who are on Badgercare and desire a homebirth are encouraged to spend more tax dollars due to not being able to afford health care.

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

HOME BIRTH COVERAGE is a cost saving mechanism! Please cover homebirths!!! Our women and state deserve this.

**RITA**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

We need to cut back on who gets coverage, WI. is broke and we need stricter laws to ensure the person is no illegal and also not reward females for getting pregnant in order to get on Medicaid and get coverage with a ss#. We have our own we need to tend too and not take on any more mouths to feed.

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

Keep the family wavier plan, if familys choose to have more than 2 children, they shouldn't continue to get the benefits. Years ago a women had to have a tubal when she had her 3 child. We need to teach that you have to think before you have children, most people can't afford them in this day and age. Bring back the badgercare work program that Thompson started. Also if people make more than 250,000 per year per person and or are over the money limits they should not get SS# checks or benefits because they can afford to pay and live with out them.

## **Houston**

### **What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

Keep BadgerCare, SeniorCare, IRIS, Long Term Care via COP, CIP, and Katie Beckett.

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

Expand COP & CIP, IRIS, & Katie Beckett. These programs have proven that community based care is less costly than institutional care, never mind that people can more easily participate in the community as fully as they are able to if they are not in institutions. Disabled man on Title 19 has wife attendant with no health insurance. The wife became sick finally went to the ER too late and died.

## **Lori**

### **What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

Get doctors to treat and find the cause of an ailment on the first visit instead of having the patient come back multiple times for the same problem. The office visits for repeat health problems has to be a huge expense. I feel it is an abuse of the system by doctors who knowingly not treat the person who is on state health insurance and do not do the lab work or other necessary tests on the first visit for that problem. These doctors are eating away at the system and patients are suffering too. I strongly feel that there needs to be a better system for mental health patients. Not providing/approving through the pharmacy the medications which were prescribed by the psychiatrists at DHS is only incurring further medical visits, paper work trail and costs per patient. It is increasing the patients risk for excacerbating their mental illness due to delay in getting medications and or therapies. Patients cannot just STOP taking their medication. St Croix county is growing and developing fast and there needs to be an improvement in access to care in this county. Dentists which take the Badgercare is desperately needed as well as inpatient mental health facilities and therapy centers.

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

Stop sending duplicate mailings out on healthcare coverage and benefits.

## **Dorinne**

### **What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

Fully implement the program as it already stands. Starting with a primary care physician/family doctor. A relationship develops and changes in health are quickly detected avoiding costlier treatment. Call centers need to be adequately staffed and trained, too much time is wasted, time consumers could be earning income. Also, case workers need to be fully trained, there are too many mistakes being made in the paper work consumers receive which needs to be corrected, again wasting time for the consumer.

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

Centralized medical records. Aurora is an excellent example of this. Information is available for all physicians to access, tests and procedures can be ordered or eliminated based on a full patient history.

**Mike**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

We are not happy with J and B Medical Supply. They give us disposable briefs that don't work out or adult diapers. The BBB-30, BR30 from Attends Brand and others they give us products that don't hold up. They leak, fall off, hold wetness next to skin. Double or triple them for night use for heavy wetters.

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

What would save the state is at Shopko and Kmart, Medicine shops and at local medical shops the Attends BRW 103072 with waist band style works excellence during the day. Depend Fitted Briefs Maximum Protection are excellence for night time use and Tranquility AI through the night are good too. You get 300 disposable briefs a month and some of us are paying out of pocket when they run out. Some people need both. BRW 103072 cost \$11/bag at Shopko, Depend \$13.99/bag at Kmart.

**Diane**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

There is NO affordable health care for the middle age, middle income couple. I am 58 years old and make a little too much money to qualify and we make not enough money to pay 800.00 a month for a premium. Hence we are stuck with a 16,000.00 bill for a detached retina. What are options for couples in our age group suppose to do for affordable health care??

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

None

**Emily**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

I would like licensed midwife care to be approved as a BadgerCare provider.

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

Midwife care costs a fraction of hospital care for births. I'd like my baby's July birth to be covered under a midwife.

**Timothy**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

None

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

1ST IDEA. I am not someone with a child, but I am an adult with a disability on Medicaid. I think we can reduce costs by actually not going to things like iris and family care. All these are is middlemen, and middlemen always take a chunk of the money. Why should companies be getting money for their profit line that can be going to the people who need it or actually saving money. Medicaid could just as easily hire people that would be responsible for people with permanent disabilities that would normally qualify for iris or family care. Companies are more concerned with profits and will ration as much as they can. Why should we give money to their profit line? You can still give as much money as say iris does for their members and still save money because money isn't going to a company's profit line. And even large nursing homes are farms for profit. Even non-profit nursing homes would rather put the money into needless yearly remodeling rather than pay for more staff to make life better for their patients and to make healthy patients. 2ND IDEA. I believe people with severe disabilities, adults and children, should be able to have their spouse or parents and even parents of children under 18 be their PCW. Where it might seem this would spend money, actually this will save money. See you don't have to pay a family member quite as much as you would a medical professional from an agency or such. Pay them enough so that they can even stay home as their job and this still would be cheaper than paying a professional. And also you would get a definite better quality of care and from people that actually care personally about the person with disability needing care. Of courses you can't always be guaranteed quality of care from family members but the odds are more that way. 3RD IDEA. Through Medicaid (not iris or family care) allow adults and parents to get some of their supplies through, for instance, the grocery store. Many products can be purchased cheaper than if they were considered medically related and again they don't take cost as much as a Medical Supply place. I mean things like adult diapers and diapers. Also Medical Equipment like blood pressure cuffs and also oxygen meters can also be bought cheaper at the store or pharmacy and doesn't consider raising the price just because it is through Medicaid. If people could purchase these items themselves they would be the consumer and the supply places or stores would not try raising the price simply because it is through Medicaid. Even Amazon.com has blood pressure cuffs. 4th IDEA This relates somewhat to my third idea. I needed an oxygen meter. I searched on-line for a good one and with reasonable cost. I find one that was \$144. I had to go through the prior authorization process. When the prior authorization finally came through Medicaid decided to pay 13 months for \$30.00 a month instead of buying it outright. So instead of paying \$144 they actually paid \$390. I'm not sure if the prior authorization people thought I was going to get better before the 13 months were up or if they thought I would die first. It doesn't seem like the people who are doing prior authorizations are actually reviewing the case. So I propose that prior authorizations actually review the case with the reasons indicated for needing something and also ask the Physician questions if they need more information. People who do the prior authorizations can have a little education and common sense. This will save money by not spending more when they can spend less for something. For instance, again supplies from grocery stores like diapers and blood pressure cuffs. Even Amazon.com as great deals on blood pressure cuffs. 5th IDEA Allow people on Medicaid to get married and not have to worry about the spouse having assets. You'd think that this would cost more money because people will be coming off of Medicaid if you don't change it because we're over our resource limit. Well actually we just don't get married so we don't come off of Medicaid so you don't save money you just keep people down. People just get divorced to go on Medicaid. Plus keeping people from getting married is just not right. Also many just live in sin rather than lose Medicaid. And don't forget again care from a spouse means healthier people on Medicaid. And for the whole our economy the spouse and doesn't have to go into poverty just to put someone back on Medicaid. And this saves money in government programs for the poor with regard to welfare. 6th idea. if you absolutely have to bring back institutions don't bring back large ones. Also most nursing homes only follow Medicaid rules when there is somebody from Medicaid there and they fudge their documents. Make the nursing homes more like assisted living with only three or four to a building. And there should be people on staff to be able to take residents into the community to do things like to socialize with people who aren't handicapped. They have these types of homes in other states and they have found healthier and happier people. To tell you the truth, people feel regular nursing homes are much like prisons. People who are happier have been proved to be healthier and need less medical attention which is also savings to Medicaid. I would rather be in my home and I think Home Care could be cheaper in the long run. Even if you have to have a CNA for someone with Alzheimer's 24/7 it's still cheaper than an institution would charge. 7th idea. if governor walker actually made it so that seniors who meet the Medicaid spend down would not have to pay property taxes they would be able to keep their homes longer. Also provide Home Care. The state would lose money on property tax but have more savings keeping Elders out of nursing homes. Many Elders on Medicare actually go to Medicaid because they have small problems with daily chores like a simple shower or remembering medications. It would be a lot cheaper

having someone coming in to giving their medications and than an institution or nursing home. And keeping Elders out of nursing homes as long as possible will help save tons of money and have healthier Elders. Also with less people going to nursing homes institutions would automatically have to be smaller with less maintenance then a humongous building with all that can go wrong there. Also you wouldn't have people needing who need rehabilitation right next to people there for psych reasons. And why can't rehabilitation be done in the home with physical therapy. Again healthier patients mean less Medicaid costs and people in their homes much more cost savings. Elders on Medicaid obviously can't afford taxes. Also if you keep people not having to pay their property tax so they can keep their homes you have spending more of their own money on their care because they are on Medicare instead of on Medicaid. Setting their money on care of on spend down.8th IDEA. Make programs like Mapp easier to understand and less complicated. Also make it the norm for people with disabilities that are permanent. Many are afraid of going to work because they have to sign up for a different program than regular Medicaid and they are afraid there could be the possibility of a gap in coverage. And for instance, when you have over \$360,000 in medical costs a year like myself you cannot afford to have a gap in coverage. I would be happy to pay into Medicaid if I was making a reasonable amount of money. As long as I end up with more than I have on SSI. But again the possibility of lack in coverage scares me of course institutions scare me even more. Another reason I'm afraid of going on Mapp is because I have a business making websites. Some years I have more sites to create than other years. And I don't try to get too much work because I would have too many assets. If there was something that causes less apprehension people would be more apt to work and pay into the system. Also people with disabilities would actually help the economy with their hard work. We don't want to take from society, but in many cases we have to. And also the current system is obviously not working. I believe this is because the rules are keeping us down and if the rules were changed we might actually pay some of the money back. My grandmother always said even if you know you can't finish a task try and you might finish most of it or you might surprise yourself and finish the whole task. I have heard many of my friends say they are not allowed to work when on Medicaid. Having mapp rules AT the starting gate instead of some seemingly far distance away will make for incentive. Also many of us can only do so much in a day. And those with heart problems have all they can do to finish the day in those with severe retardation will never be able to work. But many will.

**David**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

Takes over 20 min to make payment on phone, plus it takes 3 people to take a credit card.

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

It takes 3 people to take a credit card? How many people does it take to change light bulb?

**John Joseph**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

I am presently unable to work do to health, have a medical condition. I am not covered by any insurance do to being unable to work and I need education among many other things. I have had to turn down some do to cost.

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

None

**William**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

I work full time and wife part time. We are covered by BadgerCare because the private ins offered by my employer is 50% of my salary. Family is willing to pay higher copays/premiums to keep BadgerCare.

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

None

**Harriet**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

The Department of Services is needed in place to help people who cannot afford health care because of the wages they are receiving. It is less expensive to help them than to always pay for emergency room services when they could use a doctor's office for illnesses that aren't emergencies. We need to care for our youngest and oldest citizens.

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

Provide medical care so people don't have to use expensive emergency rooms for care that is not an emergency.

**Denis**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

BadgerCare+ saved my life. I was diagnosed with lymphoma, went through treatment, and now I'm in remission. Please don't reduce funding for BadgerCare because it is truly a life saver.

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

None

**Rachel**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

You should continue to emphasize the use of generic drugs and negotiation of drug prices.

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

Badger Care Plus assists young adults so that they do not have to resort to emergency room care when they are sick. It fills a distinct need and saves money in the long run. We need to keep Family Care because care in the home is far cheaper than care in nursing homes.

**Cynthia**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

Thank you for FC and IRIS. It provides her with a chance to live in her community and not a nursing home.

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

None

**Jessica**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

I understand there are concerns and costs that need to be addressed, but I think BadgerCare+, as a national model, can be restructured and improved. There are already many great qualities, but rather than drastic cuts, I think there must be ways to save money. My family of four is eligible for BadgerCare+ because our only health care option through my husband's employer would cost \$15,000 annually just for the premium.

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

We would be happy to pay higher premiums, copays, deductibles, etc. We just need affordable health care available to us.

**Jason**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

None

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

Use of peer run services & peer implemented services.

**Nicole**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

How accessible the website is, when applying for family planning care.

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

n/a

**Christine**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

Help with getting better Dental Services. Dentist are generally not willing to accept BadgerCare and you often have to travel very far away. It stand to reason that if you have BadgerCare you really can't afford to travel. I know the state will pay for mileage. I think that if the state reimbursed Dentists a little but more there would be no need for for mileage reimbursement. Also with better Dental Care, health care cost might go down.

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

I think having LOW premiums and LOW Co-payments would be fine and everyone would respect the system just a little bit more and not take it for granted.

**Christine**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

Use of peer specialists.

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

Peer Specialty saves money. Peer specialists are mental health consumers with jobs. They work in many settings, including hospitals and community settings. Training peer specialists in not costly and is time-effectient. Peer specialists embody recovery and this leads to recovered consumers on a wide scale. Recovered consumers integrate in society free of supports.

**Barb**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

State should work with non-profits & charities, they know how to serve poor/less fortunate/disabled with little resources. Innovation is essential to solving these problems. Pursuing a partnership with the govt. and non-profits worlds would surely create thinking outside the box.

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

None

**Sarah**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

Continue the course, BadgerCare is a great program.

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

None

**Kate**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

The screening process to determine who actually qualifies for public assistance. There are so many cases that people hide assets or falsify information in order to receive public funding. These measures need to be assessed to ensure the funds are being used for people who truly are in need and are not subject to abuse and fraud. A lot of time and resources are used to watch and audit health care providers for fraud, but it appears little is being done to monitor eligibility fraud.

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

If a member of the public is eligible for public assistance for groceries, there should be limits on what kind of foods are eligible. For example, if we as taxpayers are paying for their groceries, then their purchases should be regulated and only be used for healthy food choices, not processed and junk foods.

**Christina**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

More coverage for home care.

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

Cover all medications, Part D does not cover all of her meds and she is afraid this will cause me to go to the ER which is more expensive. Also, my nurse and case worker are paid \$400/month for my care but I only see them quarterly.

**Karen**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

None

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

I think people on any health insurance plan should pay more for being a smoker, overweight, etc. Perhaps a tax deduction for anyone within their BMI range is also an incentive for being healthier. I think the government should also change the food stamp/quest program by allocating so much money on the card for vegys/fruit, another amount for healthy grains, etc. These people tend to be making poor food and health choices and are a drain on the states resources. With todays computer systems, you would think this would be easy to implement.

**John**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

Provide either 1) free universal health care for the citizens of Wisconsin or 2) a government-run public option to compete with insurance companies in Wisconsin.

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

The Department of Health Services will have more money if corporate tax loopholes are closed and when the wealthiest of Wisconsin pay their fair share of taxes.

**Myra**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

I would suggest that a person (or family) must be a resident of Wisconsin for one year before they are eligible for any medical assistance (Badger Care, Medicaid). I work in the health care field and recently heard of a woman who moved here from Chicago because she needed surgery. It was easier for her to get insurance in Wisconsin than Illinois.

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

Co-Pays

**Randy & Jo**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

Be an active part of the fiscal responsibility process in Madison. Better to stabilize the programs, than to lose them altogether.

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

I understand the need for Wisconsin to get its fiscal house in order. If we don't, the system will collapse and the programs will all fall apart. With that said, I would like to see the budgets rolled back to sustainable fiscal levels. This will put pressure on resources, and some of the people getting those services will be pinched. Better pinched, than gone completely. To sustain the programs the state needs private sector jobs! The more people we have earning income, the more revenue generated to support programs. We have two adopted children that were abused with drugs and alcohol by their mothers while still in the womb. They are in the program and their lives will completely unravel without the medication they are on. When I had a good job, with Health Insurance, their needs were taken care of. Today, the job is gone, and the health care with it. It will be a balancing act, and I pray the smart minds and cool heads will prevail. Help those who can't help themselves' and create opportunity for the rest. I am ok with the able bodied among us getting off the couch and into a good job!

**Linda**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

I am writing on behalf of my 2 year old grandson and my husband. My grandson was born premature and weight only 2 pounds at birth. Due to his premature birth he has ongoing respiratory problems that have landed him in the hospital on several occasions in his short life. My husband is presently on Medicare and SeniorCare. If these programs are taken away or cuts are made to them, my grandson will no longer be able to get the care he needs and my husband will have to pay for higher prescription drug coverage than we can afford. The biggest issue is that my grandson be able to get the coverage he needs. If he loses this coverage and can not get the medical help he needs in the future he could die! That is very scary and devastating to our family.

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

Keep costs at an affordable level for low income families and the elderly. I know that isn't a cost saving suggestion but I think it is vital for all involved.

**Adams**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

You need to fix the wait time on the phone. It makes it impossible for people to get changes through- including reporting that they are able to decline services because they have health insurance. It would save a lot of money if you were able to get changes into the system quickly. I am sure many people just give up after an hour of being on hold.

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

Pay providers more when they have better outcomes. Use indicators already established to determine what good outcome means i.e. low rates of infection during hospitalization. Promote midwifery- they are cheaper and are better at prenatal and postnatal care in uncomplicated cases, and have fewer caesareans and medical interventions, which are costly.

**Abigail**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

None

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

I had badgercare+ when I was unemployed and had no insurance. It was wonderful as a bridge when I was between jobs, and I am so grateful it was available to me. I never would have been able to go to the doctor when I was sick if I hadn't had Badgercare+. I was on it for about 7 months, as I became employed full time and had benefits. One thing you could do to save money is make it easier for people to leave the program. When I no longer needed Badgercare+, I wanted to get off of it quickly to open up a spot for someone else. It was so hard to figure out how to do that. I was on the phone a lot trying to get an answer, and no one could believe I was actually following the rules and opening up a spot instead of staying on it, even though I had gotten a job with benefits. In the end, all I think I had to do was fax my desire to be taken off of Badgercare, but I wonder if some people never find out and just stay on it because they don't know how to remove themselves. So, that would be my suggestion. It's a fantastic program for people without health care, and I think it could benefit even more people if those who no longer needed it knew how to transition out of it.

**Damian**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

Why did Ms. Rhoades object to Health WI? Was there anything worthwhile in it? What will Gov. Walker do to improve access and affordability over and beyond making cuts?

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

None

**Pat**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

None

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

1) Co-pay's for BadgerCare Plus 2) Charging BadgerCare Plus consumers a fee for the insurance.

**Stephanie**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

Community based treatment, use of certified peer specialists.

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

None

**Jane**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

Allow more flexibility for Children's Long Term Redesign Waiver

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

Social workers should not be paid to administer benefits.

**Ardyth**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

Don't cut, innovate.

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

Peer run centers that are alternatives to hospitalization (such as those in Georgia & Nebraska).

**Sally**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

None

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

Refurbish equipment (wheelchairs), reuse vehicles (wheelchair accessible).

**Carol**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

Please keep funding for Family Care and Badgercare. Our daughter with Down Syndrome has benefitted greatly from these services and would be lost without Easter Seals and medical care. I know cuts have to be made but these are our most vulnerable citizens who cannot speak for themselves.

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

None

**Amy**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

Help keep Gov. Walker from shredding our budget in all of the areas that people need assistance most. These are people, including me, who cannot always take care of themselves and I'd like to know what Walker will do with all of the homelessness and rise in mental health diagnoses (because people, without Badger Care, can't get their meds), and ultimately (and most sadly) the new population of criminals.

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

Fight. Fight for us. Don't let this mogul of a business man turn our state into a for-profit enterprise. This is not a business like he is used to being so successful with. These are people's basic rights. Stop him....I don't know how, but stop him.

**Mary**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

Providing services to workers in need can help keep them productive and can keep them from long-term dependence

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

None

**Barbara**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

I feel very strongly that the Department of Health Services should keep BadgerCare+, as it is vital to the health and wellness of so many people in the community. Without this coverage, people will end up going to the emergency room and will frequently be admitted, which is far more costly in the long run than preventative health care and access to ongoing health maintenance and treatment by one's primary care physician.

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

None

**Prunckle**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

I'm very please with the level of care that is provided through my Badger Care Plus Core Plan. It would be nice if a larger variety of prescriptions were offered, but largely the care received is excellent. It is unfortunate that DHS services may be cut by the current legislators. I implore the lawmakers of Wisconsin to not cut services offered by DHS.

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

A moderate increase in co-pay would be tolerable. Offering access to more services online or via touch-tone phone menus may generate more cost savings. Ideally the original Universal Healthcare proposed by the Obama Administration would have solved a lot of these problems. Further cost savings could be achieved through streamlining the medical billing process. This would create savings on both ends.

**Ben**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

Medical assistance prior approval for durable medical equipment.

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

Find a way to cover preventative measures for health care i.e., colonoscopies, mammograms, diabetes testing through community health centers.

**Linda**

**What could the Department of Health Services improve?**

Making help more accessible for those whose need is only to have occupational therapy or other types of therapy. Our son doesn't have health issues with his autism he just needs some help in areas of social interaction which require therapy.

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

Those who can pay should not be charged an amount in order to cover those who don't pay anything. Our premium is high and our son doesn't even get the help he needs. We are forced to have him on BadgerCare because our insurance will not cover him because of his diagnosis of autism. He is one of the healthiest children we have but we pay for a service he really doesn't even benefit from. He gets no help with therapy which is what he does need. If traditional health insurance would cover autism and specific needs rather than putting them all in the same category and then raising premiums so high you can't afford it BadgerCare wouldn't even be a need for us.