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**CC:**  
**Subject:** Social Assistance Management System (SAMS)  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 18, 2008 3:18:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [HHN111808.pdf](#)

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Good afternoon,

I plan to attend the Health and Human Needs Committee meeting later this afternoon and make the following comments during the period for public comment:

My name is Fred Buhr and I live at 6112 Exchange Street, McFarland , Wisconsin.

On October 30, 2008, I attended a Halloween party at the McFarland nutrition site in the Community Room at the McFarland Municipal Center. The Old Time Fiddlers provided the entertainment.

All in attendance (who had not already done so) were requested to complete a nutritional risk assessment to be entered into an electronic record maintained in the SAMS system for each of us. All of the Old Time Fiddlers group were asked to complete the assessment.

Since January 2008, I have protested the use of this screening tool as an invasion of seniors' rights to privacy. Because the SAMS nutrition screening tool is used to assess more than a hundred and fifty thousand seniors and disabled each year, some of whom will participate in Family Care, Cop, Partnership, or CIP, I am bringing the tool to the attention of this committee as the worst example of an assessment process that I have ever seen produced by a state or local agency and one that needs to be changed.

I am providing several documents, attached to this email (as a single pdf file), which are intended to help the committee understand my concerns.

First, I have attached a copy of a newspaper article reporting on the Halloween party along with a copy of the nutrition screening tool that everyone was asked to complete. The original, which was adapted, had the statement, "Use this checklist to find out if you

or someone under your care is at nutritional risk." The list was never intended to be used as a general assessment to be recorded in an individual's electronic record. Furthermore, the information on the assessment is not used to determine eligibility nor is it needed to comply with federal reporting requirements.

In addition, I have also attached a copy of an email, sent to all SAMS users in Wisconsin, describing the procedure that will be used to "scrub" social security numbers from the SAMS database. An option is described which will allow current users to have continued access to SSN's , at their discretion, by performing an extraction of data that would list user ID's and SSN's next to each other in some other medium as an Excel workbook. Such a practice violates all common sense security rules.

Finally, I have attached a copy of the SAMS - list of programs and services (as of February 2008, which shows SAMS as the integrating database for most of the adult services provided or purchased by Dane County.

I have extensively documented my concerns on my website: "[www.metasteward.net](http://www.metasteward.net)" and hope to draw public attention to the vulnerabilities of the Social Assistance Management System.

Thank you

Fred Buhr, President  
Metasteward LLC

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