

Comments to Area Aging on Aging Board - Legislative Committee – December 17, 2008

My name is Fred Buhr. I live at 6112 Exchange Street in McFarland. I am president and CEO of Metasteward LLC. Both personally and professionally I am concerned about the data component of E-Health.

This committee, several months ago, put E-Health on its agenda but did not place minutes of its discussion on the Dane County Web site. Tomorrow, I will participate, via Webcast, in the Health Information Technology Standards Panel (HITSP) as they adopt consumer empowerment standards.

At your last meeting, I asked the committee to recommend that the Nutrition Health Assessment form be funded by the state as part of the Family Care Expansion Decision item. Today, I am here to request that you consider dropping the recording of the form in and individual's electronic record.

The form, in both its paper form and electronic form violates an individual's right to privacy.

By using this form and the Social Assistance Management System (SAMS) in parallel with other county and state systems, Dane County Area agency on Aging has compromised:

- County Executive Falk's initiative relating to the culture of alcohol
 - Imagine equating 3 or more drinks per day to eating fruits and veggies
- Family Care and Governor Doyle's E-Health initiative
 - By the insecure methods of handling senior's health records

This affects the security of Wisconsin's seniors and disabled and their caretakers by placing their health information outside Wisconsin's Forward Health Portal into the proprietary AgingNetwork.com portal.

The nutrition form requirement was made by the Nutrition Check Committee (in closed session) and the mandate should immediately be dropped. I calculated the entry of the data (on a state-wide basis) yearly, is the equivalent of 18 full time staff.

State plans include advocating for elders' rights In continuing the use of this form and entering the data into the electronic records of individuals, you are not advocating for the privacy rights of the elderly.

Thank you.