



State of Wisconsin  
Department of Health Services

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Jim Doyle, Governor  
Karen E. Timberlake, Secretary

September 21, 2010

Mr. Fred Buhr  
61121 Exchange Street  
McFarland, WI 53558

Mr. Buhr:

I am writing in response to the concerns you raised during the WIRED For Health Board Meeting and the Long Term Care Council regarding the SAMS (Services for Aging Management System) reporting system and the data collection for the Chronic Disease Self Management Program. Wisconsin has been involved with this evidence-based prevention program since 2005 and has received ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) funds to continue to expand the reach across the state. Wisconsin is held to specific outcomes by the Administration on Aging and the Centers for Disease Control and must record data necessary to complete our reporting requirement.

There are multiple funding sources supporting the evidence-based prevention programs and all reporting requirements are met through the same data collection software. The Department is not in violation of privacy law. The State of Wisconsin has a Business Associate Agreement with Harmony Information Systems, and we believe that Harmony provides the privacy and security assurance we require. Harmony has shared the results of two external privacy audits with us, and we are confident that the company meets all federal standards.

The Department takes its responsibility to protect client data very seriously.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donna McDowell".

Donna McDowell, Director  
Bureau of Aging & Disability Resources