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December 26, 2006

Patrick Cooper  
Acting Administrator, Division of Management and Technology  
Department of Health and Family Services  
1 West Wilson St., Room 672  
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Patrick:

On behalf of the Special Committee on Disaster Preparedness Planning, I am writing to transmit to the Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) three requests made by the committee at its December 13 meeting. These requests arose during discussion of items contained in Memo No. 2, *Potential Recommendations Submitted for the Special Committee's Consideration*, dated December 6, 2006. It would be very helpful if the Legislative Council staff receives the requested information by January 3 for distribution in advance of the committee's January 10 meeting.

The first request relates to item C-6, in which the suggestion is made to clarify who is responsible for costs incurred for isolation and quarantine orders issued by a local health officer during a communicable disease outbreak. The committee noted that in addition to cost considerations, the issue of who has authority to enforce such an isolation or quarantine order should also be addressed. I would ask that DHFS staff provide the committee with several options to address both the cost and the enforcement of isolation and quarantine orders under a variety of scenarios (for example, when a public health emergency has, and has not, been declared) and to quantify the costs to implement the various options, both in terms of cost to hold someone under an isolation or quarantine order and the cost of enforcing such an order. This review should include a discussion of the situations in which the state currently pays the costs of isolation or quarantine and current statutory provisions governing enforcement of isolation or quarantine orders by state or local officials.

The second request relates to item C-8, in which the suggestion is made to ask DHFS to review the Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health Care Practitioners Act developed by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws. Specifically, the committee should receive information on what the Act provides and whether any of its provisions, or similar provisions, have been enacted in Wisconsin. If there are provisions that DHFS would like to see enacted, please discuss that as well.

The third request relates to item D-5, in which the suggestion is made to provide for regional emergency planning committees, with heads elected by the members. At the December 13 meeting, WEM staff noted that regional emergency management directors already attend meetings of a number of other groups, such as public health consortia and hospital regional committees. The committee previously discussed whether to bring the various regions into which the state is divided (emergency management; public health; hospital; and others) into closer alignment. In order to assess whether the boundaries of the various regions should be more aligned, I request that DHFS provide the committee with: (1) maps of all regions relevant to this discussion, preferably in an overlaid format for ready comparison; and (2) DHFS' judgment as to the desirability of making the various regions more uniform.

I very much appreciate all of the assistance you and others have given, and continue to give, to the committee. It would be helpful to have key staff who work on these requested items present at the January meeting to elaborate and answer any questions on the materials provided.

Please feel free to call any of the Legislative Council attorneys working with the committee if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Representative Joan Ballweg, Chair  
Special Committee on Disaster Preparedness  
Planning

JB:wu