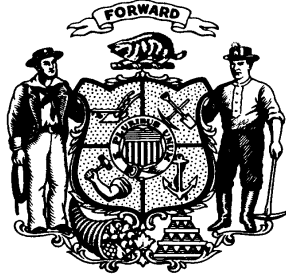


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January 24, 2007

Mr. David Steingraber, Executive Director  
Office of Justice Assistance  
131 West Wilson Street, Suite 610  
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Mr. Steingraber:

I am writing to you in my capacity as Chair of the Joint Legislative Council's Special Committee on Disaster Preparedness Planning. This letter is a follow-up to my December 21 letter to you and your response to that letter. This letter also sets forth other recommendations made by the committee at its January 10 meeting.

Because of the importance of communications issues to the committee, I would like a chance to meet with you prior to the committee's next meeting, which is scheduled for February 14. I would also like to request that someone from your agency be present at the committee's next meeting.

In my earlier letter, I had set forth the committee's recommendation that the Office of Justice Assistance (OJA) limit the awarding of grants to those agencies that agree to use any equipment purchased with OJA grant funds under mutual aid agreements with other agencies. After reviewing your response and after further discussion, the committee decided to modify this recommendation to have a mutual aid agreement to share the equipment be one criterion to use in determining whether to award a grant, rather than being an absolute requirement.

In addition, the committee made the following new recommendations at its January 10 meeting:

1. OJA should develop a model mutual aid agreement for use by local emergency response agencies. The Wisconsin Hospital Association has developed such a model agreement and that model might be used as the starting point for an OJA model.

2. OJA, together with the State Interoperability Executive Committee, should work toward establishment of standards for interoperability and provide incentives for following those standards.

3. Membership on the State Interoperability Executive Committee should be expanded to include representatives of hospitals and local health agencies.

I would appreciate it if you could have a member of your staff contact my office to arrange a meeting between us before the committee next meets.

As always, we appreciate the assistance that you and your staff have provided the committee.

Sincerely,

Representative Joan Ballweg, Chair  
Special Committee on Disaster Preparedness Planning

JB:wu