



Wisconsin Long Term Care Advisory Council

17 February 2014

Heather Bruemmer,
Chair

Kitty Rhoades, Secretary
Wisconsin Dept. of Health Services
1 W. Wilson St.
Madison, WI 53707

Beth Anderson

Teri Buros

James Canales

Devon Christianson

Dana Cyra

Hugh Danforth

Carol Eschner

Caroline Feller

Tom Hlavacek

Bob Kellerman

Lea Kitz

Maria Ledger

Geri Lyday

Lauri Malnory

Barbara Peterson

Maureen Ryan

John Sauer

David Scribbins

Stephanie Sue Stein

Beth Swedeen

Judith Troestler

Kathleen Wichman

Christine Witt

Dear Secretary Rhoades,

As Chair of the Wisconsin Long Term Care Council, I am pleased to extend to you the heartfelt thanks of our entire membership, citizens, advocates, civil servants and other interested individuals and groups for your recent report of the Family Care Program in Wisconsin.

Even with this tremendous advance toward full availability of Family Care across the entire state, there remains substantial work to be done. The Wisconsin Long Term Care Council offers the following points as our hope for the near future.

The Council would like to see the Legislature's Joint Committee on Finance take action during the remainder of this session that would be directed toward full implementation, at some date certain, of the Family Care Program statewide. Both the Executive and Legislative branches should be reminded of the reports coming from your Department which find that Family Care expansion to the remainder of the state is projected to reduce future long term care costs by \$34.7 million over the next ten years.

The lawmakers should be made aware that it is not fiscally advantageous for a Managed Care Organization in the Family Care system to declare its intent to participate as a provider, and submit an RFP, in a proposed area of expansion without assurance that expansion will occur. Certainty of the expansion process and timing will tend to bring confidence to the provider community and to facilitate a smooth start-up.

As a final point, the Council will continue to state our belief that, for the average Wisconsin consumer of long term care, expansion will eliminate waiting lists in those counties that are still expecting fulfillment of the promise of long term care system redesign. Far too many Wisconsinites are on these lists and the availability of effective and adequate care is suspect, at best.

The Wisconsin Long Term Care Council deeply believes that expansion of Family Care and its related programs is extraordinarily important to the citizens of Wisconsin.

Again, allow me to thank you, both personally and as Chair of the Council for all that you have done. You have shown yourself, both privately and as a dedicated civil servant, to be a true advocate for our state's consumers of long term care. Your work has been effective and much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Heather A. Bruemmer
Chair, Wisconsin Long Term Care Council

Cc: Joint Finance Chairs