

# WISCONSIN HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION, INC.



July 31, 2012

**To: Members of the Special Committee on Legal Interventions for Persons with Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias**

**From: Matthew Stanford, Wisconsin Hospital Association, Vice President Policy & Regulatory Affairs, Associate General Counsel**

**Cc: Mary Matthias, Senior Staff Attorney, Legislative Council  
Brian Larson, Staff Attorney, Legislative Council**

**Re: WHA Recommended Considerations for the Special Committee**

The Wisconsin Hospital Association (WHA) is pleased that the Joint Legislative Council has approved the creation of a Special Committee on Legal Interventions for Persons with Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (the "Special Committee"). A review of statutes covering issues of guardianship, protective placement, involuntary commitment, and involuntary treatment will help provide needed clarification for these individuals and their caregivers.

An overall goal of health care providers is to provide a patient with the right care at the right time in a safe environment. We believe that this is a shared goal of the Special Committee and leads to an overarching question for the Special Committee: "Is Wisconsin policy optimized to achieve that goal for individuals with Alzheimer's Disease and related dementias?"

To help answer that complex question, WHA encourages the Special Committee to consider the following questions over the course of its meetings:

- Does current Wisconsin policy enable an individual with dementia to receive necessary care in a timely, safe, and efficient way even if such individual is unable or unwilling to seek such care? What policy changes could be made to ensure that individuals with dementia can receive such care?
- Does current Wisconsin policy result in hospital care for individuals with dementia even though less acute settings of care may be more appropriate for the individual? What policy changes could be made to help ensure individuals can be placed in lower acuity settings?
- The Affordable Care Act will change the way health care is provided across the nation. To improve care quality and reduce cost, integrated, coordinated care and payment based on value and outcomes rather than quantity is the future health care. What policy changes could be made to help ensure that Wisconsin's policies regarding care for individuals with dementia can easily transition to such new models of care?
- What can be done to help ensure that application of Chapters 51 and 55 are applied consistently for individuals throughout all 72 counties in Wisconsin?

WHA looks forward to hearing the testimony and discussion during today's meeting and upcoming meetings of the Special Committee. As the Special Committee chooses a direction for its work, WHA will work to provide additional information, insights, and perspectives useful to the Special Committee.

Thank you for considering these high level recommendations.