

January 26, 2010

The Honorable Ben Nelson
United States Senate
720 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Nelson:

I am writing to strongly support Epworth's funding requests in the FY 2011 appropriations bills. A federal investment will have a considerable impact on Nebraska's ability to treat our emotionally disturbed children and families, thereby helping to relieve a significant financial burden on the local, state, and federal governments.

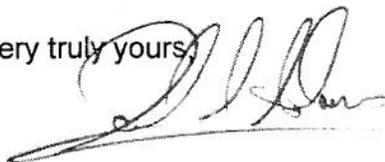
My understanding is that Mr. Tom McBride, President and CEO of Epworth Village, and Monroe Golliday, President of the Epworth Village Board of Directors, will be meeting with your office in February to discuss these projects in more detail.

As you may know, Epworth Village is a 501(c)3, non-profit organization that provides a continuum of care that utilizes an intensive, highly structured program of therapeutic services to respond to the needs of at-risk families and children. These services are family-centered, culturally competent, and community based, focusing on the return of the child to their home community as quickly as possible. For more than 120 years, Epworth Village has brought wholeness to youth and families in a compassionate and caring manner.

The Division of Behavioral Health is the state's designated single authority in Substance Abuse and Mental Health for Nebraska. The Division is keenly aware of federal priorities, national outcome measures and the uniqueness of the Nebraska substance abuse prevention and treatment system. In an increasingly weak economy, opportunities to enhance the treatment opportunities are challenging. While the Division is not able to commit ongoing funding to support this grant, and is not able to commit matching funds, we support this effort by a great agency.

Thank you for your support of important social service organizations that deliver vital services, such as those Epworth Village provides throughout Nebraska.

Very truly yours,



Scot L. Adams, Ph.D., Director
Division of Behavioral Health
Department of Health and Human Services