



August 26, 2015

RE: Betty's Village Proposal by Opportunity Village

To Whom It May Concern:

Nevada HAND is writing in support of Opportunity Village and we believe that Betty's Village is an appropriate framework for supporting the inclusion and capacity for people with intellectual disabilities, and also offers increased choices related to housing options.

We all rely on the support of others to live our daily lives. Usually, we first look to the community we live in, and our friends and families to support us. For a person who has an intellectual disability, the need for support may be greater than others in our community. Often, supports are needed that go beyond the natural supports that can be reasonably provided by our friends, families, and by our community. People will typically rely on State-funded programs to address these exceptional needs when they cannot be met otherwise. Without these additional supports, people are unable to participate fully in community life; their opportunities to participate as effective citizens are reduced; and in some cases, their personal safety is put at risk.

State funded community supports must be adequate, available for those who need them, and they should enhance the capacity of the individual to participate in society as a full citizen. We as a society must ensure that supports are provided in an adequate fashion to ensure that people who have an intellectual disability are able to enjoy and have quality of life within the community.

Sincerely,

Michael Mullin
CEO