

I have reviewed the proposed Opportunity Village development and am pleased to offer my support of Betty's Village as a community based residential setting for people with disabilities. The residents of Betty's Village will engage in an active life, be integrated in society, have support of individual choice, and be encouraged to foster independence to the highest degree possible.

Encouraging interaction, independence and self-determination is the key to a full and fulfilling life. Betty's Village includes the many components needed to encourage greater independence and self-direction while ensuring the appropriate supports are available. I am in support of the project.

Here are a few things I think make Betty's Village a place to support:

- Based on the live, work, play, learn and create philosophy, Betty's Village is a place where everyone knows each other, people can follow their dreams and are encouraged and supported to become the best they possibly can be.
- Betty's Village will promote an active life that is close to work options, community resources, peers, family, and friends.
- The Village is centrally located with easy access to public transportation, freeways and major cross streets.
- Betty's Village will be integrated in and support full access of individuals receiving Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) to the greater community, including opportunities to seek employment and work in competitive integrated settings, engage in community life, control personal resources and receive services in the community, to the same degree of access as individuals not receiving Medicaid HCBS.
- The model will have three levels of supports that individuals can choose from depending on their skills and the required level of supports. The three levels of residential supports are: a home that provides a 24/7 level of care including awake overnight supervision, an intermediate home that provides a 24/7 level of care with overnight staff availability and allows the individual to have some approved alone time, and semi-independent living with intermittent supports in their own apartment.
- The homes will be clustered together similar to a custom home cul-de-sac and share common visiting areas and outdoor spaces.
- A community center will provide individuals with daily opportunities to socialize, make new friends and participate with others through playing video games, classes (exercise, dance etc.), and just "hang out." The general public will be welcomed at the village to interact and participate in activities with individuals, and make friendships.
- Meals will be prepared in each home and be served family style.
- Every resident will have a private bedroom with in-suite bath that can be decorated according to their own style.
- Outdoor living areas will include comfortable covered patios with outdoor seating for visiting with family and friends, areas for exercise, sports, water play, hobbies, and BBQs.
- Individual initiative, autonomy, and independence in making life choices is strongly encouraged and supported.
- Community life through planned activities, intentional neighbors, and use of volunteer groups, family members and friends are included in the plan.
- Betty's Village will be culturally-responsive and inclusive and will support the culture and beliefs of the individual to attend or not attend religious services, observing specific food preferences or dietary restrictions related to culture or ethnicity, and celebration of holidays and special events.
- The community is slated to host a number of stakeholders to offer support networks to the residents. Visitors and volunteers to Betty's Village will spend "meaningful time" interacting and socializing with the individuals.

Sincerely,

Steve Hagstette | Freeman

Sr. Vice President - Nevada Region

6555 W. Sunset Rd. | Las Vegas, NV 89118

702-579-1414 (Direct) | 702-208-0281 (Cell) | 702-579-6165(Fax)