

I am writing in support of the Opportunity Village proposal to establish a community living site for individuals with intellectual disabilities called Betty's Village. As the Division of Health Care Financing and Policy acknowledges in its public notice, "...the placement of the setting within a larger community context and the planned involvement of the residents with outside activities overcomes much of the supposed isolation of the disability-specific setting" and deserves the full support of the State of Nevada.

Opportunity Village is a remarkable organization that provides an incredible array of services for clients with intellectual disabilities. Many of its clients would have no other place to go without Opportunity Village. The State of Nevada and its citizens realize a substantive benefit, both in quality of life enhancements, and taxpayer savings that would otherwise be required to provide at least some of the services provided by Opportunity Village. Approval of the Betty's Village proposal will help to expand the spectrum of services offered by Opportunity Village to Nevadans with intellectual disabilities, and is consistent with the interests of the State of Nevada and its citizens.

I urge the Department of Health and Human Services to support the development plan for Betty's Village.

Sincerely,

John Hester