Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Providers Group

Alternatives in Psychological

Consultation

October 10, 2008

Aro Counseling

Benedict Center

Attic Correctional Services

Time Correctional Service

Career Youth Development

CRC Health Group

Curative

Genesis Behavioral Services

Goodwill Industries
Grand Avenue Club

Healthcare for the Homeless

Impact, Inc.

Jewish Family Services

Justice 2000

LaCausa

Lad Lake

Lutheran Social Services

Medical College of Wisconsin

Mental Health America-Wisconsin

Meta House

Milwaukee Center for Independence

Milwaukee Mental Health Services

My Home Your Home

National Alliance on Mental

Phoenix Care Systems

Project Access

Renew Counseling

St. Rose Center

Transitional Living Services

United Community Center

Vital Voices

Wisconsin Community Services Alderman Jim Witkowiak, Chair

Zoning, Neighborhood and Development Committee

Milwaukee Common Council

Dear Mr. Witkowiak:

I am writing this letter of support for the zoning approval for Empowerment Village, which is to be located on Lincoln Avenue in the City of Milwaukee. This unique and exemplary housing model has been designed to provide safe, affordable housing for people who are

living with a mental illness.

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Behavioral Health Providers Group of Milwaukee County. The Behavioral Health Providers Group is a grassroots effort to maintain continuity, communication and relationship amongst all of the behavioral health providers in our locality. The focus of the group is on education, information-sharing and systems advocacy. While many challenges are prevalent to the work done by members of this group, no issue has been discussed more frequently or more passionately than that of the need for safe, affordable housing for the people we are serving. To say that the Milwaukee area is experiencing a housing crisis for people living with mental illness is a gross understatement. Empowerment Village will provide safe, quality housing to individuals who are in desperate need and who are also most deserving.

There is a serious need in this community for quality housing for people living with a mental illness. I urge you and the other members of the zoning board, on behalf of the Behavioral Health Providers Group, to support this important project.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Wittwer

Behavioral Health Providers Group Chair