



200 Murrie Street Suite A • Lawrence, KS 66044 • (785) 843-9192 • (785) 843-2219 fax • www.bertnash.org

January 13, 2010

David L. Corliss
City Manager
City Hall, 6 East 6th Street
Lawrence, KS 66044

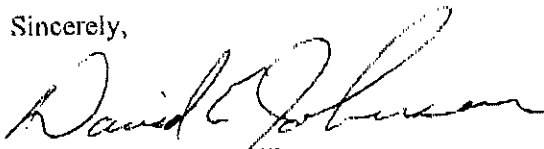
Dear David,

As you know, Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center has suffered significant cuts in state funding since 2007. These cuts were further compounded in November 2009 with additional budget cuts announced by Governor Parkinson that will reduce our 2010 revenue by \$785,000. As an organization we have been forced to make some very difficult decisions regarding how to effectively utilize our current resources while continuing to honoring our mission.

For a number of years, Bert Nash has partnered with the city to provide homeless outreach services for the City of Lawrence. The city has provided a grant for these services and Bert Nash has hired, trained and supervised four homeless outreach workers that work in conjunction with other community agencies to serve the homeless. The homeless population that we serve includes people with and without mental illness. Over the last couple of years, it has been necessary for Bert Nash to subsidize this program with additional Bert Nash funds above and beyond the grant money provided by the city. We can not continue to do this.

Our proposal is to maintain our partnership for the original grant amount of \$164,000. This will require a more focused operation and the utilization of three homeless outreach workers rather than four. We would appreciate the opportunity for our mutual staff to meet and prepare for the changes in the program. Please accept our appreciation for your consideration of this matter; we understand that you will need to process this appeal through the City Commission and other parties. We continue to value our partnership with the city and look forward to receiving your response.

Sincerely,


David E. Johnson, MS
Chief Executive Officer

cc. Eunice Ruttinger
Margene Swarts

Let's
talk
about
mental
health.