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August 25, 2011

RE: Nebraska Head Start Dental Home Initiative

To Whom it May Concern:

Two Rivers Public Health Department, which serves 94,000 people in seven counties in south central Nebraska, is writing in support of Nebraska's application for funding to implement priorities areas that were identified during our Dental Home Initiative Strategic Planning process.

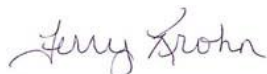
The priorities that were identified by the group include:

- A. Developing a local registry of dentists providing a dental home for HS/EHS and a registry of children completing care in an underserved region of the state.
- B. Activating Nebraska Dental Association's Mentorship Program for HS/EHS access to dental care.
- C. Providing a Head Start teledentistry demonstration project in cooperation with UNMC pediatric dental residency program and dental students.
- D. Developing a web-based training module for Head Start personnel to enhance their knowledge of sound oral health and nutrition practices.

Two Rivers Public Health Department has a Young Children Priority One Preventive Dental Program which is currently targeting high risk children 5 years of age and younger, and their families. This program focuses on providing preventive dental screening, education and supplies, antibacterial treatment and fluoride varnish at 3 to 4 month intervals. We currently work with Head Starts and Early Head Start in two of our communities to provide this program. Partnering with the Dental Home Initiative to increase the number, experience and comfort level of providers available for referrals when needed would be a very good resource for our children and their families. Our District currently has one pedodontist that practices in our seven county area, and two that are several hours east of us. Very few dentists are comfortable seeing children younger than 3 and very few accept new Medicaid patients. Educating and supporting our general dentists and hygienists in early childhood care and prevention, as well as working with our medical providers and Head Start staff will be a huge benefit for these children and their families.

Please carefully consider this application for funding to support Nebraska's Head Start Dental Home Initiative. Thank you.

Yours for better health,



Terry Krohn, RDH, BS, MEd
Director