



# **City of Grand Island**

**Tuesday, September 13, 2005**

**Council Session**

## **Item G26**

**#2005-259 - Approving Heartland Family Visitation Center MOU  
Revision and Grant Extension Request**

**Staff Contact: Joni Kuzma**

# **Council Agenda Memo**

**From:** Joni Kuzma, Development Specialist

**Council Meeting:** September 13, 2005

**Subject:** Approving 2003 Department of Justice Safe Haven planning grant extension and revised 2005 Memorandum of Understanding for the Implementation Grant

**Item #'s:** G-26

**Presenter(s):** Joni Kuzma, Development Specialist

## **Background**

When the original Safe Haven Supervised Visitation and Exchange Center planning grant was awarded to the City in September 2003, the Crisis Center signed a Memorandum of Understanding, in which they agreed to support the Visitation Center project through September 2005. In July 2005, the Crisis Center Board of Directors voted to withdraw their support, use of their name from the Heartland Family Visitation Project (Safe Haven), and their support from a Capital Campaign that was scheduled to begin in January 2006.

The Visitation Center Consulting Committee accepted the Crisis Center letter of withdrawal and agreed to postpone the Capital Campaign. The feasibility study for the campaign will be completed so that information from the study can be used for grant writing and other funding applications. However, the actual Capital Campaign will be postponed until the Heartland Family Visitation Center can either find another reputable 501(c) 3 partnering entity or until the Visitation Center becomes a non-profit.

A second MOU was signed with the Crisis Center on March 8, 2005 when the Visitation Center applied for the next phase of Department of Justice Safe Haven funding. When the grant is awarded, the City can terminate the March 2005 MOU with the Crisis Center and enter into a similar MOU with another agency. The City will serve as grant recipient and fiscal agent. The new organization will act as sub-grantee as required in the grant.

The Central Nebraska Child Advocacy Center (CAC) is a local non-profit, non-governmental child sexual abuse, child abuse and neglect agency that meets the Department of Justice grant requirement for sub-granting funds from the eligible applicant (the City). On July 20, 2005, the CAC Board of Directors agreed to assume responsibility for the Heartland Family Visitation Center program and Department of Justice Implementation Grant.

## **DISCUSSION**

The next steps for the City include:

1. Accept the Crisis Center letter of withdrawal
  - Letter for the Mayor to sign included in packet
2. Approve the 2003 Safe Haven planning grant extension request –
  - due to staff changes, unclear role definitions and other extenuating circumstances, the 2003 planning grant will not be complete by September 30, 2005. Consequently, a three month extension needs to be requested from the Department of Justice.
  - No change needs to be made to the existing MOU with the Crisis Center for this grant.
3. Revise the existing March 2005 MOU to reflect a partnership with the Child Advocacy Center for the new Implementation Grant, at which time the new MOU will become effective and the March MOU will be terminated (draft MOU included in packet)

## **ALTERNATIVES**

It appears that the Council has the following alternatives concerning the issue at hand. The Council may:

1. Accept the Crisis Center letter of withdrawal, approve the 2003 planning grant extension approve the revised Memorandum of Understanding required for the Department of Justice Safe Haven Implementation Grant and authorize the Mayor to sign related documents
2. Refer the issue to a Committee.
3. Postpone the issue to a later date.

## **Recommendation**

City Administration recommends that the Council accept the Crisis Center letter of withdrawal, approve the revised Memorandum of Understanding and authorize the Mayor to sign related documents.

## **Sample Motion**

Motion to accept the Crisis Center letter of withdrawal, approve the revised Memorandum of Understanding required for the Department of Justice Safe Haven Implementation Grant and authorize the Mayor to sign related documents.



## **The CRISIS Center, inc.**

**Working Towards a World Without Domestic and Sexual Violence,  
Through Services, Education, and Empowerment.**

CALL 308-381-8555  
24 HOURS A DAY  
P.O. BOX 1008  
GRAND ISLAND, NE 68802  
OFFICE 308-382-4250  
[www.gicrta.org](http://www.gicrta.org)

July 12, 2005

City of Grand Island  
PO Box 1968  
Grand Island, NE 68802

To Whom It May Concern:

The Board of Directors of the Crisis Center, Inc. made a unanimous decision on June 22, 2005 to not have the Safe Haven Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Program (Heartland Family Visitation Center) under the umbrella of the Crisis Center after the planning grant 2003-X1062-NE-CW is completed September 30, 2005 or December 31, 2005 if the extension is granted.

The actual motion at the June 22, 2005 regular monthly board meeting reads as follows, "It is the unanimous decision of the Crisis Center Board of Directors to discontinue our collaboration with the Heartland Visitation Center as a program under the umbrella of the Crisis Center 501 C3. Our previous agreement to share in the funding of the feasibility study will continue, however, we respectfully withdraw the name of the Crisis Center to be used for Capital Campaign purposes. It is our intent to continue to support the concept of a Visitation Center and upon its completion, offer referrals. The Crisis Center Board wishes much success to the Visitation Center Program".

The Crisis Center will still collaborate with the Heartland Family Visitation Center along with referring clients for services and have at least one representative continue to be on the consulting committee.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at my residence (402) 694-3361 or at work (402) 694-2291.

Sincerely,

Roberta Parks  
Crisis Center Board Chair



September 13, 2005

Mr. Leonard McCarty, Chair  
Mrs. Bobbie Parks, Former Chair  
Crisis Center Board of Directors  
P.O. Box 1008  
Grand Island, NE 68802

Dear Mr. McCarty and Mrs. Parks,

This letter is in response to the Crisis Center Board of Directors decision to withdraw support from the Safe Haven grant and program. The City and the Heartland Family Visitation Center Consulting Committee is making alternative arrangements with the Child Advocacy Center to ensure grant compliance and continuation of the project.

The December 23, 2003 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Grand Island and The Crisis Center, Inc. for grant planning will be terminated on the date a new planning grant MOU is approved with the Child Advocacy Center. The March 8, 2005 MOU for the new Implementation Grant is terminated effective August 1, 2005.

Sincerely,

Jay Vavricek, Mayor  
City of Grand Island

jk

The following is a copy of Safe Haven Project Discussion and approval by the Central Nebraska Child Advocacy Center as it occurred at the July 20, 2005 Meeting of the Board of Directors. This is included in the recorded minutes of the CAC on file at the office.

Sondra Schwehn  
Director  
9/1/05

**PROPOSAL FROM THE SAFE HAVEN/HEARTLAND FAMILY VISITATION CENTER:** Ruby Tupper explained the current situation to the Board regarding the visitation center project. The Crisis Center had originally been the sponsoring agency for this project but due to unknown reasons has recently decided not to sponsor the project. Sondra explained that the situation was again similar to the one presented for Board consideration in February 2005. A proposal was submitted for consideration of the Child Advocacy Center becoming the sponsoring 501(c) 3 for the project. **After discussion a motion was made to accept the proposal as presented and to sponsor the Safe Haven/Heartland Family Visitation Project until such time as the project would acquire its own 501©3 and become an independent program. The Board upon motion made and seconded and upon voice vote, approved the sponsorship under the proposal as printed below and with the understanding that all bank accounts and finances would be strictly separate with no monies for the project flowing through the Child Advocacy Center accounts with a noted exception that it might become necessary to request an advance in funds for project operations that would be reimbursed from the grant administered by the City of Grand Island.** Also, Sondra and Ruby have agreed that any items to come before the Board should at least first be presented to Sondra so that the CAC Director is aware of any concerns or possible changes in scope of CAC commitment to the project.

**CENTRAL NEBRASKA CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER  
THE HEARTLAND FAMILY VISITATION CENTER  
PROPOSED CO-OPERATIVE AGREEMENT**

**Visitation Project Update:** From its inception in October 2003, the visitation project has operated as a program under the umbrella of The Crisis Center, Inc 501(c)3. All funding for the project to date has been through a planning grant from the Office of Violence Against Women (OVW) to the City of Grand Island, with administrative and implementation duties assigned to the Crisis Center as agreed upon in the Memorandum of Understanding dated December 23, 2005.

To date all goals and objectives as outlined in initial grant documents have been met or are nearly completed. On March 10, 2005, the visitation project director submitted an application for \$175,000 of implementation funding to OVW, through the City of Grand

Island. In addition, a sum of \$8,000 of Access and Visitation funds has been appropriated to the visitation project through the Nebraska Office of Child Support Enforcement (OSCE). Michelle Dodge, Program Specialist, with the Office of Violence Against Women has been contacted about a "No Cost Extension" and proposed budget revision of the current planning grant. If approved, funding for the visitation project would be solid through December 2005 and into the new year with \$8,000 from OSCE. It is my understanding that we should receive notice from OVW prior to October 1, 2005 as to whether our application for implementation funds will be awarded.

I was notified verbally on June 23, 2005 that the Crisis Center no longer wanted to support the visitation project as a program under the umbrella of its 501(C)3 or as a program associated with their organization. Written confirmation of their decision was received by the City of Grand Island on July 15, 2005. The Community Based Consulting Committee feels very strongly that the visitation center is urgently needed in our community. In considering "next-step" options it seems logical that the Central Nebraska Child Advocacy Center could step into the role of the Crisis Center by hosting the visitation project as a program under the umbrella of its 501(C)3, until such time as The Heartland Family Visitation Center can incorporate and obtain its own 501(C)3 status.

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**  
**SAFE HAVENS: SUPERVISED VISITATION AND SAFE EXCHANGE GRANT**  
**REFERENCE GRANT APPLICATION NO.: 2005-X2328-NE-CW**

This Memorandum of Understanding is approved and executed on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2005 by THE CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, CENTRAL NEBRASKA CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER (CAC), THE HEARTLAND FAMILY VISITATION CENTER (HFVC), THE CRISIS CENTER, INC. (THE CENTER), AND THE HALL COUNTY COURT SYSTEM.

**1. Project Description.** The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to amend the general terms, conditions and commitments of Memorandum of Understanding dated March 8, 2005 submitted with Safe Havens: Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Grant application 2005-X2328-NE-CW. The respective parties agree to administer and meet the specifications outlined in the implementation proposal contained in Safe Havens: Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Grant application 2005-X2328-NE-CW submitted to the Department of Justice, Office on Violence against Women on March 10, 2005.

This document will outline the understanding between the parties to this agreement to implement the plan developed under Safe Havens: Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange planning grant 2003-CW-BX-0026 to open a safe place for supervised visitation and safe exchange of children in cases of domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault or stalking in the City of Grand Island, Hall County and surrounding communities to be known as The Heartland Family Visitation Center.

**2. History of Relationship.** The Crisis Center, Inc. began collaborating with the City of Grand Island, Hall County, Nebraska in 2001, which culminated in the award of Safe Havens: Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange planning grant 2003-CW-BX-0026 to the City of Grand Island. The Executive Director of the Crisis Center, Inc. contacted members from community agencies having a direct interest in the need for a supervised visitation and safe exchange center to serve on a planning committee.

A project director was hired by The Center in April 2004. At that time, additional agencies and members of the community were contacted to participate in the planning process. The committee expanded to its current seventeen members.



Agencies who have participated in the planning phase of the project include, The City of Grand Island, The Crisis Center, Inc., Central Nebraska Child Advocacy Center, The Grand Island Police Department, Health and Human Services, a representative from the Nebraska State Legislature, Heartland Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), Central Health Center, a private supervised visitation service provider, two practicing mental health professionals, and two family law attorneys.

The planning committee has met on a monthly basis to discuss the provision of visitation services to victims of domestic violence. One of the primary goals for the visitation center has been the protection and safety of domestic violence victims and their children. As a result, the City of Grand Island and its community partners strive to develop an expanded collaboration including child abuse and neglect organizations, law enforcement, courts, hospitals, legal advocates, families, and community groups in an effort to establish a supervised visitation and safe exchange center that will offer services to meet the needs of victims of domestic violence and their children.

The City of Grand Island received written notice in a letter dated July 12, 2005 that states, "It is the unanimous decision of the Crisis Center Board of Directors to discontinue our collaboration with the Heartland Visitation Center as a program under the umbrella of the Crisis Center 501 C3....It is our intent to continue to support the concept of a Visitation Center and upon its completion, offer referrals." In light of this recent decision, the general terms, conditions and commitments of the Memorandum of Understanding dated March 8, 2005 submitted with Safe Havens: Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Grant application 2005-X2328-NE-CW must be amended to reflect a change of structure from that established in Memorandum of Understanding dated March 8, 2005.

The Community Based Consulting Committee feels very strongly that the visitation center is urgently needed in our community to meet the needs of victims of domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault and stalking. In considering "next-step" options it seems logical that the Central Nebraska Child Advocacy Center could step into the role of the Crisis Center by hosting the visitation project as a program under the umbrella of its 501(C)3, until such time as The Heartland Family Visitation Center can incorporate and obtain its own 501(C)3 status.

The City of Grand Island and the Community Consulting Committee have identified the local court system as a partner and a court representative has agreed to attend monthly Consulting Committee meetings. The group's immediate goal is to develop an awareness and understanding among all collaborative partners of the unique circumstances surrounding supervised visitation in cases of domestic violence.

The Heartland Family Visitation Center will accept referrals from domestic violence advocates employed by The Crisis Center, Inc., the local court system, mental health professionals and the legal community for families in need of supervised visitation services.

Throughout this relationship, The Crisis Center, Inc. has provided training as needed for the project director and planning committee members in the following areas: recognizing signs of domestic violence; methods and strategies for working with victims of domestic violence; and the potential impact of domestic violence on children and battered persons.

**3. Development of Application.** Discussions regarding the collaborative effort that is proposed in the application and detailed in this Memorandum began in earnest in November, 2003. During their regular monthly meetings, the Consulting Committee members discussed elements of the application and the appropriate roles of each partner. The Visitation Project Director met with members of the Financial Resources Committee to develop a grant application as supplemented with key judicial and Crisis Center staff recommendations.

The Visitation Project Director also conducted an independent study of similar supervised visitation programs in other jurisdictions. Physical visits were made to visitation centers in Duluth, Minnesota; Yankton, South Dakota; and Toledo, Ohio. The Visitation Project Director initiated contact via telephone and e-mail with Program Directors at centers in Rapid City, South Dakota; Mitchell, South Dakota; Sioux Falls, South Dakota; Independence, Missouri; Kansas City, Kansas; and Bend, Oregon. This information enhanced the quality of proposed programmatic elements. Additionally, the Directors discussed the application process and expectations of the evolving collaboration with potential members. These representatives provided input during the

initial development phase and feedback throughout the process. Recent meetings among the collaborative partners including representatives from the City of Grand Island, Central Nebraska Child Advocacy Center, The Crisis Center, Inc. and local court representatives have led to the agreement reflected in this Memorandum and the submission of the 2005 grant application.

#### **4. Recitals.**

WHEREAS, the City of Grand Island, a Nebraska Municipal Corporation, is a unit of local government as identified by the Department of Justice as an eligible applicant, applied for Safe Havens grant funds for implementation of a supervised visitation and safe exchange center to be known as The Heartland Family Visitation Center in accordance with a plan developed under Safe Havens planning grant 2003-CW-BX-0026 from the Office on Violence Against Women;

WHEREAS, the Department of Justice encouraged all applicants for the Safe Havens grant to enter into a collaborative working relationship with state or local courts and a non-profit, non-governmental entity in the local community;

WHEREAS, The Community Based Consulting Committee feels very strongly that the visitation center is urgently needed in our community to meet the needs of victims of domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault and stalking;

WHEREAS, In considering "next-step" options to fill the structural void created by the withdrawal of support for the visitation project by The Crisis Center, Inc., it seems logical that the Central Nebraska Child Advocacy Center step into the role of the Crisis Center by hosting the visitation project as a program under the umbrella of its 501(C)3, until such time as The Heartland Family Visitation Center can incorporate and obtain its own 501(C)3 status;

WHEREAS, The Central Nebraska Child Advocacy Center Board of Directors met on July 20, 2005 and approved the recommendation of the Community Based Consulting Committee to host the visitation project as a program under the umbrella of its 501(C)3, until such time as The Heartland Family Visitation Center can incorporate and obtain its own 501(c)3 status;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

## **5. Roles and Responsibilities**

### **City of Grand Island, Hall County, Nebraska**

- Act as the fiscal agent for the grant project and ensure compliance with the reporting requirements of the Office on Violence Against Women.
- Support the collaboration efforts of the project by providing a conference room for monthly partner meetings.
- Designate staff members from the Police Department and Community Development Division to participate on the Community Consulting Committee.

### **Central Nebraska Child Advocacy Center**

- Provide co-leadership between the Executive Director of the Central Nebraska Child Advocacy Center and the Visitation Project Director for all non-administrative duties related to developing an interagency collaboration among child abuse and neglect organizations, law enforcement, courts, hospitals, legal advocates and community groups.
- Joint efforts will also include coordination of efforts in the areas of budget and financial stability; fundraising activities; and identification of grant resources specific to the needs of the visitation project implementation plan and to insure sustainability of the supervised visitation and safe exchange center.
- Designate a representative of the agency to participate on the Community Consulting Committee.

### **The Heartland Family Visitation Center**

- Dedicate 4 staff members and volunteers to providing supervised visitation services to families impacted by domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault, and stalking.
- Provide facilities (e.g. rooms, enclosed playground, etc.) for the program service objectives.

### **Visitation Project Director:**

- Support the growth of the collaborative effort and supervise all supervised visitation and safe exchange center activities.

- Submit program evaluation information to local and national evaluators as required by the grantor.
- Submit financial documentation for accounting as needed.
- Maintain confidentiality of individuals and families using supervised visitation and safe exchange center services.

#### **The Crisis Center, Inc. - Community Domestic Violence Agency**

- Provide up to three domestic violence awareness training sessions per year to supervised visitation and safe exchange center employees. Additional collaboration members will be invited to participate in these sessions. Compensation for the training sessions will be an In-Kind contribution for the benefit of The Heartland Family Visitation Center.
- Refer all domestic violence victims with children, who are in need of supervised visitation or exchange services, to the supervised visitation and safe exchange center. The Crisis Center staff agrees to provide relevant case information to the staff of the supervised visitation and safe exchange center and to follow-up on the outcome of referrals.
- Promote training/education of local law enforcement agencies and court representatives regarding domestic violence issues and supervised visitation. The Crisis Center, Inc. may enter into agreements with these agencies as to the number of training sessions to be provided.
- Appoint a domestic violence advocate and/or other direct service provider to participate in the monthly meetings of the Community Consulting Committee.

#### **Hall County Court - Local Court System**

- Submit referrals and relevant case information to the staff of The Heartland Family Visitation Center, and follow-up on the outcome of the referrals.
- Provide training for collaboration partners on the legal system and its role in working with victims of domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault and stalking.
- Designate a representative and alternate representative to participate in the collaboration meetings, as is currently taking place.

**6. Time Line.** The roles and responsibilities described above are contingent on the City of Grand Island, Hall County, Nebraska receiving the funds requested for this project in the OVW grant application. The beginning and ending dates of this

collaborative effort would coincide with the grant period, anticipated to be January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006.

7. This document shall be binding upon all the successors and assigns of the parties hereto.

8. The City of Grand Island reserves the right to withdraw from participation in this agreement at any time during the grant period.

9. **Future Amendments.** Occasionally the undersigned may jointly desire to amend the terms of this Memorandum of Understanding for any future agreement. Such consent shall not be unreasonably withheld but must be acknowledged in writing by all original parties to this Memorandum of Understanding before going into effect.

## **APPROVAL**

We, the undersigned have read and agree with this MOU. Further, we have reviewed the portion of the proposed project budget pertaining to the collaborative effort described here, and approve it.

By \_\_\_\_\_  
**Sondra Schwehn, Exec. Director**  
**Central Nebraska Child Advocacy Center**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_  
**Ruby Tupper, Project Director**  
**Heartland Family Visitation Center**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_  
**Michael Kline, Chairman**  
**Central Nebraska Child Advocacy Center**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_  
**Shellie Pointer, Exec. Director**  
**The Crisis Center, Inc.**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_  
**Philip Martin**  
**Hall County Court Judge**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_  
**Leonard McCarty, Chairman**  
**The Crisis Center, Inc.**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**ATTEST:**

**By** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Mayor Jay Vavricek**  
**The City of Grand Island**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**RaNae Edwards, City Clerk**

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

# REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF BUDGET RIVISIONS

## THE CITY OF GRAND ISLAND

AWARD NUMBER: 2003-CW-BX-2006

<u>Budget Category</u>	<u>Original Award</u>	<u>Requested Changes</u>	<u>Revised Budget</u>
A. Personnel	60,000.00	4,688.00	64,688.00
B. Fringe Benefits	9,690.00	1,296.00	10,986.00
C. Travel	21,243.00	(11,751.00)	9,492.00
D. Equipment	8,400.00	7,806.00	16,206.00
E. Supplies	4,300.00	(2,039.00)	2,261.00
F. Construction	-0-	-0-	-0-
G. Consultants/Contracts	11,200.00	(5,000.00)	6,200.00
H. Other	5,060.00	5,000.00	10,060.00
Total Direct Costs	119,893.00	-0-	119,893.00
I. Indirect Costs	-0-	-0-	-0-
Total Project Costs	\$119,893.00	-0-	\$119,893.00

A. Personnel: Allocation of funds for the addition of a Visitation Specialist/Case Manager to the visitation center project staff. A portion of the necessary funds for this position come from savings realized in the Personnel category. Additional funding comes from under spending in other budget categories.

B. Fringe: Fringe benefits associated with the additional Personnel costs.

C. Travel: Revised amount reflects actual expenses for training and travel opportunities funded to date. The Visitation Project Director and several members of the Consulting Committee took advantage of the training opportunities sponsored by OVW by attending the seminars and institutes. Our program would have liked to attend many other trainings (e.g. OJP Financial Management Training; FSU: Safe Havens Conference), but was not able to send representatives from our program, because registration for the institutes and conferences was limited. The available spots filled up very quickly and before we could get our registrations submitted.



- D. Equipment: The projected date for opening The Heartland Family Visitation Center in Grand Island is October 2005. In order to meet the safety requirements as established by the Consulting Committee and to best meet the needs of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse and stalking, using the visitation center and to comply with the objectives of the Safe Havens Supervised Visitation Grant Program, the purchase of security equipment not requested in the original application will be necessary. Additional funds in the Equipment category will be used for the purchase and installation of security equipment to include a video monitoring system (\$2,500.00 including installation) and an access control system for all interior doors and one intercom with door release at the outside entrance to be used by parents picking up children at the visitation center (\$5,306.00 including installation). Additional funding comes from under spending in other budget categories.
- E. Supplies: Realized savings associated with visitation project expense.
- F. Construction: Not applicable
- G. Consultants/Contracts: Realized savings associated with training expense as well as grant writing service expense. Members of the Consulting Committee conducted training at no cost to the program. The Visitation Project Director, Ruby Tupper, has attended several grant writing workshops and will complete her Bachelors of Applied Science degree in Human and Social Service Administration December 2005. Grant writing is a large part of the course work in the HSSA program. Therefore she has been writing grants for the visitation program at no additional cost above her salary.
- H. Other: In October 2005, the visitation program will experience an increase in the cost for space (rent). The cost for the lease/rent of a facility to house the visitation center will exceed the current amount budgeted for the rent of office space currently paid to The Crisis Center, Inc at \$70.00 per month. Rent for the building to house the visitation center and office is expected to be \$800/month for the period beginning October 2005 – December 2005. The visitation project would also be responsible for paying the cost of utilities, which are expected to be approximately \$400/month. Funding comes from under spending in other budget categories.



*Working Together for a  
Better Tomorrow. Today.*

August 20, 2005

Michelle Dodge  
Office on Violence Against Women  
U.S. Department of Justice  
810 Seventh Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20001

RE: Safe Haven Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Grant 2003-CW-BX-2006

Dear Michelle:

I am writing to request a "No Cost Extension" of the above mentioned grant awarded to the City of Grand Island September 30, 2003. Our records indicate that as of August 31, 2005 there will be \$38,710.82 in grant funds to be spent by the end of the funding period, September 30, 2005.

Many conditions contributed to this situation. First of which is the fact that work on the program really was not able to get started prior to the hiring of the Project Director. The Project Director for our program began working on April 1, 2004. Secondly in reviewing the expenditures of grant funds, we find that in many areas (e.g. travel, supplies, and consultants/contracts) the proposed amounts were greater than the actual amount of expenses.

Please consider the enclosed Request for Approval of Budget Revisions. We have worked with our Project Director to create a budget that will allow our program to move forward with this project in a manner to meet the needs of victims and their families identified throughout the planning process. The revisions, if approved by your office, will allow us to begin offering visitation services to families experiencing safety issues stemming from situations involving domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, and stalking; services, which are desperately needed in our community.

Sincerely,

Jay Vavricek  
Mayor of Grand Island

Enclosures

JV/rlt

## RESOLUTION 2005-259

WHEREAS, the United State Department of Justice has awarded a Safe Havens: Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Grant to the City of Grand Island to create a plan for development, implementation and funding of a safe place for visitation and safe exchange of children in cases of domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault or stalking in the city of Grand Island, Hall County and surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Justice encourages all participants for the Safe Havens grant to enter into a collaborative working relationship with state or local courts and a non-profit, non-governmental entity in the local community; and

WHEREAS, on December 23, 2003, the City Council of the City of Grand Island authorized and approved a Memorandum of Understanding with The Crisis Center for the use of Safe Havens grant funds in the amount of \$119,893 to develop a visitation and safe exchange center for victims of domestic violence and abuse as allowed in the special conditions of the grant; and

WHEREAS, in July 2005, the Board of Directors for the Crisis Center voted to withdraw their support for the project; and

WHEREAS, the Visitation Center Consulting Committee accepted the Crisis Center letter of withdrawal and agreed to postpone the Capital Campaign; and

WHEREAS, the feasibility study for the campaign will be completed so that information from the study can be used for grant writing and other funding applications; and

WHEREAS, the Central Nebraska Child Advocacy Center (CAC) is a local non-profit, non-governmental child sexual abuse, child abuse and neglect agency that meets the Department of Justice grant requirement; and

WHEREAS, the CAC Board of Directors agreed to assume responsibility for the Heartland Family Visitation Center program and Department of Justice Implementation grant; and

WHEREAS, it is recommended that a Memorandum of Understanding be entered into with the Central Nebraska Child Advocacy Center for the use of funding for the implementation of grant goals and objectives; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to request an extension of the grant term until December 31, 2005 due to staff changes, unclear role definitions and other extenuating circumstances.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA, that:

Approved as to Form	☐ _____
September 8, 2005	☐ City Attorney

1. The Letter of Withdrawal from the Crisis Center is hereby accepted.
2. That the March 2005 Memorandum of Understanding with the Crisis Center for such project is hereby null and void.
3. A request be made to the Department of Justice to allow an extension to the term of the grant until December 31, 2005.
4. a Memorandum of Understanding be entered into with the Central Nebraska Child Advocacy Center for the use of grant funds for implementation of the grant goals and objectives.

- - -

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, September 13, 2005.

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RaNae Edwards, City Clerk