# INTENSIVE FAMILY PRESERVATION CONTRACT

## BETWEEN THE

## NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
## DIVISION OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES
## AND

## BETTER LIVING COUNSELING SERVICES INC

This contract is entered into by and between the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, **DIVISION OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES** (hereinafter "DHHS"), and **Better Living Counseling Services Inc, P.O. Box 34367, Omaha Nebraska 68134** (hereinafter "Contractor").

PURPOSE. The purpose of this contract is to provide Intensive Family Preservation services for wards of the State of Nebraska in the Central, Northern or Western Service Areas.

## I. TERM AND TERMINATION

A. TERM. This contract is in effect from October 1, 2010 until June 30, 2011.

B. TERMINATION. This contract may be terminated at any time upon mutual written consent or by either party for any reason upon submission of written notice to the other party at least Thirty (30) days prior to the effective date of termination. DHHS may also terminate this contract in accord with the provisions designated "FUNDING AVAILABILITY" and "BREACH OF CONTRACT." In the event either party terminates this contract, the Contractor shall provide to DHHS all work in progress, work completed, and materials provided to it by DHHS in connection with this contract immediately.

## II. CONSIDERATION

A. TOTAL PAYMENT. DHHS shall pay the Contractor a total amount not to exceed **$150,000.00,** for the services specified herein.
B. The Department agrees to pay the Contractor **$6,800.00 per case or $30.00 per hour** for Intensive Family Preservation (IFP) Services. The $30.00 per hour cannot exceed the case rate for Intensive Family Preservation (IFP) Services.
C. The Department agrees to make payment in conformance with the Nebraska Prompt Payment Act after the provision of service, submission of billing and receipt of required reports. The Department reserves the right to withhold payment until required reports are received.
D. Contractor is responsible for any and all costs associated with the production and delivery of reports, billings, and other related administration costs.

E. The Contractor agrees, upon written request of the Department, to provide testimony in court. The Department agrees to reimburse the Contractor for one hour of direct contact time when the Contractor is present in Court at the written request of the Department. If subpoenaed, the Contractor shall not receive payment from the Department. Payment shall be in the form of witness fees.
F. No payment shall be made for any services not authorized in writing under the terms of this Contract. Other charges may not be submitted under the terms of this Contract.
G. The Contractor agrees not to accept payment from the family unless an established part of the Department's case plan includes a fee for service.
H. Billing Procedures: The Contractor is expected to submit the Department provided billing documents within ninety (90) days of the provision of service. The Contractor understands and agrees that any bills submitted for payment that are over a year from the date of service shall not be paid.

## III. SCOPE OF SERVICES

A. The Contractor shall do the following:
The Contractor agrees to provide Intensive Family Preservation Services for families of state wards and voluntary CFS cases. Contractor agrees that for valuable consideration provided by the Department, the Contractor shall provide the Intensive Family Preservation. The Contractor recognizes and affirms the Department's ongoing responsibility for the family and the long-term case planning. Therefore, the Contractor agrees to continue services until the Department implements a revision to the family's case plan. Department agrees to share known information prior to service and during service about each family's life situation as appropriate and necessary.

B. Intensive Family Preservation (IFP) Services: The Contractor agrees to provide Intensive Family Preservation services that are accessible to the family.
IFP services will be provided primarily in the family home and they will focus on improvement of the family functioning through documented skill acquisition in the areas of parenting, communication, behavior management, and life skills to ensure safety, permanency and well-being of children in the family home and community. Improved family functioning must be documented through the use of a validated family functioning assessment instrument approved by the Department prior to implementation.
    1. Program and Family Involvement Standards:
        a. Services will be provided using a multifaceted approach, including family therapy, skill building, crisis management and case coordination service.
        b. Services are accessible on a 24 hour basis, 7 days a week.
        c. The Contractor recognizes and affirms that working with the biological family is integral to the family's success in achieving their outcomes.

d. The Contractor shall assure that involvement with the family occurs in accordance with the Provider Service Referral, Visitation Plan, or Case Plan.

e. The Contractor shall involve the family as directed by the Department.

2. Staff Qualifications

a. Therapists will be a clinical staff member who is able to provide family therapy services (this includes Masters Degree clinical interns and provisionally Licensed Mental Health Practitioners who are clinically supervised by Licensed Mental Health Practitioners).

b. Family Preservation Workers will have a minimum of a Bachelors Degree in a field related to human service or an equivalent of three years experience in a human service field. The experience could include social work, counseling/guidance, psychology, sociology, human development, mental health education or a closely related field.

c. Supervisors shall will be a Licensed Mental Health Practitioner who is enrolled as Nebraska Medicaid/Medicaid Managed Care Provider.

3. Safety Standards: The Contractor shall intervene and redirect to insure the safety of any family member.

The Contractor shall report any suspected abuse and neglect concerns to the Department's Hotline 1-800-652-1999.

4. Transportation Standards: The Contractor agrees to provide transportation, not solely, but in conjunction with the provision of services and pursuit of outcomes as outlined in the Provider Service Referral or Visitation Plan.

The Contractor agrees to provide and use safety belts and child safety restraints for all passengers in accordance with Nebraska State Statutes.

5. Special Needs: When serving youth that have disabilities (hearing, visual, physical) and or language barriers, the Contractor agrees to:

a. To provide, arrange, and pay for staff or training for staff to meet the needs of the youth and family.

b. To contact community providers and arrange for service provision for the youth and family.

c. To recruit bilingual staff to serve the youth and family.

Special equipment needed by a youth, such as a soundboard, TDD, hearing aids, etc. should be purchased through Medicaid for Medicaid Managed Care, or through community and/or public agencies. Only when these means fail can the Department be approached for payment.

All equipment purchased by the Department shall be the property of the Department and the youth, therefore, when the youth leaves the Emergency Shelter Center, the equipment shall follow the youth.

6. Discharge Procedures:

a. Planned Discharge occurs when the outcomes have been achieved or the Employment First Case Manager or CFS Specialist determines that discharge is in the best interest of the family. The Department shall provide written notice of such discontinuation.

b. Unplanned Discharge occurs when the Contractor determines that they no longer want to serve the family. Prior to any unplanned discharge,

the Contractor shall consult with the Employment First Case Manager or CFS Specialist. After consultation, services can be terminated with a seven (7) day written notice submitted to the Employment First Case Manager or CFS Specialist. The Department shall provide notification of discharge when applicable.

ADMINISTRATIVE STANDARDS

The Contractor recognizes and affirms that the Department has the final authority in all decisions pertaining to the family.

Once a Contract is finalized, the Contractor agrees to begin services immediately. The Contractor shall recruit, train and supervise Family Support and Visitation Only staff.

1. Required Reports:
   a. Notification of Unplanned Discharge: The Contractor shall submit a written notice of unplanned discharge to the Department within seven (7) days. The notice shall include the date of unplanned discharge and reasons why the Contractor can no longer serve the family.
   b. Critical Incident Report: The Contractor shall immediately report (verbally) to the CFS Specialist or designee all changes that affect the status of the family (e.g. major illness, accident, aggressive behavior, arrest).
   c. Caregiver Notification: The Contractor shall report (verbally) to the youth's caregivers if circumstances of the visit may impact the youth's subsequent mood, behavior, or safety.
   d. No Show Notification: The Contractor shall notify (verbally) the Department of any "no show" by the next working day.
   e. Additional Reports: The Contractor shall submit any additional reports as requested by the Service Area Contract Liaison or designee.
2. Staff Standards:
   a. Background Checks:
      1. The Contractor agrees to perform in-state background checks on all newly hired employees, interns, and volunteers if it is foreseeable that that individual may have contact with youth during the course of providing direct services in the performance of this Contract. Such in-state background checks shall include a check of the following state registries:
         a. The Sex Offender Registry maintained by the Nebraska State Patrol.
         b. The Nebraska Child abuse and Neglect Central Register.
         c. The Nebraska Adult Abuse and Neglect Central Register
         d. The Contractor shall complete the initial background checks before the individual has direct contact with any youth. If a background check results in a record being identified, the Contractor shall not allow the individual to have direct contact with any youth.
      2. The Contractor agrees to perform out-of state background check on all newly hired employees, interns, and volunteer who have

resided in Nebraska for less than two (2) years if it is foreseeable that that individual may have contact with youth during the course of providing direct services in the performance of this Contract. The Contractor shall complete the initial background checks before the individual has direct contact with any youth. If an individual's prior state of residence does not maintain a: Sex Offender Registry; Child Abuse and Neglect Central Register; an Adult Abuse and Neglect Central Register, or any such similar registry, the Contractor shall complete a criminal background checks in the cities, counties and states of previous residence. If a background check results in a record being identified, the Contractor shall not allow the individual to have direct contact with any youth.

3. Current Employees—The Contractor shall complete background checks every two (2) years for all current employees. If a current employee residing in a state, other than Nebraska, and that state does not maintain a: Sex Offender Registry; Child Abuse and Neglect Central Register; an Adult Abuse and Neglect Central Register, or any such similar registry, the Contractor shall complete a state and local criminal background check. If a background check results in a record being identified, the Contractor shall not allow the individual to have direct contact with any youth.

All background check documentation shall be maintained in staff personnel records. This includes documentation requested and received from states other than Nebraska.

3. Conflict Resolution: Should the Contractor have any concerns with the provision of care and subsequent reimbursement, the Contractor shall initiate a communication with the Service Area Contract Liaison or designee.
4. Overpayments: Should the Department overpay the Contractor for services rendered or make payments in error for services that were not provided, the Contractor shall notify the Department within the next regular billing cycle. The Contractor understands that any and all overpayments remain the property of the Department and that the Department retains the right to recover any and all amounts overpaid. The Department shall offset overpaid amounts by withholding or reducing future payments.
5. Tobacco Smoke Prohibited: Public Law 103-227, also known as the Pro-Children Act of 1994 (Act), requires that smoking not be permitted in any portion of any indoor facility owned or leased or contracted for by an entity and used routinely or regularly for the provision of health, day care, early childhood development services, education or library services to youth under the age of 18, if the services are funded by Federal programs either directly or through State or local governments, by Federal grant, contract, loan, or loan guarantee. The law also applies to children's services that are provided in indoor facilities that are constructed, operated, or maintained with such federal funds. The law does not apply to children's services provided in private residences; portions of facilities used for inpatient drug or alcohol

treatment; service providers whose sole source of applicable Federal funds is Medicare or Medicaid; or facilities where WIC coupons are redeemed. Failure to comply with the provisions of the law may result in the imposition of a civil monetary penalty of up to $1000 for each violation and/or the imposition of an administrative compliance order on the responsible entity. The Contractor agrees to comply with the requirements of the Act and shall not allow smoking within any portion of any indoor facility used for the provision of services for youth as defined by the Act.

The Contractor agrees to prohibit smoking in any vehicle operated by its employees or staff when transporting youth while providing services under this Contract.

6. Insurance: The Contractor shall maintain the following types of insurance for the duties performed under this contract:
   a. General liability,
   b. Workers Compensation, as required by Nebraska law,
   c. Automobile, both non-owned and hired car,
   d. Professional liability,
   e. Errors and omissions, if applicable to the duties performed under this contract, and,
   f. Premises and property.

   The Contractor shall provide to the Department within thirty (30) days of execution of this agreement a certificate of insurance for the above mentioned insurance. Notice of cancellation of any insurance policies must be submitted immediately to the Service Area Contract Liaison or designee, along with evidence that the Contractor has obtained replacement coverage for the canceled policy(s), to ensure that there is no break in coverage.

   The Contractor shall ensure that all individuals transporting youth have a current, valid driver's license.
7. Release Of Identifying Information: No photographs or slides or other identifying information regarding a youth may be released for use on posters, in presentations, press releases, newspaper articles, newsletters, fliers, fund raising materials, etc., without the written consent of the Department and agreement of the parent, if parental rights are intact.

## IV. GENERAL PROVISIONS

A. ACCESS TO RECORDS AND AUDIT RESPONSIBILITIES.

All Contractor books, records, and documents regardless of physical form, including data maintained in computer files or on magnetic, optical or other media, relating to work performed or monies received under this contract shall be subject to audit at any reasonable time upon the provision of reasonable notice by DHHS. Contractor shall maintain all records for five (5) years from the date of final payment, except that records that fall under the provisions of Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) shall be maintained for six (6) full years from the date of final payment. In addition to the foregoing retention periods, all records shall be maintained until all issues related to an audit, litigation or other action are resolved to the satisfaction of

DHHS. All records shall be maintained in accordance with generally accepted business practices.

1. The Contractor shall provide DHHS any and all written communications received by the Contractor from an auditor related to Contractor's internal control over financial reporting requirements and communication with those charged with governance including those in compliance with or related to Statement of Auditing Standards (SAS) 112 *Communicating Internal Control related Matters Identified in an Audit* and SAS 114 *The Auditor's Communication with Those Charged With Governance*. The Contractor agrees to provide DHHS with a copy of all such written communications immediately upon receipt or instruct any auditor it employs to deliver copies of such written communications to DHHS at the same time copies are delivered to the Contractor, in which case the Contractor agrees to verify that DHHS has received a copy.

2. The Contractor shall immediately correct any material weakness or condition reported to DHHS in the course of an audit and notify DHHS that the corrections have been made.

3. In addition to, and in no way in limitation of any obligation in this contract, the Contractor shall be liable for audit exceptions, and shall return to DHHS all payments made under this contract for which an exception has been taken or which has been disallowed because of such an exception, upon demand from DHHS.

B. AMENDMENT. This contract may be modified only by written amendment, executed by both parties. No alteration or variation of the terms and conditions of this contract shall be valid unless made in writing and signed by the parties.

C. ANTI-DISCRIMINATION. The Contractor shall comply with all applicable local, state and federal statutes and regulations regarding civil rights and equal opportunity employment, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Public Law 93-112; the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, Public Law 101-336; and the Nebraska Fair Employment Practice Act, NEB. REV. STAT. §§ 48-1101 to 48-1125. Violation of said statutes and regulations will constitute a material breach of contract. The Contractor shall insert this provision in all subcontracts.

D. ASSIGNMENT. The Contractor shall not assign or transfer any interest, rights, or duties under this contract to any person, firm, or corporation without prior written consent of DHHS. In the absence of such written consent, any assignment or attempt to assign shall constitute a breach of this contract.

E. ASSURANCE. If DHHS in good faith, has reason to believe that the Contractor does not intend to, is unable to, or has refused to perform or continues to perform all material obligations under this contract, DHHS may demand in writing that the Contractor give a written assurance of intent to perform. Failure by the Contractor to provide written

assurance within the number of days specified in the demand may, at DHHS's option, be the basis for terminating this contract.

F. BREACH OF CONTRACT. DHHS may terminate the contract, in whole or in part, if the Contractor fails to perform its obligations under the contract in a timely and proper manner. DHHS may, by providing a written notice of default to the Contractor, allow the Contractor to cure a failure or breach of contract within a period of thirty (30) days or longer at DHHS's discretion considering the gravity and nature of the default. Said notice shall be delivered by Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested or in person with proof of delivery. Allowing the Contractor time to cure a failure or breach of contract does not waive DHHS's right to immediately terminate the contract for the same or different contract breach which may occur at a different time. DHHS may, at its discretion, contract for any services required to complete this contract and hold the Contractor liable for any excess cost caused by Contractor's default. This provision shall not preclude the pursuit of other remedies for breach of contract as allowed by law.

G. CONFIDENTIALITY. Any and all information gathered in the performance of this contract, either independently or through DHHS, shall be held in the strictest confidence and shall be released to no one other than DHHS without the prior written authorization of DHHS, provided, that contrary contract provisions set forth herein shall be deemed to be authorized exceptions to this general confidentiality provision. This provision shall survive termination of this contract.

H. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST. In the performance of this contract, the Contractor shall avoid all conflicts of interest and all appearances of conflicts of interest. The Contractor shall immediately notify DHHS of any such instances encountered so that other arrangements can be made to complete the work.

I. DATA OWNERSHIP AND COPYRIGHT. All data collected as a result of this project shall be the property of DHHS. The Contractor shall not copyright any of the copyrightable material produced in conjunction with the performance required under this contract without written consent from DHHS. DHHS hereby reserves a royalty-free, nonexclusive, and irrevocable right to reproduce, publish, or otherwise use, and to authorize others to use the copyrightable material for state government purposes. This provision shall survive termination of this contract.

J. DEBARMENT, SUSPENSION OR DECLARED INELIGIBLE. The Contractor certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any federal department or agency.

K. DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE. All references in this contract to laws, rules, regulations, guidelines, directives, and attachments which set forth standards and procedures to be followed by the Contractor in discharging its obligations under this contract shall be deemed incorporated by reference and made a part of this

contract with the same force and effect as if set forth in full text, herein.

L. DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE. Contractor certifies that it maintains a drug-free workplace environment to ensure worker safety and workplace integrity. Contractor shall provide a copy of its drug-free workplace policy at any time upon request by DHHS.

M. FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. The Contractor will comply with all applicable provisions of 45 C.F.R. §§ 87.1-87.2. The Contractor shall not use direct federal financial assistance to engage in inherently religious activities, such as worship, religious instruction, and/or proselytization.

N. FORCE MAJEURE. Neither party shall be liable for any costs or damages resulting from its inability to perform any of its obligations under this contract due to a natural disaster, or other similar event outside the control and not the fault of the affected party ("Force Majeure Event"). A Force Majeure Event shall not constitute a breach of this contract. The party so affected shall immediately give notice to the other party of the Force Majeure Event. Upon such notice, all obligations of the affected party under this contract which are reasonably related to the Force Majeure Event shall be suspended, and the affected party shall do everything reasonably necessary to resume performance as soon as possible. Labor disputes with the impacted party's own employees will not be considered a Force Majeure Event and will not suspend performance requirements under this contract.

O. FUNDING AVAILABILITY. DHHS may terminate the contract, in whole or in part, in the event funding is no longer available. Should funds not be appropriated, DHHS may terminate the contract with respect to those payments for the fiscal years for which such funds are not appropriated. DHHS shall give the Contractor written notice thirty (30) days prior to the effective date of any termination. The Contractor shall be entitled to receive just and equitable compensation for any authorized work which has been satisfactorily completed as of the termination date. In no event shall the Contractor be paid for a loss of anticipated profit.

P. GOVERNING LAW. The contract shall be governed in all respects by the laws and statutes of the State of Nebraska. Any legal proceedings against DHHS or the State of Nebraska regarding this contract shall be brought in Nebraska administrative or judicial forums as defined by Nebraska State law. The Contractor shall comply with all Nebraska statutory and regulatory law.

Q. HOLD HARMLESS.

1. The Contractor shall defend, indemnify, hold, and save harmless the State of Nebraska and its employees, volunteers, agents, and its elected and appointed officials ("the indemnified parties") from and against any and all claims, liens, demands, damages, liability, actions, causes of action, losses, judgments, costs, and expenses of every nature, including investigation costs and expenses, settlement costs, and attorney fees and expenses ("the claims"), sustained or

asserted against the State of Nebraska, arising out of, resulting from, or attributable to the willful misconduct, negligence, error, or omission of the Contractor, its employees, subcontractors, consultants, representatives, and agents, except to the extent such Contractor liability is attenuated by any action of the State of Nebraska which directly and proximately contributed to the claims.

2. DHHS's liability is limited to the extent provided by the Nebraska Tort Claims Act, the Nebraska Contract Claims Act, the Nebraska Miscellaneous Claims Act, and any other applicable provisions of law. DHHS does not assume liability for the action of its Contractors.

R. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR. The Contractor is an Independent Contractor and neither it nor any of its employees shall for any purpose be deemed employees of DHHS. The Contractor shall employ and direct such personnel as it requires to perform its obligations under this contract, exercise full authority over its personnel, and comply with all workers' compensation, employer's liability and other federal, state, county, and municipal laws, ordinances, rules and regulations required of an employer providing services as contemplated by this contract.

S. INVOICES: Invoices for payments submitted by the Contractor shall contain sufficient detail to support payment. Any terms and conditions included in the Contractor's invoice shall be deemed to be solely for the convenience of the parties.

T. INTEGRATION. This written contract represents the entire agreement between the parties, and any prior or contemporaneous representations, promises, or statements by the parties, that are not incorporated herein, shall not serve to vary or contradict the terms set forth in this contract.

U. LOBBYING.

1. No Federal appropriated funds shall be paid, by or on behalf of the Contractor, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this contract or (a) the awarding of any Federal agreement; (b) the making of any Federal grant; (c) the entering into of any cooperative agreement; and (d) the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal agreement, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.

2. If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this contract, the Contractor shall complete and submit Federal Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions.

V. NEBRASKA NONRESIDENT INCOME TAX WITHHOLDING. Contractor acknowledges that Nebraska law requires DHHS to withhold Nebraska income tax if payments for personal services are made in excess of six hundred dollars ($600) to any contractor who is not domiciled in Nebraska or has not maintained a permanent place of business or residence in Nebraska for a period of at least six months. This provision applies to individuals, to a corporation if 80% or more of the voting stock of the corporation is held by the shareholders who are performing personal services, and to a partnership or limited liability company if 80% or more of the capital interest or profits interest of the partnership or limited liability company is held by the partners or members who are performing personal services.

The parties agree, when applicable, to properly complete the Nebraska Department of Revenue Nebraska Withholding Certificate for Nonresident Individuals Form W-4NA or its successor. The form is available at:
http://www.revenue.ne.gov/tax/current/f_w-4na.pdf or
http://www.revenue.ne.gov/tax/current/fill-in/f_w-4na.pdf

W. NEBRASKA TECHNOLOGY ACCESS STANDARDS.
The Contractor shall review the Nebraska Technology Access Standards, found at http://www.nitc.state.ne.us/standards/accessibility/tacfinal.html and ensure that products and/or services provided under the Contract comply with the applicable standards. In the event such standards change during the Contractor's performance, the State may create an amendment to the Contract to request that Contract comply with the changed standard at a cost mutually acceptable to the parties.

X. NEW EMPLOYEE WORK ELIGIBILITY STATUS. The Contractor shall use a federal immigration verification system to determine the work eligibility status of new employees physically performing services within the State of Nebraska. A federal immigration verification system means the electronic verification of the work authorization program authorized by the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, 8 U.S.C. § 1324a, known as the E-Verify Program, or an equivalent federal program designated by the United States Department of Homeland Security or other federal agency authorized to verify the work eligibility status of a newly hired employee.

If the Contractor is an individual or sole proprietorship, the following applies:

1. The Contractor must complete the United States Citizenship Attestation Form, available on the Department of Administrative Services website at www.das.state.ne.us.

2. If the Contractor indicates on such attestation form that he or she is a qualified alien, the Contractor agrees to provide the US Citizenship and Immigration Services documentation required to verify the Contractor's lawful presence in the United States using the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) Program.

3. The Contractor understands and agrees that lawful presence in the United States is required and the Contractor may be disqualified or the contract terminated if such lawful presence cannot be verified as required by NEB. REV. STAT. § 4-108.

Y. PROMPT PAYMENT. Payment shall be made in conjunction with the State of Nebraska Prompt Payment Act, NEB. REV. STAT. §§ 81-2401 through 81-2408. Unless otherwise provided herein, payment shall be made by electronic means.

ACH Enrollment Form Requirements for Payment
"It is the responsibility of the vendor to complete and sign the State of Nebraska ACH Enrollment Form and to obtain the necessary information and signatures from their financial institution. The completed form must be submitted before payments to the vendor can be made."

Download ACH Form:
http://www.das.state.ne.us/accounting/nis/address_book_info.htm

Z. PUBLIC COUNSEL. In the event Contractor provides health and human services to individuals on behalf of DHHS under the terms of this contract, Contractor shall submit to the jurisdiction of the Public Counsel under NEB. REV. STAT. §§ 81-8,240 through 81-8,254 with respect to the provision of services under this contract. This clause shall not apply to contracts between DHHS and long-term care facilities subject to the jurisdiction of the state long-term care ombudsman pursuant to the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Act.

AA. RESEARCH. The Contractor shall not engage in research utilizing the information obtained through the performance of this contract without the express written consent of DHHS. The term "research" shall mean the investigation, analysis, or review of information, other than aggregate statistical information, which is used for purposes unconnected with this contract.

BB. SEVERABILITY. If any term or condition of this contract is declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be illegal or in conflict with any law, the validity of the remaining terms and conditions shall not be affected, and the rights and obligations of the parties shall be construed and enforced as if this contract did not contain the particular provision held to be invalid.

CC. SUBCONTRACTORS. The Contractor shall not subcontract any portion of this contract without prior written consent of DHHS. The Contractor shall ensure that all subcontractors comply with all requirements of this contract and applicable federal, state, county and municipal laws, ordinances, rules and regulations.

DD. TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE. Time is of the essence in this contract. The acceptance of late performance with or without objection or reservation by DHHS shall not waive any rights of DHHS nor constitute a waiver of the requirement of timely performance of any obligations on the part of the Contractor remaining to be performed.

NOTICES. Notices shall be in writing and shall be effective upon receipt. Written notices, including all reports and other written communications required by this contract shall be sent to the following addresses:

FOR DHHS:
Sherri Haber
DHHS
P.O. Box 95026
Lincoln Nebraska 68509

FOR CONTRACTOR:
Mike Betzold
Better Living Counseling Services
P.O. Box 34367
Omaha, NE 68134

**IN WITNESS THEREOF**, the parties have duly executed this contract hereto, and each party acknowledges the receipt of a duly executed copy of this contract with original signatures.

FOR DHHS:

Todd L. Reckling, Director
Division of Children and Family Services
Department of Health and Human Services

DATE: 10/20/2010

FOR CONTRACTOR:

President
Title

DATE: October 22, 2010