

# BVCA



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To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Blue Valley Community Action's Head Start 0 – 5 Program and the children and families that we serve, I strongly support the expansion of the scope of services provided by the Registered Dental Hygienists in Nebraska. As you may already know the majority of the children served by our program come from impoverished families who face economical challenges on a daily basis. Many of the children enrolled in our program have not had any dental care and do not have an established dental home.

Blue Valley Community Action sees a definite need for expanded dental health services in the rural communities that we serve. Many dentist in our rural area limit the number of Medicaid patients that they will see therefore making it impossible for impoverished children to receive dental health services locally. Families are forced to seek dental services in the larger cities which are usually 45 – 60 miles away. Transportation to the dentist in larger areas also becomes an obstacle as many families do not have a vehicle to take their child to appointments.

In conclusion, BVCA's Head Start 0 – 5 Program fully supports the efforts of eh Registered Dental Hygienists in Nebraska to move forward with expanding the scope of practice that they are able to provide. Proper dental care is an extremely important to the well being of the children that we serve and a necessity to the success of the children in their endeavor to learn and become successful.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shari Wurtz-Miller".

Shari Wurtz-Miller

Children Services Director, Blue Valley Community Action, Inc.

*The Promise of Community Action*

*"Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other."*

*"An Equal Opportunity Program"*