



Sandra M. Lindsey, CEO  
SCCMHA  
500 Hancock Street  
Saginaw, MI. 48601

Dear Sandra,

I am writing this letter in support of your 298 Pilot RFI submission to the state.

People Achieving Change Today (PACT) creates positive change by contracting with government agencies, faith-based and community organizations to develop and manage programs, projects and initiatives that nurture trusting and purposeful relationships in a community. PACT manages the implementation of the Open Table model through faith-government partnership in Saginaw County. PACT is also directing implementation of a project supported by a community foundation grant Open Table received to expand the model in Saginaw to serve young adults transitioning out of the juvenile justice system.

Thirteen Saginaw congregations have been licensed to utilize the Open Table model since February, 2015. Open Table is a poverty transformation model where volunteers from local congregations enter into relationship with someone in poverty to invest intellectual and social capital. Several tables have now reached successful completion and several more are currently active in Saginaw.

I am writing on behalf of the faith community implementing the Open Table model in Saginaw to give testimony to the benefit that has been derived to the Open Table initiative from the partnership with SCCMHA. SCCMHA staff, specifically Saginaw MAX System of Care, researched the model and then invested into the implementation of Open Table in the community. Saginaw has an Open Table movement because of the leadership of SCCMHA in our community.

SCCMHA staff and contractors have provided guidance, encouragement and training. The agency through their SAMHSA System of Care Expansion grant has funded trainings and events, travel expenses for Open Table staff, and license fees for congregations that would otherwise not be able to participate. SCCMHA staff have provided training in trauma and cultural competency. Most significantly, SCCMHA staff and contractors were able to invest the time needed into launching this initiative that is continuing to serve our citizens with mental illness, intellectual and developmental disabilities and those with substance use disorders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry Kuhns", with a long, sweeping underline.

Terry Kuhns, M.A.  
Owner and CEO, People Achieving Change Today, LLC  
Senior Consultant, Open Table  
Interim Pastor, Griswold St. Baptist Church