

Honorable William J. Haynes, Jr.
U.S. District Judge
c/o Peter J. Strianse, Esq.
Tune, Entrekin and White, PC
Suite 2100, AmSouth Center
315 Deaderick Street
Nashville, TN 37238-2100

Honorable William J. Haynes, Jr.
U.S. District Judge
Nashville, TN

Re: Bernard H. Ellis, Jr., M.A., M.P.H.

Dear Judge Haynes:

I began a professional relationship with Bernie Ellis in 1997 as a result of his work on behalf of the State of Wyoming, Department of Health. At that time Bernie was contracted by the State of Wyoming to conduct a statewide study relative to the prevalence of substance abuse in Wyoming. Over the next three years, Bernie's work became a catalyst for legislation and development of arguably the most comprehensive substance abuse plan enacted by any state in the union.

During his work in Wyoming, Bernie conducted research in Fremont County, to include the Wind River Indian Reservation. He found numerous similarities between Fremont County, Wyoming and McKinley County, New Mexico in terms of substance abuse patterns, and demographics. Bernie had worked as an evaluator and researcher in Gallup and McKinley County N.M., detailing the success those communities have had in addressing their very significant alcohol and substance abuse problems. Bernie assisted in grass roots community education, arranged four meetings with community and political leaders from Fremont County to travel and meet with their counterparts in McKinley County, in order to organize a community response to Fremont County's substance abuse problems (which were highest in Wyoming). As a direct result of Bernie's efforts which were not compensated, Fremont County received an initial federal Office of Justice Programs, Drug Free Communities grant which has received continued funding, and a much needed Alcohol Crisis Center which provides on demand detoxification services and counseling.

In my position as director of the local juvenile justice program, Bernie has impacted our services in a positive way by providing data and research that was used first to educate our community in acknowledging our collective problem of substance abuse and the related and costly issues of family dysfunction and crime; and secondly, by assisting the community in developing our own solutions to these problems and sustaining them.

Bernie has provided data and research that has been invaluable in developing and successfully funding our Ninth Judicial District Juvenile Drug Court, fully implemented in July 2002, as well as our collocated Fremont County Juvenile Detention Center, which opened in May 2001. The Fremont County Juvenile Detention Center is the only publicly funded Juvenile Detention Center that is compliant with the Juvenile Justice Act in the State of Wyoming.

I share this information with the court to demonstrate that through his tireless work Bernie Ellis has himself initiated a positive impact on our community that will pay dividends for years to come. I consider Bernie to be of high moral character, and he is someone who has no doubt learned his lesson regarding the power of the state to enforce its policies. Bernie will be of greater value to society if allowed to continue his professional work.

As a taxpayer I strongly encourage the federal system to reserve our federal penal beds for those who would be a danger to society and in this matter respectfully urge your use of judicial discretion.

Sincerely,

Charles R. Kratz