November 4, 2020

Lori Sprecher, MS, RNC-LRN
Clinical Manager
Family Birthing Center/ Special Care Nursery
Meritus Medical Center
11116 Medical Campus Road
Hagerstown, MD 21742

RE: Safe Sleep Partnership

Ms. Lori Sprecher:

Please accept this letter as verification of our current partnership in providing safe sleep resources to at-risk families in Washington County, Maryland. Our partnership began in January 2018 as we collaboratively developed the Substance Exposed Newborn Care Team (SENS Care Team) aimed at providing quality services, collecting research, educational outreach, and providing concrete resources to SENS and their families guided by the following values: self-determination, human dignity, respect, advocacy, and the nonjudgmental provision of services. Meritus Medical Center and Bester Community of Hope (BCOH) have continued to remain active in this county-wide initiative.

In December 2018, Bester Community of Hope received a grant through Casey Family Programs to provide Graco Pack 'N Plays to any Washington County family with a substance exposed newborn. Since this time, BCOH has provided 32 Pack 'N Plays with 11 of those provided to Meritus Medical Center. These Graco Pack 'N Plays meet the requirements of ASTM standards, are approved by JPMA and are absent of CPSC recalls. Securing this resource for one of our most at-risk populations allows us the opportunity to impact the number of sleep related fatalities in our county through providing a safe sleep environment as well as educational opportunities for parents/ caregivers.

Bester Community of Hope remains committed to a continued partnership with Meritus Medical Center regarding safe sleep efforts and the provision of Pack 'N Plays for families in Washington County. We welcome any additional opportunities of collaboration that contribute to the well-being of children, families and communities. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any further inquiries at 240-513-6370 or jyounker@besterhope.org.

Sincerely,

Jennifer M. Younker, LCSW-C
Director