

May 16, 2017

Re: Letter of Support for Kenya Rocha, Woman Business Owner of the Year Nominee

To whom it may concern:

It is with great honor that I support the nomination of Kenya Rocha for Woman Business Owner of the Year. In my role, I coordinator funds from the Iowa Department of Human Services and Juvenile Court Services, 5th Judicial District, to grow and support community based services for youth and families who are system involved and who are at risk of system involvement. That is how I became introduced to Kenya.

Kenya has provided mental health services in Polk County for many years. She has provided mental health services for system-involved clients at reduced rates and sometimes pro bono, when there is no other coverage. Kenya also is a trusted provider of services to Spanish-speaking populations here, which is monumental given that they are not inclined to seek out mental health services, especially if they are undocumented.

Kenya also provides services to those who others find difficult to serve, such as clients with anger management issues who may have been perpetrators of domestic violence. There are many providers who serve victims of anger and violence, but not many who will serve those with the anger issues.

Kenya also mentors newly graduated therapists so they may work their way to licensure. This can be daunting since often there is no source of revenue to reimburse their services while in training. She believes this is an investment in our community to mentor those who will someday be fully licensed to provide therapy services.

Kenya has been instrumental in promoting Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) therapy in Des Moines and is herself a Certified EMDR therapist. She collaborates with other EMDR therapists to bring trainings to Des Moines and she is an approved EMDR Consultant.

Kenya's agency, Mosaic Family Counseling Services, has grown and expanded exponentially in the past 5 years that I have known her from mostly her providing therapy services to having several staff and a variety of services. Kenya is always looking for creative ways to connect with her clients, including alternative and somatic treatments such as Reiki and Yoga. Kenya is a calming influence while being exceptionally hard-working. She maintains a high ethical standard which has garnered a great respect in the community.

Kenya and/or her staff often attend a variety of community meetings to network and learn more about issues and barriers facing our families as well as other resources that can be used to help families served by her agency. Kenya has served on my Steering Committee in an advisory capacity, providing a mental health perspective to our work with system-involved families and in our prevention efforts.

I whole-heartedly support Kenya Rocha's nomination for Woman Business Owner of the Year.

Sincerely,

Teresa K.D. Burke
Polk County Decategorization Coordinator

tkdb