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To: [Stacey Pelletier](mailto:Stacey.Pelletier)

Date: 6/30/2004 8:25:32 AM

Subject: Thank you...

Stacey,

I wanted to thank you for including me in the group interview yesterday, June 29 at the Sidney Secure facility. Of the agencies Iâ€™ve applied, and interviewed with, I am most excited about working with your agency. I have contemplated which population I prefer to work with â€“ MR adults, MH adults, MR children or MH children â€“ and I have discovered that, although each group of consumers will challenge me, I am most interested in helping children with mental health issues overcome their trauma in order to fully, and successfully, reintegrate into the community and their families.

As I disclosed yesterday, my helping philosophy may be rose-colored, but I truly feel it is attainable. Although I lack practical work experience in the human services field, my 16 yearsâ€™ experience as a single mother has provided me with a multitude of opportunities for fine-tune my parenting skills and child-rearing philosophies. My essential outlook while parenting my daughter includes introspection about my childhood and how I would have liked to have been raised. I feel that if we, as parents and life instructors, respect the individuality and specific challenges of each child, in addition to maintaining a holistic view of the child, we have the great gift of teaching these children that they can achieve their heartâ€™s desires provided they are willing to work to the best of their abilities. Maya Angelou said it best, âœI did what I knew how to do and when I knew better, I did better.â€

Life is a series of challenges for each human being but for some they are faced with many more daunting challenges than most. Unfortunately, many of those faced with life-altering challenges are children who do not yet have the intellect, cognition or insight which will aid them in making better choices. I feel our job, not only as social workers but as citizens, is to guide these children toward loving, productive and effective communication.

I look forward to the opportunity to utilize my creative problem-solving skills in order to further NAFIâ€™s mission. I anticipate speaking with you soon.

Thank you again for your time and consideration.

Gina L. Turcotte