



April 19, 2011

RE: Community Counseling Center
Business License #: N35-00003

To Whom It May Concern:

Community Counseling Center (CCC) is a non-profit, outpatient counseling center that provides counseling services for mental health issues such as assault, anger management, depression, and grief. CCC began as a reaction to the AIDS pandemic and the lack of therapeutic services available to those that are affected/infected by HIV/AIDS.

Additionally, in response to the needs of the Southern Nevada community, CCC also offers substance abuse treatment to those who are mandated to attend through the courts and those self-referred who need a support system to help them remain sober and addiction free. With a staff of 43 employees, we gladly treat families, groups, and individuals and approximately five hundred clients depend on our services monthly. The majority of our clients are under or uninsured and receive services at a reduced rate as determined by a State approved Sliding-Fee Scale. We are funded by the Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Agency for our substance abuse treatment program and our co-occurring (diagnosis of both mental health and substance abuse) program for \$1,350,000.00 annually. We are funded by Clark County Social Services and the City of Las Vegas Neighborhood Services for treatment of clients infected/affected by HIV dealing with substance abuse issues for approximately \$400,000.00 annually. We are contracted with TANF (Welfare) to provide services for substance abuse issues for clients on welfare. Child Protective Services (one of our largest referring agencies) refers clients for mental health, substance abuse and family counseling. We are also contracted with Federal Parole and Probation and Pre-trial services for treatment of Federal parolees. Additionally, Community Counseling Center was granted \$1.7 million dollars from Clark County for building reconstruction. To date, Community Counseling Center is the only counseling center in Las Vegas to have received national accreditation from the Council on Accreditation and is also accredited by United Way.

Community Counseling Center, however, does not and has never treated sex-offenders or violent criminals, though we have treated victims of such crimes.

CCC has been in operation for over twenty-one years. Nineteen of those years were spent at the same address at 1120 Almond Tree Lane, Las Vegas, Nevada. CCC owns that building, and we are about two years from paying off our mortgage. It was our intention that we would remain at that location for many years to come.

On December 26th, 2010, Community Counseling Center suffered a fire at the hands of an arsonist. Thankfully, the agency was closed for the holiday so no staff or clients were present and, therefore, no physical injuries occurred. However, the damage to our building caused us to immediately seek a new office location in order to continue operation. It was our hope that we could find a place temporarily while the building was repaired. However, it was discovered that our building contained asbestos. This finding required our building to be tested and cleaned before the repair efforts could even begin. This further delayed our hopes of moving quickly back into our building. The asbestos has been removed and the building has been cleaned. While the majority of the building is now functional, repair work on the fire damaged area is just now beginning. It is likely that it will take several months before the building can be restored to its full functionality.

In an effort to find temporary office space, we began leasing the property at 714 E. Sahara Ave. Suite #101, Las Vegas, Nevada 89104. This property is less than half a mile away from our original location and is still accessible to the bus routes used by a large number of our clients. Though it meets our needs, many clients and staff prefer our

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former building, but as stated above, we will have to remain at our temporary location for several months. That approximation of time, of course, is only if everything goes as planned.

The services that CCC provides greatly benefit the Las Vegas community. Our existence as an agency, regardless of our location, does not pose any hindrance or threat to neighboring businesses. Rather, our presence is an example of why non-profits struggle to serve its clients even amid adversity and hardship. We reestablished operations only six days after the fire ravaged our building. Even then, our staff rallied to continue services to the many clients intent on resuming their daily sessions. All of our counselors are licensed or certified by the State of Nevada and authorized to provide treatment. CCC is funded in part by city, state, and federal funds and a majority of those funds are strictly set aside for substance abuse services. Without the ability to provide substance abuse counseling, more than half of our staff is currently unable to do their jobs, and many of our clients are left without services.

We are requesting two Special Use Permits. A "Social Service Provider" Special Use Permit and a "Facility to Provide Testing, Treatment, or Counseling for Drug or Alcohol Abuse" Special Use Permit to allow us to provide outpatient mental health and substance abuse counseling for individual counseling and group counseling sessions. Please consider that CCC did not wish to move to a new location, even temporarily, but was forced to move due to the emergent nature of being victimized by a violent crime. With our former building decimated by the arsonist, we still consider ourselves to be in an "emergency operation status". It is understood that the process of acquiring a Special Use Permit for substance abuse treatment could take as long as three months and that, even then, one may not be granted. We are hoping that the City of Las Vegas has established allowances for businesses who face similar predicaments, and that a resolution can be made which will expedite our plea. The sooner we can obtain our business license, the sooner we can resume our substance abuse services and regain our foothold as a fully productive agency serving the Las Vegas community.

Community Counseling Center was begun as a response to a community crisis and, twenty-one years later, finds itself in a crisis of its own. Please aid the agency staff and the clients we serve by providing a timely resolution to allow us to continue our services and grant us a Social Service Provider Special Use Permit and a Facility to Provide Testing, Treatment, or Counseling for Drug or Alcohol Abuse Special Use Permit.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Ronald W. Lawrence, MS, MFT, LADC-S
Executive Director

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Community Counseling Center
Grant Awards Chart

Grant Awards

Grant	Monthly Amount	Annual Amount	Purpose	Grant Cycle	Administering Agency
SAPTA	\$ 69,823.00	\$ 837,880.00	Substance Abuse Tx	07/09-06/10	Substance Abuse Prevention & Treatment Agency
RW C	\$ 2,248.75	\$ 40,185.00	HIV Counseling (women/families emphasized)	03/09-02/10	University Medical Center
Prevention (P5)	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 90,000.00	HIV Prevention Hispanic	01/10-12/10	Southern Nevada Health District
RW A	\$ 15,130.00	\$ 181,562.01	HIV Substance Abuse and Mental Health	03/10-02/11	Clark County Social Services
TANF Contract	\$ 666.00	\$ 8,000.00	Substance Abuse for persons on Welfare	07/10-06/11	State of Nevada Welfare Department
Federal Probation Contract	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 60,000.00	Substance Abuse/Mental Health	01/10-12/10	US District Court
CDBG-Mental Health	\$ 2,298.00	\$ 39,577.00	Mental Health	07/10-06/11	City of LV Neighborhood Services
City of LV-HOPWA	\$ 7,175.00	\$ 86,100.00	HIV Service	07/10-06/11	City of LV Neighborhood Services
MGM/Mirage Voice	\$ 5,297.00	\$ 63,563.00	Family Mental Health	07/10-06/11	MGM Mirage
RW B	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 66,000.00	Outreach/Conference	03/10-02/11	State of Nevada Community Health
Recovery Act STOP Grant			Women in Trauma	07/09-12/10	State of Nevada Office of the Attorney General
SAPTA COD	\$ 42,917.00	\$ 515,000.00	Mental Health/Substance Abuse Tx	07/10-06/11	Substance Abuse Prevention & Treatment Agency
United Way			Mental Health	01/10-12/10	United Way of Southern Nevada
Catholic Healthcare West			Mental Health	01/10-12/10	CHW Community Grants
Sex Assault Provider		\$49,861.00	Sexual Assault Victims only	9/1/10-12/31/11	State of Nevada Office of the Attorney General
CDBG Reconstruction		\$1,700,000.00	Building Reconstruction	7/1/2011	Clark County
Total:	\$ 163,554.75	\$ 2,899,848.01			
				updated 5.04.11	