May 21, 2011

City of Las Vegas
Business Licensing Division
Planning Department
400 Stewart Avenue, Third Floor
Las Vegas, NV 89101

To Whom It May Concern:

As Executive Director of Bridge Counseling Associates, I am hereby requesting a Special Use Permit for the following address:

1640 Alta Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89106

Bridge Counseling Associates provides Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services to adults and youth in Clark County since 1971. We have been at the following address since 1995:

1701 W. Charleston Blvd. #400
Las Vegas, NV 89102

We desire to move to the Alta address to expand our services, provide a more user-friendly environment for our clients, and to be in close proximity to our referral sources.

Bridge Counseling Associates currently provides services to the following client populations during the office hours of 8:30 am – 8:00 pm Monday through Friday and 8:30 am – 1:00 pm on Saturday. Bridge Counseling Associates is closed on Sunday. Bridge Counseling does not "close" for lunch, forcing clients to wait while staff are on break. Clients are assigned to individual, family and/or group therapy sessions. Clients are informed of their therapy schedule and attend accordingly. Clients of Bridge Counseling do not linger at the agency waiting for appointments or groups to start. Due to certification regulations, groups are limited to 15 clients per group. Dimensions of the proposed waiting room is 22x26 feet. Bridge Counseling currently has a total of 546 active clients.

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Bridge Counseling Associates currently has the following employees:
Full-time Mental Health/Substance Abuse Therapists: 18
Full-time Vocational Department Bi-Lingual Case Managers: 2
Full-time Administrative/Fiscal/Support Staff: 7
Part-time Co-Credentialed English speaking Contract Therapists: 8
Part-time Co-Credentialed Bi-Lingual Contract Therapists: 2
Note: Front Office is fully staffed with bi-lingual staff

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Bridge Counseling Associates serves the following clients at our agency:

- Families In Transition (FIT) – Comprehensive (Mental Health & Substance Abuse) Treatment Services (individualized treatment – group, family, individual – up to multiple times per week) to families referred by Clark County Department of Family Services (CCDFS).
- United States Probation/Bureau of Prisons – Clients referred to substance abuse and mental health services who are residing in the federal halfway house, currently on probation or "pre-trial" (i.e. waiting for trial). Treatment multiple times per week.
- DUI Treatment Services – Bridge Counseling Associates provides an array of services and service levels to individuals with one time (DUI Assessment & Education); two time (Moderate Offenders); and three time (Felony DUI) DUI clients. Careful coordination of treatment services and case management of client care occurs with Clark County DUI courts. Sessions conducted 1-3x per week (model is a "step-down" system).
- Adult & Adolescent Treatment Services – Substance Abuse and Mental Health Treatment to adult & adolescent clients who are self-referred, school referred, court mandated or involved with the Clark County DJJS or the State of Nevada Youth Parole System. Individualized, multiple times per week – group/individual.
- Mental Health/Family Treatment Services – Comprehensive mental health, child, family & parenting services. Funded through MGM/Mirage Voice Foundation.
- Vocational Services – Comprehensive vocational assessment, individualized vocational program planning, job training, and job searches.
- Spanish Treatment Services – All of the aforementioned treatment and vocational services are offered in Spanish. Full-time staff and front office reception staff are able to meet the needs of bi-lingual clients who are involved in any other program area.

Adolescent clients are primarily served "off-site" at the Youth Parole or Juvenile Justice Probation Office.

As Executive Director of Bridge Counseling, I have been in the mental health and substance abuse services field for over 26 years. The first 15 years, I was employed at the Division of Child and Family Services. I have been with Bridge Counseling Associates for the last 11 years and Executive Director for the past 8 years. In addition to my background and expertise in working with court-mandated clients, I am dually licensed as a clinician in Marriage & Family Therapy and Alcohol & Drug Abuse. It is my personal philosophy that in working with mandated clients, it is imperative to extend to them the utmost respect and concern for their current situation, to provide the utmost in quality of services, as well as set non-negotiable boundaries for behavior that will and will not be allowed at the agency. It is my strong belief that based on how we approach our clients we have very few issues with compliance with expectations. There is a zero tolerance approach for behavior that would be problematic to my staff, other clients, and the facility in general.

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Bridge Counseling Associates Board of Directors approved full-time security during business hours upon relocation to the new building at their board meeting on 5/17/11. We have engaged the current security company, ISS Security, that provides services to our current location to obtain bids for this service. This is an important and necessary service to our staff, clients, and the community.

I would appreciate the City of Las Vegas' support in our desire to meet the growing needs of our agency and client by approving the Special Use Permit for the Alta address.

Please let me know if I can provide any further clarification or information.

Sincerely Yours.

Jacqueline Harris

Jacqueline Harris, MA, MFT, LADC
Executive Director – Bridge Counseling Associates

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