

The Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

*Building a safer, healthier community by preventing
and treating alcoholism and drug abuse*

February 2, 2011

Helene Schneider
Mayor, City of Santa Barbara
735 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Robert G. Pearson
Executive Director/CEO
Housing Authority of the City of Santa Barbara
808 Laguna Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

RECEIVED

FEB 07 2011

MAYOR & CITY CLERK
SANTA BARBARA, CA

Dear Mayor Schneider and Mr. Pearson:

The purpose of this communication is request your support and approval of the request to assist The Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse ("CADA") to move into a new residential detox treatment facility in the City of Santa Barbara.

As a contractor for the County of Santa Barbara Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services ("ADMHS") CADA has operated a 12-bed, 1200 sq. ft. residential detox treatment facility at the Casa Esperanza ("CASA") homeless shelter since 2004. Each year, approximately 250 clients receive detoxification services in an effort to achieve safe and supportive withdrawal from alcohol and/or other drugs, and to effectively facilitate the client's transition into treatment services, ongoing recovery and permanent sobriety. Monitored residential detoxification services are appropriate for participants assessed as not requiring medication for the management of withdrawal, but require this level of service to complete detoxification and enter into continued treatment or self-help recovery because of inadequate home supervision or support structure. This level is characterized by its emphasis on peer and social support.

Most of the clients are considered poor, and unable to contribute financially in a substantial way to their recovery. Approximately 89 % of the clients report to be from Santa Barbara and approximately 25 % are homeless. In December 2009, the facility was limited to males only, as the need for detox beds was greatest for men and the logistics of the space did not allow for an effective simultaneous use by both men and women. Local females are presently being treated at facilities in either Lompoc or Santa Maria.

CASA has communicated to CADA that in the face of financial and community pressures, and in order to improve security and operational efficiency at the Cacique facility, CADA's detox facility needs to vacate the space as soon as possible. In October 2010, CASA gave CADA written notice to move out of the leased space no later than January 1, 2011.

For the past year, CADA has diligently looked for an appropriate facility with the support of ADMHS and various agencies of the City of Santa Barbara, but no properties met the qualifications needed for a possible detox treatment program. A suitable facility should be approximately 2000 sq.ft, with preferable 3 or 4 bedrooms, 2 or 3 bathrooms, a group/day room, small kitchen, and some outdoor space such as a back yard. A minimum of one bedroom and one bathroom must comply with ADA regulations as defined in State guidelines, under which the treatment program is licensed and certified. The facility should also meet on site parking requirements (including ADA parking), and be compatible with the neighborhood. Clients are monitored 24 hours per day, 7 days per week and are not allowed to leave the premises without supervision.

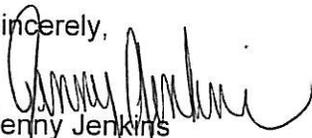
We believe we have finally located a facility that can meet all criteria at the 1020 Placido address.

Financially, CADA is not in position to acquire a detox facility outright. CADA operates the program as a contractor under an annual contract from the County of Santa Barbara. While the County provides the majority of funding, additional support is provided by the City of Santa Barbara, the Human Services Fund, private donations and client fees based on a sliding income scale. No clients are turned away for lack of funds. As clients must be permanently monitored, a minimum of one staff member is on site around the clock. Over 90% of the annual budget provides for staff and supervision expenses. Still, this is lowest cost facility on the South Coast. CADA has supported this program through the years despite substantial financial deficits in the last 5 years, but the program is currently at break even.

CADA has paid \$ 1,200 per month to Casa Esperanza for the use of the space and proposes a similar arrangement with the Housing Authority.

Without a location, this vital program will not exist. The Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse respectfully asks your support in making this residential detox treatment facility a reality in Santa Barbara.

Sincerely,



Perry Jenkins
President/CEO

The Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse