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412 E 47th Street

Chicago 15, Ill.

January 18, 1956

Honorable Richard J. Daley  
City Hall  
121 N. LaSalle Street  
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Sir:

Yesterday I chanced to read a newspaper article describing activities of the "Mayor's Committee For Rehabilitation of Man." The article described a proposed alcoholic rehabilitation center which is to occupy quarters of the old "Contagious Disease Hospital" at 3026 South California Avenue. Since your committee by definition was originally designed to concern themselves with "Rehabilitation of Man" I felt that you would be interested in a brief description of "The Medical Counseling Clinics for the Rehabilitation of Narcotic Addicts." Secondly, I wish to request an appointment at your convenience to discuss the possibility of coordinating our activities with those which are to be carried out in the rehabilitation of alcoholics.

The Medical Counseling Clinics were developed about five years ago as a citizens grass roots project for which Ninety Thousand Dollars were appropriated by special state legislation at Springfield. The clinics have been run by the Illinois Department of Public Health, Dr. Roland Cross, Director, and Dr. G. Howard Gowen, Deputy Director, Springfield. I have worked as the Chicago Coordinator of these clinics which are set up at Northwestern University Medical School, and Provident Hospital. A third clinic completed its agreed tenure at the University of Illinois Medical School July 1, 1955. A small group therapy pilot project is being conducted at the county jail.

While this program, financed by the state, has been given considerable publicity, we have long had the feeling that the city administration has not been fully cognizant of the extent to which the state has assumed a burden which is perhaps more directly the responsibility of the City of Chicago. While the success of this program has justified its continuance each year since 1950 there are areas in which municipal cooperation would enhance the beneficial efforts of rehabilitation of Chicago's vast addict population and greatly aid in the control of the terrific problem of narcotic addiction. We would specifically like to consider with you, or with your committee on "Rehabilitation of Man" at your behest, the possibility of providing facilities for

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narcotic addicts as well as alcoholic addicts at the old "Contagious Disease Hospital." This suggestion carries no intent nor desire to horn in or capitalize on anyone else's efforts. Our proposals would be purely cooperative for the common good.

Yours for the continuation of your fine program for community betterment, I am

Sincerely,

Leonidas H. Berry, M.D.  
Coordinator Narcotics Program

LHB/va