



August 20, 2018

Ms. Donna Jerry  
Green Mountain Care Board  
89 Main St.  
Montpelier, VT 05620

Dear Donna,

As discussed earlier this month, I am writing to request an update of the Jurisdictional Determination for Inner Fire, Inc., in connection with our application for licensure from the Division of Licensing and Protection as a Therapeutic Community Residence (TCR). For our day program operations, we currently have a Jurisdictional Determination that we are not subject to CON review, per Docket No. GMCB- 004-15con. There will be no programmatic changes following TCR licensure, however, with the construction of the first phase of a new facility expected to be completed in late October of this year, we will be able to serve up to eight persons with an identical day program and on-site overnight residential care.

Inner Fire is a proactive healing community offering a choice for adults to recover from debilitating and traumatic life challenges without the use of psychotropic medications. We offer outpatient services that are non-medical in nature. We seek deep and lasting healing through an intensive program that first stabilizes a person in crisis, gradually replaces medication with holistic healing practices, addresses the core issues precipitating distress and then develops skills for growing beyond these issues and becoming an enthusiastic and vital member of their community. Inner Fire offers an alternative approach:

- Responsible Medication Tapering, under the direction of an off-site, independent MD/Psychiatrist, Dr. Nels Kloster
- Farm-based Work Therapy
- Complementary and Alternative Therapies
- Dietary and Therapeutic Lifestyle Changes
- Mentoring, Peer and Life Coaching

**Services offered on-site:**

- Biographical Counseling
- Eurythmy and Movement Therapy
- Hauschka Artistic Therapy
- Music Therapy
- Rhythmical Massage
- Spatial Dynamics Therapy
- Speech Arts and Drama
- Sauna Therapy
- Work Therapy Program (garden, forest, house and kitchen)
- Peer-to-Peer Support Groups

**Provided by:**

Biographical Therapist  
Eurythmy Therapist  
Hauschka Artistic Therapist  
Music Therapist  
Massage Therapist  
Spatial Dynamics Therapist  
Speech and Drama Therapist  
Staff/Guides  
Staff/Guides  
Peers/Guides

**Services offered on-site (continued):**

- Family education and support
- Organic food and nutrition program
- Mentoring, life skills and life coaching
- Evening activities including music, drumming, singing, etc.

**Provided by:**

Staff/Guides  
Chef/Nutritionist  
Staff/Guides  
Staff/Guides

**Services offered off-site: all provided by Staff and Guides**

- Nearby hiking, snow-shoeing and other recreational outings
- Local cultural and musical outings
- Occasional transportation to medical appointments and local shopping, as needed
- Occasional outside classes for job skill development, apprenticeships and arts and crafts, with local artisans, businesspeople and farmers (e.g., glass-blowing, blacksmithing, landscaping, restorative justice, educational assistants, etc.)
- Musical lessons and local choirs

As noted above, with TCR licensure we expect no programmatic changes to current operations, aside from a small increase in capacity and on-site residential services made possible via the first phase of the planned new facility, now under construction. Our annual operating costs, which totaled \$578,505 in 2017, are also expected to grow to about \$750K by 2019-2020.

The first phase of construction includes a 1770 square foot residential building with eight beds for residents and two beds for staff, and all sitework, utilities, septic and Act 250 permitting. The phase one construction is projected to cost about \$650K, all of which has been raised through private donations. The building will be used as a Therapeutic Community Residence for housing up to eight program participants, with additional spaces available for the non-medical therapies listed above. Planned occupancy for the new building is on or near November 1, 2018.

Please feel free to contact me or Tari Steinruek (Administrative Director, 845-367-3766 or tari.innerfire@gmail.com) if you have any questions regarding the above or require any further information in connection with this.

With thanks for your kind assistance with this process,

Sincerely,



Beatrice Birch  
Founder and Executive Director