



Community Counseling Centers of Chicago

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Community Counseling Centers of Chicago (C4)
August 2, 2021

C4 Appoints Mr. Kerri Brown, Esq. As New CEO

Bringing leadership, innovation, and inspiration to our growing organization.

August 2, 2021. Community Counseling Centers of Chicago (C4) announced today that Mr. Kerri Brown, Esq. has been appointed as the new CEO of the organization. An experienced leader, Mr. Brown will succeed William Patrick (Pat) Nichols and assume responsibilities on August 1, 2021.

William Patrick “Pat” Nichols, founder of Transition Leadership International, was hired by the Board in June of last year as Interim President and CEO to lead the agency through turnaround. Since that time, Pat and the Executive Team have led C4 out of a dire financial situation and into solvency, and so profoundly grown the organization that C4’s greatest challenge currently is hiring new personnel fast enough to meet the needs of the people and communities they serve. Under Pat’s leadership C4 is enjoying a renewed enthusiasm and dedication to their work. Pat has enhanced the culture and generated new funding in a relentless drive to deliver on their promise to clients – that they are C4’s first priority, and that C4 believes they can live, work and thrive in their communities. The Board of Directors is very grateful to Pat for his many contributions to the success of the organization and his tireless advocacy on its behalf.

Mr. Brown joined C4 as the Chief Operating Officer in February of 2021 as part of the massive turn-around happening at the organization. Mr. Brown most recently served as Vice President of Operations at the HRDI, whereas his previous roles saw him as Chief Administrative Officer, Director of Human Resources, and Associate Counsel, in addition to his past profession as an Engineering Officer in the Louisiana Army National Guard.

Mr. Brown’s professional strengths lie in his internal and external interpersonal skills, while he has also managed large-scale projects from inception through implementation. His administrative responsibilities have enabled him to work with such internal functions as: facilities & maintenance, procurement, vendor, and asset management, human

resources, information technology & data management, food services & administration, vehicle fleet management & transportation.

Laurel M. Legler, Chairperson of C4's Board of Directors stated that, "The Board and I are delighted with Kerri's appointment, and believe he is the right person to lead the agency in this moment; to continue to strengthen our organization and help us meet the increasing demand for behavioral health services. We are, as always, very grateful for the public's commitment to C4's mission and are confident that they will find our new CEO to be a marvelous partner and a leader worthy of the task at hand."

Interim President and CEO Pat Nichols said about Mr. Brown's appointment, "In 25 years of serving as Interim CEO of nonprofits in transition I have never been more pleased with a Board's selection of my successor. This Board has been bold and decisive throughout my tenure here and they have found a CEO who shares those attributes. Kerri has led C4's "Strengthening our Community Initiative" to be a full partner with our staff and our clients in pursuing their personal life goals and in achieving health equity. He has also led us in an initiative, Collaborative Bridges, in which C4 will partner with Illinois' Healthcare and Family Services Department, hospitals and other community behavioral health agencies to dramatically improve continuity of care on Chicago's underserved West Side. In his brief time here, we have moved from turnaround to rapid growth, and he has contributed to or led each step of the process."

Mr. Brown earned his Juris Doctorate from Southern University Law Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and his Master of Laws (LLM) degree in Real Estate from John Marshall Law School here in Chicago. He is licensed and in good standing with the Illinois Bar Association, as well as being certified in an impressive array of professional institutes and programs. Mr. Brown was born and raised in Louisiana and became a Chicagoan after falling in love with the city while attending John Marshall Law School. He lives in and now serves the Northside of Chicago with his beautiful wife Rachel and his four daughters.

About Community Counseling Centers of Chicago

Community Counseling Centers of Chicago (C4), a behavioral health advocate and social service provider, offers quality, comprehensive customer-oriented services tailored to the diversity of its consumers. The organization provides counseling and support services to more than 7,000 at-risk children, adults, and families each year. C4 services are provided to some of Chicago's most vulnerable residents, and we help individuals recover from mental health issues and complex emotional traumas to achieve their recovery goals, providing tools to work from hopelessness to recovery to thriving and resiliency.

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