



September 28, 2006

Dear Referring Professional,

Since our organization's beginnings in 1988 with the opening of Mount Bachelor Academy, it has been our desire to build a culture that would empower our staff and management to best achieve our vision of providing help and hope for youth, young adults, and their families. Because of your support and the excellent work of our staff, Aspen and our programs have enjoyed great success and positive outcomes in helping an increasing number of families.

In 1998, Aspen Education Group was formed with private capital partners who provided financial resources for Aspen to grow and pursue our vision. At that time, we served approximately 700 students. Seven years later, we assisted in 2005 over 4,000 young people and their families from every state in the country and 16 foreign countries.

Earlier this year, our Board of Directors asked me to identify possible financial or corporate partners that would, among other things, increase Aspen's ability to assist even more families in need. There was clearly a great deal of interest in Aspen Education Group, as evidenced by the number of firms who contacted us; perhaps some of them may have spoken to you during this process.

Today, I am pleased to announce that Aspen Education Group has signed a definitive Merger Agreement to join the CRC Health Group. We expect to finalize this Agreement before the end of November 2006.

I want to emphasize one key point: **Aspen's programs will continue to operate in the same fashion as they do now.** In fact, we expect that nothing will change in terms of the way you interact with Aspen and our programs. The Aspen team you have come to know will remain the same. Our senior management team that you work with strongly supports this merger and will remain in their current positions, as will the employees working in our schools and programs.

I will continue as President of Aspen Education Group and will become a member of the Board of Directors of the merged organization. In this dual capacity, I will continue to guide Aspen's programs and work to provide the necessary resources so that we can continue to offer the very best services to your clients. As a division of CRC Health Group, Aspen will look and feel the same as it does now; additionally, we will benefit from the collective synergy that comes from combining two dynamic organizations that are leaders in their respective areas.

CRC Health Group is a privately-owned corporation that operates many chemical dependency and related behavioral healthcare facilities across the country, including Sierra Tucson in Arizona. As CRC primarily focuses on adult services, Aspen's comprehensive network of schools and programs will add a complementary group of youth-oriented services to the enhanced organization. Aspen will be able to take advantage of CRC's world-class research and technology and their specific expertise in the areas of substance abuse and other

addictive behaviors. In addition, CRC's six chemical dependency and dual diagnosis adolescent and young adult programs will provide to those clients in need of more intensive treatment a seamless care experience. I have been personally struck by how many similarities there are between our two organizations, and how our cultures are very similar. In particular, I wanted to highlight our shared approach to program management.

CRC and Aspen have long held the belief that day-to-day operations at the program level should be managed locally. At the same time, we provide each program with a variety of corporate resources that no one individual facility could financially support on its own. Empowering local leadership and encouraging personalized care is a very important part of the culture of both companies.

We have attached a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document, to provide you with some additional information.

I want to personally assure you that at the end of the day, nothing will change at our programs as a result of this merger. We remain committed to continuing to improve the services we offer to you and your clients. You should have every confidence that the students you refer to Aspen both during and after this merger will receive the same level of quality and support that you have come to expect from us. On behalf of all of Aspen's employees and families, we are grateful for your continued support.

If you would like to contact me personally, please call my office 562-467-5507 or you can email me at esainer@aspeneducation.com.

With best wishes,



Elliot Sainer

CEO

Aspen Education Group

Frequently Asked Questions

What happened?

CRC Health Group and Aspen Education Group have signed a Definitive Merger Agreement whereby Aspen will become a Division of CRC Health Group. It is anticipated that this Merger will become official by late November.

What does this mean for Aspen's programs?

Aspen's programs will continue to operate in exactly the same fashion as they do now, enhanced by the added benefit of CRC's world-class research, technology, and behavioral healthcare expertise.

What does this mean for me as a referring professional?

Referring professionals -- and the families and clients that you serve -- will continue to experience the outstanding service and quality programming that you have come to expect at Aspen's programs. The Aspen team that you know and work with will remain the same. As stated earlier, it is anticipated that this merger will enhance Aspen's programmatic offerings through such things as expanded research, technology, and specialized addiction services. As CRC operates half a dozen chemical dependency and dual diagnosis adolescent and young adult programs across the country, the merged company will be able to provide a seamless experience for your clients who might need more intensive treatment.

What is CRC Health Group?

CRC Health Group (www.crchealth.com) is one of the nation's leading providers of chemical dependency and related behavioral healthcare. CRC was founded in 1995 and operates programs in 23 states, serving over 24,000 clients each day. The company is based in Cupertino, California and operates substance abuse and behavioral health residential facilities, outpatient and opiate treatment clinics throughout the U.S, and a growing number of eating disorder programs, including the nationally known Sierra Tucson facility. CRC provides lifelong care to adult and adolescent patients through a continuum of services including detoxification, residential treatment, partial hospitalization, day treatment, intensive outpatient programs, sober living, extended care, community education, intervention and aftercare. CRC has extended its presence to the Internet with the development of a one-of-a-kind online treatment program (www.eGetgoing.com) and the first accredited online substance abuse treatment program for adults and teens, incorporating live audio/video treatment. All CRC programs are nationally accredited.

Like Aspen's programs, CRC facilities have enjoyed an industry wide reputation for treatment excellence. CRC shares with Aspen a strong commitment to providing excellent services for clients and families in an environment of personalized care. CRC's facilities are operated, in the same fashion as Aspen's, by local management and day-to-day decisions are made at the program level.

Why is this merger occurring?

In late 1998, two successful private equity investment companies -- Frazier Healthcare Ventures and Sprout Group -- bought the controlling interest in Aspen. In 2002, another internationally known private equity firm -- Warburg Pincus -- invested in Aspen as well. These investments have allowed Aspen Education Group to have strong financial stability and to expand our capability to provide new programs and services to a growing number of families. When these firms invested in Aspen, they did so with an expectation that at some future point they would be able to make a return on that investment, since they have never taken any dividends or proceeds from the business since their initial investments. Knowing that this would eventually become a reality, the executive management team has for some time considered what would be the optimum future structure for Aspen. The senior management team has every confidence that CRC is the right merger partner for Aspen and the families that we serve, and that it will afford the entire organization the best opportunity for continued growth and success.