**Position Statement II**

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COUN 503

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After taking COUN 503, many thoughts have crossed my mind. In comparison to my Position Statement I, I still have the goals of being a LPC and be employed at a Community Services Board (CSB). My reasons for applying to the program and also being a counselor still are true. My combination of personal experience with mental health issues and my passion for the academics of the study of mental health are still the biggest reasons why I am here. After taking COUN 503, though, my professional goals were strengthened. The panel discussion we had in October was very influential in my goal to be at a CSB. It was incredibly insightful to hear from people who are doing what I want to devote myself to. My professional goals were challenged when we talked about ethics in the field. Not to say that ethics are going to be an issue, it is just that the ethical concerns we talked about didn’t first occur to me.

This is exemplified by when we as a class discussed going to a client’s funeral or other such things. There are a lot more opportunities to be unethical, and ethical gray areas, than I had originally thought. Additionally, I am considering expanding my horizons to substance use specialization, like being a Certified Substance Abuse Counselor (CSAC). I am learning more that trauma and substance use interact commonly. I should be prepared to treat those with substance use issues and disorders if I want to treat trauma as a specialty.

I still concur that the being a counselor will be extremely rewarding, but not without challenge. Sometimes there will be more hard days than good days, sometimes vice versa, and sometimes the line between the two will blur. Though, the transformation to a version of wellness, no matter how small the steps, could be the eighth wonder of the world. My professional goals have strengthened because of how I see what I want out of a career and my personal values refracted in COUN 503.