

## Office of Health Care Access Certificate of Need Application

### Final Decision

**Applicant:** United Community & Family Services

**Docket Number:** 03-30157-CON

**Project Title:** Termination of Outpatient Services in Old Saybrook

**Statutory Reference:** Section 19a-638, Connecticut General Statutes

**Filing Date:** December 19, 2003

**Decision Date:** January 23, 2004

**Default Date:** March 18, 2004

**Staff:** Laurie K . Greci

**Project Description:** United Community & Family Services (“Applicant”) proposes to terminate its outpatient behavioral health services in Old Saybrook, Connecticut, at no capital expenditure.

**Nature of Proceedings:** On December 19, 2003, the Office of Health Care Access (“OHCA”) received the Applicant’s Certificate of Need (“CON”) application seeking authorization to terminate outpatient behavioral health services at its Old Saybrook location. The proposal has no associated capital expenditure. The Applicant is a health care facility or institution as defined by Section 19a-630 of the Connecticut General Statutes (“C.G.S.”).

On January 13, 2004, a notice to the public was published in *The Day* (New London) announcing the Applicant’s proposal to terminate its outpatient behavioral health service in Old Saybrook at no associated capital expenditure. OHCA received no comments from the public concerning the proposal.

OHCA’s authority to review and approve, modify or deny this proposal is established by Section 19a-638, C.G.S. The provisions of this section, as well as the principles and guidelines set forth in Section 19a-637, C.G.S., were fully considered by OHCA in its review.

## Findings of Fact

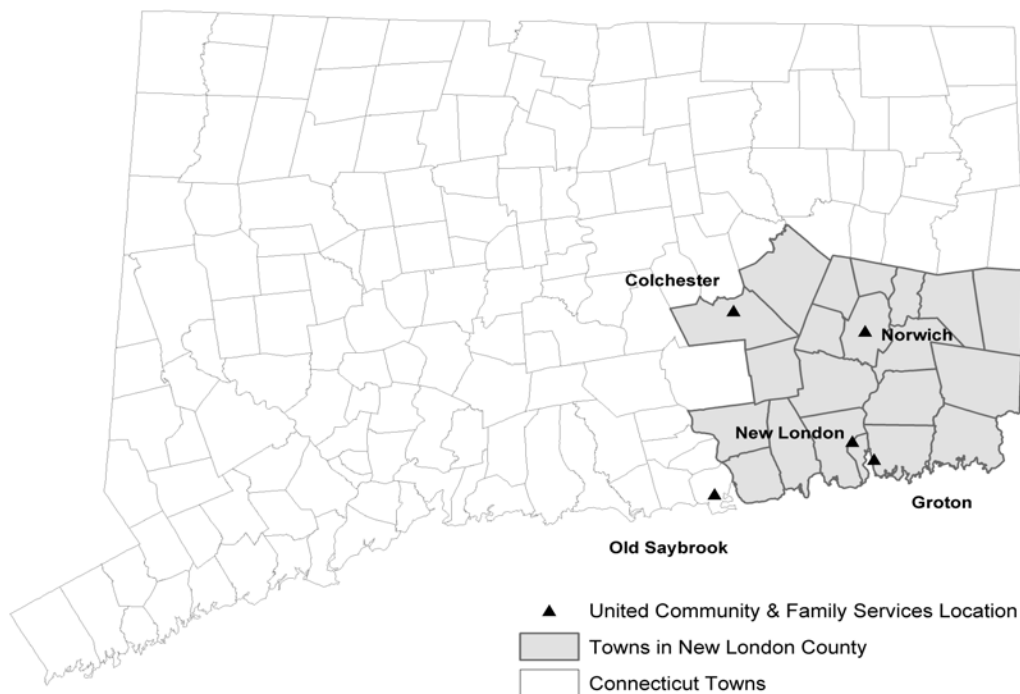
### Clear Public Need

#### Impact on the Applicant's Current Utilization Statistics

#### Contribution of the Proposal to the Quality and Accessibility of Health Care Delivery in the Region

1. United Community & Family Services ("UCFS" or "Applicant") is a voluntary, private, non-profit agency offering a broad spectrum of health and human service programs for children, families, and the aging population. *(December 19, 2003, Financial Statements, page 7)*
2. UCFS has outpatient behavioral health offices in Colchester, Groton, New London, Norwich, and Old Saybrook. The locations of the offices and the towns located in New London County are represented in the map below:

**Map 1: Locations of UCFS Offices**



*(August 21, 2003, Response Letter, page 1)*

3. UCFS proposes to terminate services at its location in Old Saybrook. UCFS is primarily based in the southeastern region of Connecticut. The Old Saybrook office has been obtained due to a merger. In addition, the office was opened only on a part-time basis. *(January 5, 2004, Facsimile Letter)*

4. Each of the following UCFC offices site has a license to operate as a psychiatric outpatient clinic for adults with a multi-service component. The location of each site and the expiration of its license is given in table below:

**Table 1: UCFC Office Locations and License Expiration Dates**

Address	Town	Expiration Date
212 Upton Road	Colchester	September 30, 2004
21 Chicago Avenue	Groton	December 31, 2004
400 Bayonet Street	New London	June 30, 2005
47 Town Street	Norwich	March 31, 2004
900 Boston Post Road	Old Saybrook	December 31, 2004

*(Department of Public Health, Facility Service Detail Report, November 17, 2003)*

5. The client caseload at the Old Saybrook office, as of August 19, 2003, is given below:

**Table 2: Client Caseload – Old Saybrook**

Client Town of Origin	No. of Clients	Client Town of Origin	No. of Clients
Branford	1	Chester	2
Clinton	1	East Lyme	2
Deep River	1	Madison	2
Portland	1	Old Lyme	3
Waterford	1	Old Saybrook	10
Windsor	1		
<b>Total Number of Clients:</b>			<b>25</b>

*(December 19, 2003, CON Application, pages 8 and 9)*

6. There are many other providers of outpatient behavioral health services in the Old Saybrook area. The following table lists those providers licensed as a psychiatric outpatient clinic for adults with the multi-service component:

**Table 3: Outpatient Behavioral Health Providers in Old Saybrook Area**

Provider Name	Town(s)
Adrienne Hutt, LMFT <sup>1</sup>	Old Saybrook
Ann Vandermaelen, PhD	Old Saybrook
Child & Family Agency of Southeastern CT, Inc.	Essex
Clinical Associates of CT	Essex
Coastal Counseling Services	Niantic
Community Health Center	Old Saybrook
East Shore Associates	Old Saybrook
Eugenia Barton, PhD, Psychotherapy	Essex, Middletown
Gateway Counseling Service, Inc.	Essex
Kim DeMatteo, LCSW <sup>1</sup>	Old Saybrook
Lynn Associates	Old Saybrook
Saybrook Counseling Center	Old Saybrook

<sup>1</sup> LMFT = Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, LCSW = Licensed Clinical Social Worker

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<b>Provider Name</b>	<b>Town(s)</b>
The Center for Psychotherapy, Inc. Youth and Family Services	Essex Old Saybrook

*(December 19, 2003, CON Application, Attachment to Page 2)*

7. Current clients will be transferred to another UCFS office or be referred to another mental health provider in or near Old Saybrook. *(August 21, 2003, Response Letter, page 2)*

**Impact of the Proposal on the Interests of Consumers of Health Care Services  
and Payers for Such Services  
Financial Feasibility of the Proposal and its Impact on the Applicant's Rates  
and Financial Condition**

8. There are no capital expenditures associated with this project. *(December 19, 2003, CON Application, page 6)*
9. UCFC expects to realize a decrease in operating expenses of \$22,020 per year by closing the Old Saybrook office; there is no projected decrease in revenue. *(December 19, 2003, CON Application, Pro Forma)*
10. The payer mix will not be impacted by the closure of the Old Saybrook office as most clients will transfer to the UCFC's New London office. The current payer mix is 64% from Medicare and Medicaid, 25% from commercial insurers, and 11% from self-paying clients. *(December 19, 2003, CON Application, page 8)*

**Consideration of Other Section 19a-637, C.G.S. Principles  
and Guidelines**

The following findings are made pursuant to principles and guidelines set forth in Section 19a-637, C.G.S.:

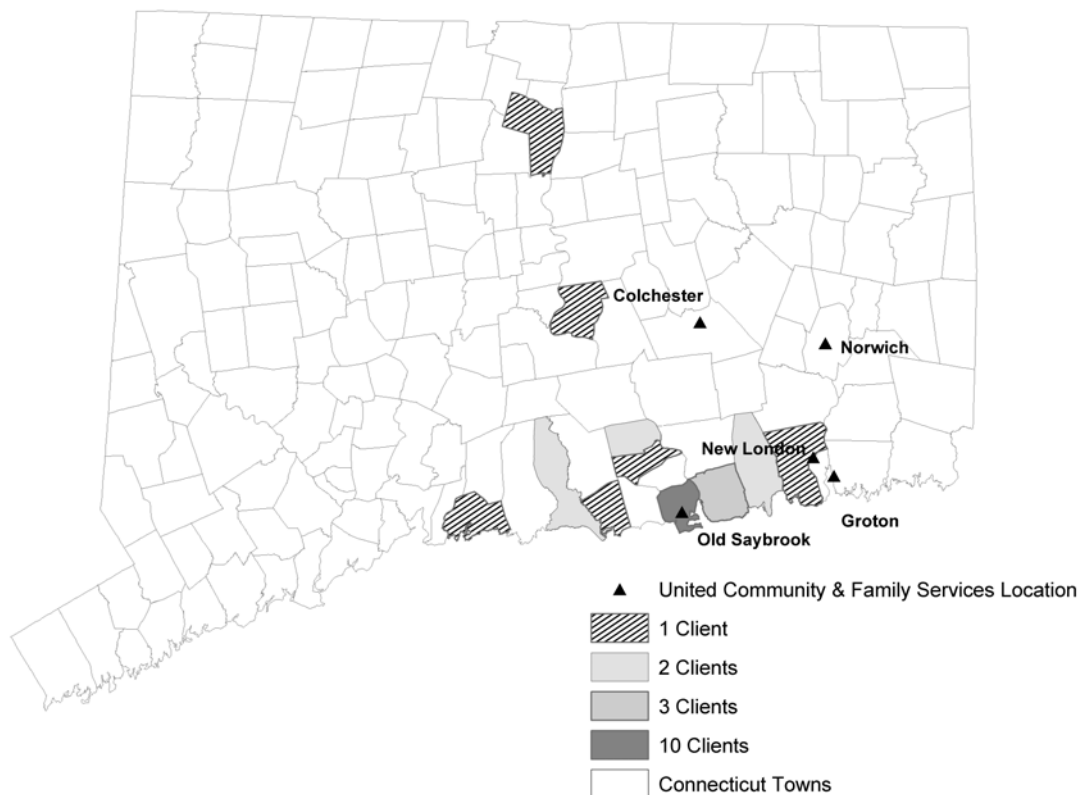
11. There is no State Health Plan in existence at this time. *(December 19, 2003, CON Application, page 2)*
12. The Applicant has adduced evidence that this proposal is consistent with the Applicant's long-range plan. *(December 19, 2003, CON Application, page 2)*
13. The Applicant has not undertaken any activities to improve productivity and contain costs. *(December 19, 2003, CON Application, page 4)*
14. This proposal will not result in changes to the Applicant's teaching and research responsibilities. *(December 19, 2003, CON Application, page 4)*
15. There are no distinguishing characteristics of the Applicant's patient/physician mix. *(December 19, 2003, CON Application, page 5)*

## Rationale

United Community & Family Services (“UCFS”) proposes to terminate its outpatient behavioral health services in Old Saybrook. UCFS bases its proposal on the expiration of the lease and on the location not being within its primary service area, the towns within the county of New London. In addition, the office operates on a part-time basis, and has a low volume of clients.

The map below demonstrates that the caseload is not concentrated within the Old Saybrook area. Almost fifty percent (12 of 25) of the clients are scattered throughout the south central area of Connecticut. There are a number of additional providers in the Old Saybrook area; the remaining clients may transfer to the New London office or seek a provider within the area.

**Map 2: Old Saybrook Client Caseload and Relation to UCFS Locations**



OHCA finds that the clients in the Old Saybrook office will receive a continuum of care once the office is closed. OHCA also finds that the proposal is financially feasible as there are no associated capital expenditures.

Based on the foregoing Findings and Rationale, the Certificate of Need application of United Community & Family Services to terminate its outpatient behavioral health service in Old Saybrook is hereby GRANTED.

## Order

United Community & Family Services is hereby authorized to terminate its outpatient behavioral health care services at 900 Boston Post Road, Old Saybrook.

All of the foregoing constitutes the final order of the Office of Health Care Access in this matter.

By Order of the  
Office of Health Care Access

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Date

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Cristine A. Vogel  
Commissioner

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