



Office of Health Care Access Certificate of Need Application

Final Decision

Applicant: Carucci Chiropractor Center

Docket Number: 03-30175-CON

Project Title: Establishment of Mountain Top Recovery Program/Outpatient Substance Abuse Recovery

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

Filing Date: January 20, 2004

Decision Date: April 12, 2004

Default Date: April 19, 2004

Staff: Paolo Fiducia

Project Description: Carucci Chiropractor Center (“Applicant”) proposes to establish Mountain Top Recovery Program, which is an outpatient substance abuse recovery program located at 415 Silas Deane Highway, Suite 400, Wethersfield, Connecticut at a total capital cost of \$45,165.

Nature of Proceeding: On January 20, 2004, the Office of Health Care Access (“OHCA”) received the Applicant’s complete Certificate of Need (“CON”) application seeking authorization to establish Mountain Top Recovery Program, which is an outpatient substance abuse recovery program located at 415 Silas Deane Highway, Suite 400, Wethersfield, Connecticut at a total capital cost of \$45,165. 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 30, 2004, the Applicant was informed that a notice to the public regarding OHCA's receipt of the Applicant's Letter of Intent ("LOI") to file its CON application would be published in the *Hartford Courant* pursuant to Section 19a-638, C.G.S. as amended by Section 1 of Public Act 03-17. OHCA received no comments from the public concerning the Applicant's LOI or CON application.

OHCA's authority to review and approve, modify or deny the CON application 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

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

Impact on the Applicant's Current Utilization Statistics

1. Carucci Chiropractor Center, LLC ("Applicant") is a for-profit limited liability corporation, which currently offers chiropractic, psychotherapy, massage therapy, exercise consultation and various exercise classes as well as auriculotherapy, at 415 Silas Deane Highway, Suite 400 in Wethersfield, Connecticut. (*January 20, 2004, CON Application page 1*)
2. The Applicant proposes to add a complementary health care-based alcohol and substance abuse treatment program ("Mountain Top Recovery Program") located at 415 Silas Deane Highway, Suite 400 in Wethersfield, Connecticut. (*January 20, 2004, CON Application page 1*)
3. The Mountain Top alcohol and substance abuse treatment program, is the result of research done at the University of Miami School of Medicine in conjunction with the Exodus Treatment Center in Miami, Florida. (*Responses to Completeness received on April 5, 2004*)
4. The Mountain Top Recovery Program consists of:
 - Torque Release Chiropracty
 - Nutritional Supplementation
 - Auriculotherapy
 - Counseling Services to include Faith base counseling
 - Group Therapy (to include family therapy)
 - 12 Step Programs
 - Massage Therapy
 - Meditation
 - Reiki
 - Yoga

Tai Chi
Pilates
Personal Fitness Training
Personal Nutritional Consultation

(Responses to Completeness received on April 5, 2004)

5. The Applicant states the program is a 4week program, and it is implemented based on the need of the individual following initial intake assessment with the doctor and the counselor. *(Responses to Completeness received on April 5, 2004)*
6. The Applicant has sufficient staffing to cover this proposal which include the following: Doctor of Chiropractor, licensed clinical social worker, licensed massage therapists, certified instructors in pilates, Yoga, tai chi, personal fitness training, meditation, and spiritual counselor. *(January 20, 2004, CON Application page 7)*
7. The Applicant is seeking the following license category: Licensed Outpatient Substance Abuse and Alcohol Program. *(January 20, 2004, CON Application page 8)*
8. The proposed service area consists of the towns of Hartford, Wethersfield, Newington, Rocky Hill and Glastonbury. *(September 5, 2003, LOI page 2)*
9. The need for the proposed facility and clinic is based on the following:
Large population of drug-dependent people in the Greater Hartford area;
Current waiting lists at existing facilities; and
Lack of available beds.
(January 20, 2004, CON Application, page 2)
10. The Applicant plans to promote the Mountain Top Recovery Program through communication with probation officers, the court system, attorneys, primary care physicians, gastroenterologists, psychologists and social workers. *(January 20, 2004, CON Application, page 3)*
11. The Applicant stated that will accept new clients weekly with a maximum of 10 clients per month for the first year.

Table 1: Volume Projections

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Number of Clients	120	240	360

(January 20, 2004, CON Application, page 3)

12. The Applicant stated that the Mountain Top Program has demonstrated a 3% recidivism rate for first time offenders after one year compared to nationally statistics which show a 75% recidivism rate. *(January 20, 2004, CON Application, page 2)*
13. The Applicant views this proposal as a tremendous opportunity for the region that offers alternatives to the self-medicating crave as well as more holistic measures.

(January 20, 2004, CON Application, page 2)

14. The Applicant stated that being centrally located it improves accessibility. *(January 20, 2004, CON Application, page 3)*

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

15. The proposed total capital cost is \$45,165 for equipment, furnishings, and a capital lease, which will be funded through the Applicant's operating funds and credit card financing. *(January 20, 2004, CON Application, page 9)*
16. The Applicant's payer mix consists of 100% self-pay. *(January 20, 2004, CON Application, page 9)*
17. The Applicant's rates are sufficient to cover the proposed capital and operating costs. *(January 20, 2004, CON Application, Financial Projections)*

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

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

18. There is no State Health Plan in existence at this time. *(January 20, 2004, CON Application, page 1)*
19. The Applicant has adduced evidence that this proposal is consistent with the Applicant's long-range plan. *(January 20, 2004, CON Application, page 1)*
20. The Applicant's proposal will improve productivity and contain costs. *(January 20, 2004, CON Application, page 7)*
21. The Applicant currently does not have teaching or research responsibilities. *(January 20, 2004, CON Application, page 7)*
23. The Applicant has sufficient technical, financial and managerial competence to provide efficient and adequate services to the public. *(January 20, 2004, CON Application, page 5)*

Rationale

The need for the proposal is based on continuity of care and access considerations for drug-dependent residents with dual diagnoses in the Greater Hartford area. The Applicant currently offers chiropractic, psychotherapy, massage therapy, exercise consultation and various exercise classes as well as auriculotherapy in Wethersfield. The Applicant proposes to add a complementary health care-based alcohol and substance abuse treatment program ("Mountain Top Recovery Program"). The Mountain Top alcohol and substance abuse treatment program, is the result of research done at the University of Miami School of Medicine in conjunction with the Exodus Treatment Center in Miami, Florida. The Mountain Top Recovery Program consists of Torque Release Chiropractic, Nutritional Supplementation, Auriculotherapy, Counseling Services to include Faith base counseling, Group Therapy (to include family therapy), 12 Step Programs, Massage Therapy, Meditation, Reiki, Yoga, Tai Chi, Pilates, Personal Fitness Training, and Personal Nutritional Consultation. The Applicant plans to promote the Mountain Top Recovery Program through communication with probation officers, the court system, attorneys, primary care physicians, gastroenterologists, psychologists and social workers. The proposed additional programs will ensure that both the substance abuse and psychiatric needs of the population are being met.

The Applicant stated that the Mountain Top Program has demonstrated a 3% recidivism rate for first time offenders after one year compared to nationally statistics which show a 75% recidivism rate. The Applicant views this proposal as a tremendous opportunity for the region that offers alternatives to the self-medicating crave as well as more holistic measures. The Applicant stated that being centrally located it improves accessibility. The proposal will contribute in a favorable way to the quality and accessibility of health care delivery in the region.

This type of program has not been presented in Connecticut before, therefore it is difficult to evaluate if it will achieve its projected volume of 120 patients during the first year of operation. If the volumes are achieved, the proposal is financially feasible. The payer mix for this program is 100% self-pay. The total capital cost of \$45,165 is for equipment, furnishings, and a capital lease, which will be funded through the Applicant's operating funds and credit card financing. OHCA concludes that the CON proposal is both financially feasible and cost-effective. Therefore, the CON proposal is in the best interests of consumers and payers.

Based upon the forgoing Findings of Fact and Rationale the Certificate of Need application of Carucci Chiropractor Center, LLC to establish a Mountain Top Recovery program which is a outpatient substance abuse recovery located at 415 Silas Deane Highway, Suite 400, Wethersfield, Connecticut at a total capital cost of \$45,165, is hereby GRANTED.

ORDER

Carucci Chiropractor Center, LLC is hereby authorized to establish a Mountain Top Recovery program/Outpatient Substance Abuse Recovery located at 415 Silas Deane Highway, Suite 400, Wethersfield, Connecticut at a total capital cost of \$45,165, subject to the following conditions:

1. This authorization shall expire on April 12, 2005, unless the Applicant presents evidence to OHCA that the programs have commenced operation by that date.
2. The Applicant shall not exceed the approved capital cost of \$45,165. In the event that the Applicant learns of potential cost increases or expects that the final project costs will exceed those approved, the Applicant shall file with OHCA a request for approval of the revised project budget.

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

April 12, 2004

Signed by Cristine A. Vogel
Commissioner

CAV/pf