



## Office of Health Care Access Certificate of Need Application

### Final Decision

**Applicant:** Ability in Motion, Inc.

**Docket Number:** 04-30336-CON

**Project Title:** Establishment of Outpatient Mental Health Facility for the Learning Disabled

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

**Filing Date:** November 23, 2004

**Decision Date:** December 28, 2004

**Default Date:** February 21, 2005

**Staff:** Laurie K. Greci

**Project Description:** Ability in Motion, Inc. (“Applicant”) proposes to establish an outpatient mental health treatment facility for the learning disabled at 4749 Main Street in Bridgeport, Connecticut, at no associated capital expenditure.

**Nature of Proceeding:** On November 23, 2004, the Office of Health Care Access (“OHCA”) received the Applicant’s completed Certificate of Need (“CON”) application seeking authorization to establish an outpatient mental health treatment facility for the learning disabled at 4749 Main Street in Bridgeport, Connecticut, at 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 August 11, 2004, the Applicant was informed that a notice to the public regarding OHCA’s receipt of its Letter of Intent was published in the *Connecticut Post* (Bridgeport). OHCA received no comments from the public concerning the Applicant’s proposal.

OHCA's authority to review and approve, modify or deny this 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. Ability in Motion, Inc. ("Applicant") is a for-profit company incorporated in New York State that provides guidance and job placement services to the learning disabled at 4749 Main Street, Bridgeport, Connecticut. (*October 12, 2004, CON Application, page 18*)
2. The Applicant's clients often have psychological disabilities, including depression, anxiety disorders, substance abuse, and other psychiatric issues. (*October 12, 2004, CON Application, page 1*)
3. The Applicant proposes to establish an outpatient mental health treatment facility for patients with learning disabilities at 4749 Main Street in Bridgeport. (*July 14, 2004, Letter of Intent, page 2*)
4. The Applicant currently provides vocational rehabilitation, vocational counseling, job placement, job counseling, and social skills training. The Application proposes to add psychological evaluations, individual, family, and group counseling, and behavioral health modification services. (*October 12, 2004, CON Application, page 2*)
5. The targeted population to be served is those persons with cognitive and physical disabilities with concurrent psychological problems. (*October 12, 2004, CON Application, page 1*)
6. The proposed primary service area consists of the towns of Bridgeport, Fairfield, Stratford, and Norwalk; the secondary service area consists of the towns of Ansonia, Derby, Greenwich, Milford, Orange, Shelton, Stamford, and West Haven. (*October 12, 2004, CON Application, page 1*)
7. There are limited resources in the service area where the targeted population can access psychological testing and counseling services. The only available services in the greater Bridgeport area are the Southwest clinic and the Mental Health Center. The Southwest Clinic has an extensive waiting list and the Mental Health Center accepts only dually diagnosed patients with severe mental illness. The majority of

clients that the Applicant is proposing to provide services to are not eligible for services at the Mental Health Center. *(November 23, 2004, Completeness Response, page 2)*

8. The Applicant's facility is located in a centralized location in the city and is on a bus route. *(October 12, 2004, CON Application, page 2)*
9. The Applicant has been working in collaboration with a number of Connecticut state agencies over the past four years, including the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services, the Department of Mental Retardation, and the Department of Social Services. The Applicant has also been partnering with local school boards, such as the Trumbull, Bridgeport and Shelton Boards of Education to provide vocation, social, and employment training to individuals with disabilities. Each entity provided the Applicant with an approximate number of individuals that may benefit from psychological evaluations and counseling services. *(November 23, 2004, Completeness Response, pages 1 and 2)*
10. The Applicant projects the following number of visits and psychological evaluations for Fiscal Years ("FY") 2005, 2006, and 2007:

**Table 1: Facility Volume by Fiscal Year**

	<b>FY 2005</b>	<b>FY 2006</b>	<b>FY 2007</b>
Number of Visits	1,440	1,752	2,100
Number of Psychological Evaluations	480	576	696

*(October 12, 2004, CON Application, pages 2 and 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**

11. There is no associated capital expenditure. *(November 23, 2004, Completeness Response, page 3)*
12. The Applicant will hire two part-time psychologists during the first year of operation. The psychologists will be hourly employees and will be available based on the number of client contact hours per week. Each psychologist will treat 100 clients per year and as the program expands, more psychologists will be employed on an hourly or per diem basis. *(November 23, 2004, Completeness Response, page 3)*
13. The Applicant projects excess revenues of \$70,560, \$145,152 and \$170,712 for FYs 2005, 2006, and 2007 with the proposal. *(October 12, 2004, CON Application, page 9)*

14. The Applicant's current and projected payer mix is given in the following table:

**Table 2 Total Facility Current and Projected Payer Mix**

Payer	Current Payer Mix	Projected Payor Mix		
		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Medicare	40%	40%	30%	30%
Medicaid	40%	30%	30%	30%
Commercial Insurers	10%	20%	30%	30%
Workers Compensation	5%	5%	5%	5%
Uncompensated Care	5%	5%	5%	5%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

*(October 12, 2004, CON Application page 8)*

## **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.:

15. There is no State Health Plan in existence at this time. *(October 12, 2004, CON Application, page 2)*
16. The Applicant's proposal is consistent with the Applicant's long-range plan. *(October 12, 2004, CON Application, page 2)*
17. The Applicant's proposal will not result in an improvement to productivity or containment of costs. *(October 12, 2004, CON Application, page 4)*
18. The Applicant currently has no teaching or research responsibilities; the proposal will not result in the addition of those responsibilities. *(October 12, 2004, CON Application, page 4)*
19. There are no distinguishing characteristics of the Applicant's patient/physician mix that makes the proposal unique. *(October 12, 2004, CON Application, page 4)*
20. The Applicant's rates are sufficient to cover the proposed operating costs. *(October 12, 2004, CON Application, page 4)*
21. The Applicant has sufficient technical, financial and managerial competence to provide efficient and adequate services to the public. *(October 12, 2004, CON Application, page 13 and pages 23 to 35)*

## Rationale

Ability in Motion, Inc. proposes to provide psychological evaluations and outpatient mental health services to clients with cognitive and physical disabilities who have concurrent psychological problems. The Applicant currently provides these clients with vocational rehabilitation, vocational counseling, job placement services and job placement counseling. The Applicant projects to serve 200 clients a year for the first three years of operation. The proposal will contribute in a favorable way to the quality and accessibility of health care delivery in the region.

The proposal is financially feasible. There is no associated capital expenditure with the proposal. The Applicant will hire two-part time psychologists during the first year and increase staff as needed. With the proposal, the Applicant projects excess revenues of \$70,560, \$145,152 and \$170,712 for FYs 2005, 2006, and 2007, respectively. If volume projections are achieved, the Applicant's revenue will be sufficient to cover the operating costs associated with the project. 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 Ability in Motion, Inc. to establish an outpatient mental health facility at 4749 Main Street, Bridgeport, Connecticut at no associated capital expenditure is hereby GRANTED.

## Order

Ability in Motion, Inc. is hereby authorized to establish an outpatient mental health facility for the learning disabled at 4749 Main Street, Bridgeport, Connecticut, at no associated capital expenditure, subject to the following conditions:

1. This authorization shall expire on December 28, 2005, unless the Applicant presents evidence to OHCA that the authorized services have been implemented by that date.

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

December 28, 2004

Signed by Cristine A. Vogel  
Commissioner

CAV/lkg