



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF HEALTH CARE ACCESS

M. JODI RELL
GOVERNOR

CRISTINE A. VOGEL
COMMISSIONER

July 10, 2006

Holly E. Dreger, LCSW
Clinic Director
Affirmation Counseling Center, LLC
553 Portland-Cobalt Road
Portland, CT 06480

RE: Certificate of Need Determination; Report Number 06-30725-EXM
Affirmation Counseling Center, LLC
CON Exemption Pursuant to Section 19a-639b, C.G.S.
Establish Psychiatric Outpatient Treatment Program for Adults and Children in Portland

Dear Ms. Dreger:

The Office of Health Care Access ("OHCA") is in receipt of your request for exemption from the Certificate of Need ("CON") process, pursuant to Section 19a-639b of the Connecticut General Statutes ("C.G.S."), to establish a psychiatric outpatient treatment program for adults and children at 553 Portland-Cobalt Road in Portland.

Upon review of the information contained in the request, OHCA finds the following:

1. Affirmation Counseling Center, LLC ("ACC") is a non-profit facility that provides ambulatory psychiatric outpatient services as a private practice employing individual clinicians to provide counseling services to children, adolescents, adults, couples and families at 553 Portland-Cobalt Road in Portland, Connecticut.
2. ACC is proposing to establish a psychiatric outpatient treatment program for adults and children at 553 Portland-Cobalt Road in Portland.
3. The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services ("DMHAS"), in a letter dated June 26, 2006, from Deputy Commissioner Peter B. Rockholz, M.S.S.W., recommends an exemption under CGS Section 19a-639b for Affirmation Counseling Center, LLC to provide outpatient psychiatric services for adults.

An Equal Opportunity Employer
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4. DMHAS states that ACC will serve the Portland, East Hampton, Cromwell, Middletown and Middlefield area. The facility anticipates serving approximately 100 to 120 clients annually.
5. The Department of Children and Families (“DCF”), in a letter dated May 2, 2006, from Commissioner Darlene Dunbar, MSW, supports the proposal and the waiver of the CON requirements, pursuant to Section 19a-639b, C.G.S.
6. DCF states that this program provides evaluations, diagnoses, and ambulatory treatment of individuals who have mental, emotional or behavioral problems, disturbances dysfunction or disorders. The population currently served is predominately Caucasian middle class adults and children. ACC would like to include adults and children of varied cultural, ethnic, and economic backgrounds that may be on state Husky insurance, uninsured, or who need outpatient psychiatric services but are currently underserved.
7. The total capital expenditure associated with the proposal is \$0.

Based on the above findings, OHCA has determined that Affirmation Counseling Center, LLC’s request to establish a psychiatric outpatient treatment program for adults and children at 553 Portland-Cobalt Road in Portland meets the exemption requirements of Section 19a-636b of the Connecticut General Statutes and, therefore, is exempt from OHCA’s CON process. Termination of these services would require CON approval, pursuant to Section 19a-638, C.G.S.

Thank you for providing information to OHCA regarding this proposal. If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact Paolo Fiducia, Associate Health Care Analyst, Certification, Financial Analysis and Forecasting, at (860) 418-7001.

Sincerely,

Signed by Cristine A. Vogel
Commissioner

C: Peter B. Rockholz, M.S.S.W., Deputy Commissioner, DMHAS
Darlen Dunbar, MSW, Commissioner, DCF
Sandra Bauer, Health Processing Technician, DPH, DCBR
Al Bidorini, Director, OPAS, DMHAS
Donna C. Stimpson, Planning Specialist, DMHAS

CAV:pf