



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
OFFICE OF HEALTH CARE ACCESS

M. JODI RELL  
GOVERNOR

CRISTINE A. VOGEL  
COMMISSIONER

February 2, 2009

William A. Aniskovich  
Chief Executive Officer  
Stonington Institute  
234A Bank Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New London, CT 06320

RE: CON Determination 08-31288-DTR  
Stonington Behavioral Health, Inc., d/b/a Stonington Institute Proposal to Change Age of  
Client Population in Intensive Treatment for Primary Substance Diagnoses

Dear Mr. Aniskovich:

On December 19, 2008, the Office of Health Care Access ("OHCA") received your letter concerning the proposal of Stonington Institute to change the age of the client population of Stonington's Intensive Treatment Service provided at 75 Swantown Hill Road in North Stonington, Connecticut. OHCA has reviewed the CON Determination form pursuant to Section 19a-643-74 of OHCA's Regulations and has made the following findings:

1. Stonington Behavioral Health, Inc. d/b/a Stonington Institute ("Stonington") is a freestanding substance abuse treatment center with service locations in North Stonington, Groton, Waterford, Willimantic, and Danielson, Connecticut. Stonington's main campus is located at 75 Swantown Road in North Stonington. (*December 19, 2008, CON Determination Form, page 4.*)
2. Stonington currently offers the following services at its main campus:
  - a) Four (4) Acute Psychiatric beds for adolescent girls, licensed by the Department of Public Health ("DPH");
  - b) Thirteen (13) Residential Detoxification and Evaluation ("RDE") beds for adults, licensed by DPH;
  - c) Ten (10) residential treatment beds for adolescents with developmental disabilities and co-occurring behavioral health disorders ("DD Unit"), licensed by the Department of Children and Families ("DCF"); and

- d) Forty-five (45) intensive treatment/residential treatment beds for adolescents with primary substance abuse diagnoses licensed by both DPH (intensive treatment) and DCF (residential treatment).  
(December 19, 2008, CON Determination Form, p. 4.)
3. Stonington provides adult outpatient substance abuse and mental health services at its other locations under separate DPH licenses. (December 19, 2008, CON Determination Form, p. 4.)
4. Stonington is proposing to change the age of the client population for its forty-five intensive treatment beds at North Stonington from adolescent (ages 12 to 17) to adult (ages 18 and up). (December 19, 2008, CON Determination Form, p. 4.)
5. As noted above, the forty-five beds are currently licensed by DPH as a Facility for the Care or Treatment of Substance Abusive or Dependent Persons and are classified as intensive treatment. (December 19, 2008, CON Determination Form, p. 4.)
6. There will be no change in the licensed bed capacity. (December 19, 2008, CON Determination Form, p. 4.)
7. Stonington will relinquish its DCF license for a Child Care Facility – Residential Treatment Center, as this license is unnecessary for the treatment of an adult population. (December 19, 2008, CON Determination Form, p. 4.)
8. Although Stonington proposes to no longer serve adolescents in its forty-five (45) bed Residential Treatment Substance Abuse unit, it will continue to operate its ten (10) bed unit for adolescents with developmental disabilities and co-occurring behavioral health disorders. Therefore, Stonington will retain its DCF license for the ten (10) bed DD Unit. (December 19, 2008, CON Determination Form, p. 4.)
9. In support of the proposal, Stonington indicates that the average daily census for its 45-bed program for adolescents with a primary diagnosis of substance abuse has declined from 44.9 in 2004 to 23.33 in 2007. (December 19, 2008, CON Determination Form, p. 4.)
10. As of the filing of the CON Determination on December 19, 2008, the average daily census for 2008 was 16.1. (December 19, 2008, CON Determination Form, p. 4.)
11. In light of the declining utilization of the forty-five (45) bed residential treatment unit for adolescents with primary substance abuse diagnoses, Stonington decided that a discontinuation of serving 12 to 17 years olds in this unit would be the “most prudent course of action.” (December 19, 2008, CON Determination Form, p. 4.)

12. General Statutes § 19a-638 (2) states that:

*“[e]ach health care facility or institution or state health care facility or institution, including any inpatient rehabilitation facility, which intends to introduce any additional function or service into its program of health care shall submit to the office, prior to the proposed date of the institution of such function or service, a request for permission to undertake such function or service.”*

13. General Statutes § 19a-638 (3) provides that:

*“[e]ach health care facility or institution or state health care facility or institution which intends to terminate a health service offered by such facility or institution or reduce substantially its total bed capacity, shall submit to the office, prior to the proposed date of such termination or decrease, a request to undertake such termination or decrease.”*

Based upon the findings presented above and pursuant to § 19a-638, OHCA has determined that Stonington’s proposal to change the age of the client population served in its forty-five (45) bed intensive treatment program for individuals with a primary substance abuse diagnosis does not require a Certificate of Need. Stonington will continue to provide the same services under the DPH license as a Facility for the Care and Treatment of Substance Abusive or Dependent persons. Therefore, Stonington is neither terminating a service nor proposing to offer an additional service since it has provided and will continue to provide intensive treatment to individuals with a primary substance abuse diagnosis.

If you have any questions concerning the above or the CON process, please feel free to contact Melanie Dillon, Staff Attorney at (860) 418-7001.

Sincerely,

***Signed by Commissioner Vogel on February 2, 2009***

Cristine A. Vogel  
Commissioner

Cc: Jennifer Groves, Esquire, Updike & Kelly  
Joan Leavitt, Section Chief, Facility Licensing and Investigations Section, DPH  
Sandra Bauer, Health Processing Technician, DPH, DCBR