



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

M. JODI RELL  
GOVERNOR

CRISTINE A. VOGEL  
COMMISSIONER

January 29, 2009

Heidi Chelednik  
Service Director  
Ability Beyond Disability, Inc.  
4 Berkshire Blvd.  
Bethel, CT 06801

RE: Certificate of Need Determination; Report Number 09-31299-EXM  
Ability Beyond Disability, Inc.  
CON Exemption Request Pursuant to Section 19a-639b, C.G.S.  
Establish Therapeutic Group Home in Wolcott

Dear Ms. Chelednik:

On January 20, 2009, 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 specialized group home with behavioral health and support services at 18 Beecher Road in Wolcott.

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

1. Ability Beyond Disability, Inc. is a non-profit corporation headquartered at 4 Berkshire Blvd. in Bethel, Connecticut, that provides treatment and support programs for children and youth throughout the Bethel area.
2. Ability Beyond Disability, Inc. is proposing to establish a therapeutic group home to be located at 18 Beecher Road in Wolcott.
3. The Department of Children and Families ("DCF"), in a letter received January 27, 2009, from Commissioner Susan I. Hamilton, JD, MSW endorses the proposal and the waiver of the CON requirements, pursuant to Section 19a-639b, C.G.S.
4. DCF states that each home will be licensed as a group home for 6 youth 16-21 years of age and will serve the entire state of Connecticut. These programs will assist in meeting

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the identified need for programs serving youth with high level psychiatric impairment and /or extreme behavioral disturbance and youth with neurological and cognitive deficits along with the psychiatric issues. Contracts for these programs have been executed with DCF. The program anticipates serving 6 females annually.

5. DCF also states that the programs will provide intensive behavioral health services and training in activities of daily living within a structured therapeutic milieu with specialized behavior programming techniques, including behavior analysis, individualized reinforcement schedules, instruction in coping skills and behavior contracts.
6. The total capital expenditure associated with the proposal is \$650,000.

Based on the above findings, OHCA has determined that Ability Beyond Disability, Inc. request to establish a specialized group home with behavioral health and support services to be located at 18 Beecher Road in Wolcott meets the exemption requirements of Section 19a-639b 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, Certificate of Need Unit, at (860) 418-7001.

Sincerely,

***Signed by Commissioner Vogel on January 29, 2009***

Cristine A. Vogel  
Commissioner

C: Honorable Susan I. Hamilton, MSW., J.D. Commissioner, DCF  
Sandra Bauer, Licensing Examination Assistant, DPH, FLIS

CAV:pf