



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
*Office of Health Care Access*

December 9, 2009

Peter Nucci  
President/Chief Executive Officer  
The Connection, Inc.  
205 Orange Street  
New Haven, CT 06511

RE: Certificate of Need Determination; Report Number 09-31494-EXM  
The Connection, Inc.  
CON Exemption Pursuant to Section 19a-639b, C.G.S.  
Merger between The Connection, Inc. and ALSO-Cornerstone, Inc.

Dear Mr. Nucci:

On November 16, 2009, the Office of Health Care Access ("OHCA") received your request for an exemption from the Certificate of Need ("CON") process, pursuant to Section 19a-639b of the Connecticut General Statutes ("C.G.S."), for the merger between The Connection, Inc. with ALSO-Cornerstone, Inc.

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

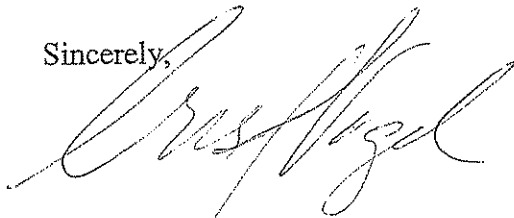
1. The Connection, Inc. ("TCI") is a non-profit facility providing psychiatric and substance abuse treatment for adults at various locations in Connecticut.
2. ALSO-Cornerstone, Inc. ("ALSO") is a non-profit facility providing psychiatric and substance abuse treatment for adults at various locations in Connecticut.
3. This proposal is for the merger of TCI with ALSO. TCI will be the surviving entity.
4. The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services ("DMHAS"), in a letter dated November 23, 2009, from Chief Operating Officer Paul J. Di Leo, MS, FACHE, recommends an exemption be granted under CGS Section 19a-639b for the merger between The Connection, Inc. and ALSO-Cornerstone, Inc. The merger will provide increased administrative efficiencies while assuring continued access to psychiatric and/or substance abuse services for adults.

5. DMHAS states that TCI shall continue as the surviving corporation and, as such, ALSO will cease to exist. TCI is committed to maintaining all current services and staffing levels at each ALSO location. Mental health and substance abuse treatment services will be maintained at the current capacity, serving the same client population at each facility.
6. DMHAS also states that the merger will improve client access to services by linking the existing services of each agency and creating new opportunities for service development. Additionally, the merger will promote cross-training of staff and improvements in service delivery models, along with a commitment to reinvesting of any realized cost efficiencies in the delivery and quality of services.
7. There is no associated capital expenditure with this proposal.

Based on the above findings, OHCA has determined that the merger between The Connection, Inc. with ALSO-Cornerstone, Inc. 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, at (860) 418-7001.

Sincerely,



Cristine A. Vogel  
Commissioner

C: Paul J. Di Leo, MS, FACHE, Chief Operating Officer, DMHAS  
Sandra Bauer, Health Processing Technician, DPH, DCBR  
Al Bidorini, Director, OPAS, DMHAS  
Donna C. Stimpson, Planning Specialist, DMHAS

CAV:pf