



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

M. JODI RELL  
GOVERNOR

CRISTINE A. VOGEL  
COMMISSIONER

July 21, 2004

Martha S. Hauhuth  
Executive Director  
Positive Directions-The Center for Prevention & Recovery  
420 Post Road West  
Westport, CT 06880

Re: Certificate of Need Determination Report Number 04-30310-DTR  
Positive Directions – The Center for Prevention & Recovery  
Establishment of a psychiatric outpatient clinic for adults

Dear Ms. Hauhuth:

The Office of Health Care Access (“OHCA”) is in receipt of your application for exemption from the Certificate of Need (“CON”) process, pursuant to Section 19a-639b of the Connecticut General Statutes (“C.G.S.”) for the establishment of a mental health psychiatric outpatient clinic at 420 Post Road West in Westport, Connecticut. Please be advised that OHCA has reviewed the information submitted and makes the following findings:

1. Positive Directions is a non-profit organization that has provided outpatient substance abuse counseling services for over 30 years. It is currently licensed as a Facility for the Care of Treatment of Substance Abusive or Dependent Persons.
2. Positive Directions is proposing to assume the outpatient mental health services that were provided by the Westport Clinic for thirty years. These services will be available to existing clients as appropriate and for new clients.
3. Positive Directions proposes to be licensed as a psychiatric outpatient clinic for adults.
4. The Westport Clinic closed on June 30, 2004 and the closing has left the Westport/Weston community without a licensed sliding scale mental health facility.
5. Positive Directions estimates that approximately 70% of the clients seeking mental health services will be adults.

6. The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (“DMHAS”), in a letter dated July 6, 2004, from Commissioner Thomas A. Kirk, Jr., Ph.D., supports the proposal to provide outpatient mental health services that were previously provided through a contract with Norwalk Hospital at the Westport Clinic. DMHAS also and recommends the exemption under Section 19a-639b, C.G.S.

Based on the above findings, OHCA has determined that the proposal by Positive Directions – The Center for Prevention & Recovery to offer outpatient mental health services at 420 Post Road West in Westport meets the exemption requirements of Section 19a-639b, C.G.S. and, therefore, is exempt from OHCA’s Certificate of Need process.

Thank you for keeping OHCA informed of your plans regarding the proposal. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Paolo Fiducia at (860) 418-7001.

Sincerely,

Signed by Cristine A. Vogel  
Commissioner

c: Honorable Thomas A. Kirk, Jr., PhD., Commissioner, DMHAS  
Sandra Bauer, Health Processing Technician, DPH, DCBR