



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF HEALTH CARE ACCESS

M. JODI RELL
GOVERNOR

CRISTINE A. VOGEL
COMMISSIONER

September 16, 2004

Mark Tallo
Legal Council
Office of Public Health Preparedness
Department of Public Health
410 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06134

**RE: Certificate of Need Determination; Report Number 03-30373-DTR
State of Connecticut, Department of Public Health
Establishment of a Mobile 100 Bed Acute Care Hospital**

Dear Mr. Tallo:

On September 14, 2004, the Office of Health Care Access ("OHCA") received your CON Determination request on behalf of State of Connecticut, Department of Public Health for the establishment of a mobile 100 bed acute care hospital to be stored at Connecticut Valley Hospital ground in Middletown, Connecticut, at an approximate cost of \$8,000,000.

OHCA has reviewed the information contained in the request and makes the following findings:

1. Department of Public Health ("DPH") is a State of Connecticut Agency located at 410 Capitol Avenue, Hartford Connecticut.
2. The State of Connecticut is required to develop and implement a surge capacity plan that could accommodate at least 1,700 patients statewide under the Center for Disease Control Public Health Preparedness and Response for Bioterrorism grant.
3. Consequently, DPH as part of its preparedness planning activities, Connecticut was required by Health and Human Services to identify a "Type C" isolation facility where smallpox patients would be treated if it became necessary.
4. DPH proposes to purchase, equip and operationalize a 100 bed mobile hospital to enhance the state's surge capacity during an unanticipated emergency event or infectious disease outbreak.

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5. The proposed mobile hospital will have 30 intensive care, 10 step-down and 60 acute and ambulatory beds. The facility will also have the capacity to be deployed in 25 bed increments to provide triage and treatment anywhere in the state in the event of a mass casualty, to support an acute care hospital after catastrophic structural/mechanical failure or to support a mass gathering event.
6. The services to be offered will depend on the needed use of the facility. The facility could support infectious disease outbreak by providing services comparable to those in any acute care hospital or provide triage and treatment in the event of a mass casualty event or support a mass gathering event.
7. The proposed mobile facility components will be stored in Middletown, Connecticut. If in use as an isolation facility, the 100 bed structure would be set up in Middletown on the grounds of Connecticut Valley Hospital. Otherwise, the mobile facility could be located anywhere in the state depending upon need.
8. The proposed mobile facility is intended to serve the entire State of Connecticut.
9. The total approximate cost of the proposed mobile facility is \$8,000,000. Of the amount approximately \$3,000,000 will be used for the purchase of medical equipment and the remaining amount of approximately \$5,000,000 will be used for the purchase of non-medical equipment.
10. Pursuant to Section 19a-630, C.G.S. (“Connecticut General Statutes”) a State health care facility is defined as “a hospital or other such facility or institution operated by the state providing services which are eligible for reimbursement under Title XVIII or XIX of the federal Social Security Act.”
11. Pursuant to Section 19a-638 of the Connecticut General Statutes (“C.G.S.”), the Office of Health Care Access (“OHCA”) may hold a hearing whenever a health care facility or institution proposes to introduce a new or additional function or service, or terminate a service.
12. Pursuant to Section 19a-639, C.G.S., OHCA is required to hold a hearing whenever any health care facility or institution proposes a capital expenditure exceeding one million dollars, the acquisition of major medical equipment having a cost exceeding four hundred thousand dollars, including the leasing of equipment or a facility, or whenever any person proposes a capital expenditure to acquire imaging equipment having a cost exceeding four hundred thousand dollars, including the leasing of such equipment.

According to the above definitions, the Department of Public Health (“DPH”) is a state health care facility for certificate of need purposes. Further, your request to establish a mobile 100 bed acute care hospital involves establishment of a new service, as well as a capital expenditure over \$1,000,000, therefore, pursuant to C.G.S. sections 19a-638 and 19a-639 a certificate of need is required for your proposal.

OHCA considers the DPH's September 14, 2004 CON Determination letter as the completed Letter of Intent for this matter; therefore DPH may file a CON application with OHCA between November 13, 2004 and January 12, 2005. The CON application is being mailed to your attention separately.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please contact Steven Lazarus, Associate Health Care Analyst at (860) 418-7012.

Sincerely,

Signed by Cristine A. Vogel
Commissioner

CAV:sl

Copy: Sandra C. Bauer, Division of Community Based Regulation, DPH