



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

M. JODI RELL  
GOVERNOR

CRISTINE A. VOGEL  
COMMISSIONER

September 15, 2008

Joel Kershner  
CFO  
Justice Resource Institute, Inc.  
545 Boylston Street, Suit 700  
Boston, MA 02116

RE: Certificate of Need Determination; Report Number 08-31204-EXM  
Justice Resource Institute, Inc.  
CON Exemption Request Pursuant to Section 19a-639b, C.G.S.  
Establish Residential Treatment Service for Children and Youth with Cognitive  
Limitations in Thompson

Dear Mr. Kershner:

On July 16, 2008, the Office of Health Care Access ("OHCA") received your additional information of the application 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 residential treatment service for children and youth with cognitive limitations at 75 Church Street in Thompson.

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

1. Justice Resource Institute, Inc. ("JRI") is a non-profit facility located at 545 Boylston Street in Boston, Massachusetts.
2. JRI is proposing to establish a residential treatment service for children and youth (up to fifteen clients) with cognitive limitations at 75 Church Street, Thompson, Connecticut.
3. JRI indicated that there are currently two structures at the proposed site. The first main structure site consists of approximately 10,000 sq. ft. and the second structure site consists of a 4,500 sq. ft. building.

4. The first site will serve as the program's school, clinical, medical and administrative spaces, food preparation, dining space, common areas, and indoor recreation space. The second site building's living areas will be comprised of three single rooms and two double rooms per area.
5. JRI states that it will offer intensive residential treatment, education, social setting, and medical services for up to fifteen mildly cognitive impaired (50-70 IQ) boys and girls with concurrent behavioral, mental health, and medical issues.
6. JRI will employ a DBT based cognitive-behavioral trauma informed model that uses a system of positive incentives that will help the students establish coping skills and overcome dangerous or self-injurious behavior.
7. Additionally, JRI states that the students will engage in a full academic instruction schedule in their on-site Department of Education approved school, five days a week, year round. Leisure activities, sports, and outings as well as on-site activities will help to develop appropriate social behavior.
8. The Department of Children and Families ("DCF"), and Department of Developmental Services ("DDS") in a letter received by OHCA on June 4, 2008, and September 11, 2008, from Commissioners Susan I. Hamilton, JD, MSW, and Peter H. O'Meara, endorses the proposal and the waiver of the CON requirements, pursuant to Section 19a-639b, C.G.S.
9. DCF and DDS state that there is a critical need in Connecticut for residential treatment services for children and youth with cognitive limitations. There are currently no contracted residential treatment centers in Connecticut for the youth with intellectual disabilities served by the Agencies.
10. DCF and DDS jointly published an RFP to procure the residential treatment program for children and youth with cognitive limitations and co-morbid psychiatric conditions. The RFP represented a direct effort to address an acknowledged shortage and recent decline in the in-state capacity to serve the specialty population.
11. DCF and DDS also state that the availability of additional beds is critical to serve Connecticut's youth as close to home as possible and reduce the number of children that must be placed out of state.
12. DCF and DDS additionally state that the JRI will be licensed as a Child Caring Facility by DCF for the provision of residential treatment services.
13. The total capital expenditure associated with the proposal is \$2,600,000.

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Based on the above findings, OHCA has determined that Justice Resource Institute, Inc.'s request to establish a residential treatment service for children and youth with cognitive limitations at 75 Church Street in Thompson, Connecticut, meets the exemption requirements of Section 19a-639b of the Connecticut General Statutes and, therefore, is exempt from OHCA's CON process and the proposed capital expenditure does not exceed \$3,000,000. 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 Diane Duran, PPT Health Care Analyst, Certification, Financial Analysis and Forecasting, at (860) 418-7001.

Sincerely,

*Signed by Commissioner Vogel on September 15, 2008*

Cristine A. Vogel  
Commissioner

C: Honorable Susan I. Hamilton, MSW., J.D. Commissioner, DCF  
Honorable Peter H. O'Meara, Commissioner, DDS

CAV: dd