



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
OFFICE OF HEALTH CARE ACCESS

M. JODI RELL  
GOVERNOR

CRISTINE A. VOGEL  
COMMISSIONER

August 25, 2008

Carole A. Shomo  
Chief Executive Officer  
Youth Continuum, Inc.  
746 Chapel Street  
New Haven, CT 06510

RE: Certificate of Need Determination; Report Number 08-31214-EXM  
Youth Continuum, Inc.  
CON Exemption Request Pursuant to Section 19a-639b, C.G.S.  
Establish Therapeutic Group Home – Laurel House in Bridgeport

Dear Ms. Shomo:

On August 1, 2008, 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 therapeutic group home at 657 Laurel Avenue in Bridgeport.

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

1. Youth Continuum is a non-profit corporation headquartered at 746 Chapel Street in New Haven, Connecticut, that provides treatment and support programs for children and youth throughout the New Haven area.
2. Youth Continuum is proposing to establish a therapeutic group home to be located at 657 Laurel Avenue in Bridgeport.
3. The Department of Children and Families (“DCF”), in a letter dated August 13, 2008, 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 Youth Continuum is a 501-c-3 non-profit corporation headquartered in New Haven, Connecticut that provides a continuum of treatment and support programs

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for children and youth throughout the New Haven area. Services funded by DCF include therapeutic group homes, positive youth development services, and support for foster children/families. Youth Continuum proposes to seek licensure as a Child Caring Facility for children at the Laurel Avenue site and under this license will provide therapeutic group home<sup>1</sup> services to up to six adolescent males between the ages of 16 through 18. The program anticipates serving 6-12 youth annually.

5. DCF also states that the proposed establishment of a new site for service is consistent with DCF's efforts to improve access to needed behavioral health treatment and support services throughout the state and particularly departmental efforts to reduce gridlock in congregate care settings through improved access to community based step-down programs such as the Therapeutic Group Homes.
6. The total capital expenditure associated with the proposal is \$926,000 per year under DCF contract.

Based on the above findings, OHCA has determined that Youth Continuum's request to establish a new therapeutic group home to be located at 657 Laurel Avenue in Bridgeport 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 Diane Duran, PPT, Certificate of Need Unit, at (860) 418-7001.

Sincerely,

*Signed by Commissioner Vogel on August 25, 2008*

Cristine A. Vogel  
Commissioner

C: Honorable Susan I. Hamilton, MSW., J.D. Commissioner, DCF  
Sandra Bauer, Health Processing Technician, DPH, DCBR

CAV:dd

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<sup>1</sup> Therapeutic Group Homes are small, home-like community-based congregate care programs that provide a range of therapeutic and support services to children/youth with moderate to severe functional impairments due to psychiatric disorder. The average length of stay is 6 months to a year.