



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF HEALTH CARE ACCESS

M. JODI RELL
GOVERNOR

CRISTINE A. VOGEL
COMMISSIONER

February 5, 2009

Anthony DelMastro
Chief Executive Officer
The Children's Center of Hamden, Inc.
1400 Whitney Avenue
Hamden, CT 06517

RE: Certificate of Need Determination; Report Number 08-31281-EXM
The Children's Center of Hamden, Inc.
CON Exemption Request Pursuant to Section 19a-639b, C.G.S.
Nine Bed Reduction of the Residential Treatment Program in Hamden

Dear Mr. DelMastro:

On December 2, 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 reduce its beds in the residential treatment program at 1400 Whitney Avenue in Hamden.

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

1. The Children's Center of Hamden, Inc. is a non-profit corporation headquartered at 1400 Whitney Avenue in Hamden, Connecticut, that provides treatment and support programs for children and youth throughout the Hamden area.
2. The Children's Center of Hamden, Inc. is proposing to reduce its licensed bed capacity in their residential treatment program from 47 to 38 at 1400 Whitney Avenue in Hamden.
3. The Department of Children and Families ("DCF"), in a letter received January 27, 2009, 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 the program serves males and females ages 8 through 18 with moderate psychiatric impairment. The Children's Center of Hamden has been licensed by DCF as a child caring facility and operates as a residential treatment center. The program has been licensed for 47 beds across three treatment units. The program has operated as a statewide program, serving children and youth from across the State of Connecticut so

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this bed reduction is not expected to have a particular impact on any specific geographic area of the state.

5. DCF also states that it intends to utilize a number of existing resources to serve the children and youth that had previously been served in the 9 beds that are slated for closure. These resources include the following:
 - Serving those children and youth who would otherwise be served by the Children's Center at other in-state residential treatment centers where utilization has been low.
 - Increasing diversion of youth referred for residential care to intensive in-home services or other community based care.
 - Serving youth under 12 through a combination of community based services, foster care, and intensive care management.
6. DCF states that referrals for residential treatment beds for youths with moderate psychiatric/behavioral disturbance and without the need for specialty care have been declining and excess capacity in the form of vacancies has been documented.
7. DCF states that utilization and demand for residential treatment beds has been declining over the past 4-5 years. Residential treatment center placements for in-state and out-state placements from SFY 2003 through SFY 2008 have shown a decline from 1087 to 744, respectively. During the same period capacity for community based intensive services, particularly intensive home-based services has increased as has DCF spending on these and other community behavioral health services.
8. The total capital expenditure associated with the proposal is \$0.

Based on the above findings, OHCA has determined that The Children's Center of Hamden, Inc. request to reduce it licensed bed in their residential treatment program from 47 to 38 at 1400 Whitney Avenue in Hamden 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, Certificate of Need Unit, at (860) 418-7001.

Sincerely,

Signed by Commissioner Vogel on February 5, 2009

Cristine A. Vogel

Commissioner

C: Honorable Susan I. Hamilton, MSW., J.D. Commissioner, DCF
Sandra Bauer, Licensing Examination Assistant, DPH, FLIS

CAV:pf