



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Office of Health Care Access

February 5, 2010

Via Facsimile Only

Stephen W. Larcen, Ph.D.
President and CEO
189 Storrs Road
Natchaug Hospital, Inc.
Mansfield Center, CT 06250

Re: CON Determination; Report Number: 10-31527-DTR
Natchaug Hospital, Inc.
Proposal to Establish and Operate Partial Hospital/Intensive Outpatient Behavioral Services for Children and Adolescents in Centerbrook (Essex); Pursuant to 19a-638(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended by Public Act: 09-232, Section 93(f)

Dear Mr. Larcen:

On January 21, 2010, the Office of Health Care Access ("OHCA") received your Determination request on behalf of Natchaug Hospital, Inc. regarding its proposal to establish and operate partial hospital/intensive outpatient behavioral services for children and adolescents in Centerbrook (Essex). OHCA has reviewed your request and makes the following findings:

1. Natchaug Hospital ("Hospital"), under the umbrella of the Hartford Health Care Corporation, is a regional provider of behavioral health services located at 189 Storrs Road, Mansfield Center, Connecticut.
2. The Hospital currently operates six partial hospital/intensive outpatient programs for children and adolescents in Mansfield Center, Norwich, Montville, Groton, Danielson, and Enfield.
3. The Hospital is proposing to open a new site to provide outpatient behavioral services to children and adolescents at 85 Westbrook Road in Centerbrook (Essex).
4. The Hospital's target population will include youngsters between the ages of 5 to 18 years old requiring behavioral health services more intensive than those provided on an outpatient basis but less intensive than those providing on an inpatient basis.
5. The Hospital's proposal intends to serve residents from the towns of Chester, Clinton, Deep River, East Lyme, Lyme, Old Lyme, Essex, Killingworth, and Madison.

6. The Hospital contends that they admit about 25 children and adolescents each year from Middlesex County and the volume had increased since the closure of the inpatient services provided by St. Francis Behavioral Health in Portland, Connecticut.
7. The Hospital contends that there is no comparable service in the towns proposed to be served. Child and Family Services in Essex is the local child guidance provider and they have indicated a need for this level of care.
8. The Hospital contends that during the past year they have met with youth service providers, the Department of Children and Family and members of the local system of care collaborative to ensure that there is a need for this service.
9. The Hospital contends that the payers will include all managed care organizations, including the State of Connecticut Behavioral Health Partnership and all major commercial insurance. No payer changes are expected.
10. The Hospital contends that the total capital expenditure associated with the proposal is \$122,000.
11. Pursuant to 19a-638 of the Connecticut General Statutes("C.G.S."), as amended by Public Act: 09-332, Section 93(f)

"Each short-term acute care general or children's hospital, chronic disease hospital or hospital for the mentally ill that on July 1, 2009, is providing outpatient services,that thereafter proposes to provide such services at an alternative location within the primary service area of the health care facility or institution, shall be exempt from the certificate of need requirements prescribed in subsection (a) of section 19a-638, as amended by this act,..."

After careful consideration of the findings above, OHCA is unable to conclusively determine that the town of Centerbrook (Essex) is within the primary service area of Natchaug Hospital. Therefore, OHCA determines that Natchaug Hospital will be required to file a Certificate of Need application to obtain authorization to proceed with its proposal to establish and operate partial hospital/intensive outpatient behavioral services for children and adolescents in Centerbrook (Essex). If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact Melanie Dillon at (860) 418-7060.

Sincerely,



Cristine A. Vogel
Deputy Commissioner

CC: Rose McClellan, DPH

CAV: MD: egc