



Office Of Health Care Access Certificate of Need Application

Final Decision

Applicant: Pastoral Counseling Center of West Hartford, Inc.

Docket Number: 01-552

Project Title: Transfer of Ownership of Two Outpatient
Psychiatric Facilities

Statutory Reference: Section 19a-638 of the Connecticut General Statutes

Filing Date: January 31, 2002

Decision Date: February 7, 2002

Default Date: May 1, 2002

Staff Assigned: Laurie K. Greci

Project Description: Pastoral Counseling Center of West Hartford, Inc. (Applicant) proposes to transfer ownership of two satellite outpatient psychiatric facilities, one to be located in Waterbury, Connecticut, and another to be located in Woodbury, Connecticut. There is no associated capital expenditure with this proposal.

Nature of Proceedings: On January 31, 2002, the Office of Health Care Access ("OHCA") received the Certificate of Need ("CON") application of Pastoral Counseling Center of West Hartford, Inc. seeking authorization to transfer ownership of two satellite outpatient psychiatric facilities, one to be located in Waterbury, Connecticut, and another to be located in Woodbury, Connecticut, with no associated capital expenditure. The Applicant is a health care facility or institution as defined by Section 19a-630 of the Connecticut General Statutes ("C.G.S.").

OHCA's authority to review and approve, modify or deny this proposal is established by Section 19a-638, C.G.S. The provisions of this section, as well as the principles and guidelines set forth in Section 19a-637, C.G.S., were fully considered by OHCA in its review.

Findings of Fact

Clear Public Need

Proposal's Contribution to Accessibility of Health Care Delivery in the Region Impact of the Proposal on the Interests of Consumers of Health Care Services and the Payers for such Services

1. The Pastoral Counseling Center of West Hartford, Inc. ("Applicant") is licensed by the Department of Public Health as a psychiatric outpatient clinic for adults.
(November 28, 2001, Department of Public Health Facility Service Detail Report)
2. The Applicant provides unique professional counseling in that its therapists have dual degrees in psychotherapy and religion and the offices are located within churches.
(January 31, 2002, CON Application, page 7)
3. The Applicant currently operates clinics in three churches at the following Connecticut locations:
 - a. 12 South Main Street, West Hartford
 - b. 2 North Eagleville Road, Storrs
 - c. 280 Country Club Road, Avon*(November 28, 2001, Department of Public Health Facility Service Detail Report)*
4. Pastoral Counseling Center of Greater Waterbury approached the Applicant asking that the Applicant take ownership of its two church-based counseling centers. The two locations are:
 - a. Mill Plain Union Church, 242 Southmayd Road, Waterbury
 - b. United Method Church, 3 Church Street, Woodbury.*(Letter of Intent, October 17, 2001)*
5. The Waterbury and Woodbury locations had been providing pastoral counseling services for fifteen years, but were not promoted within the community. *(January 31, 2002, CON Application, page 7)*
6. Within Waterbury there are two locations where pastoral counseling are offered, one is at Merriman Health, and one at St. Mary's Hospital. *(January 31, 2002, CON Application, page 7)*

7. There are no counseling offices located within the area of Southmayd Road. The Applicant expects to be the only provider to offer Medicaid coverage for counseling and a sliding fee scale for those in need in that area of Waterbury.
8. In Woodbury, none of the clergy devote their time solely to pastoral counseling. There are no agencies that the Applicant is aware of that offer Medicaid coverage or a slide fee scale for those in need. *(January 31, 2002, CON Application, page 7)*
9. One therapist will be utilizing these offices, Dr. Raymond Odiorne. *(January 31, 2002, CON Application, page 7)*

Financial Feasibility of the Proposal and its Impact on the Applicant's Rates and Financial Condition

10. There are no capital expenditures associated with the proposal.
11. The current and projected payor mix for the Applicant is presented in the following table:

Total Facility	Current	Projected		
		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Medicare	8	9	10	10
Medicaid	5	5.5	6	6.5
Commercial	65	63.5	62	61.5
Self-Pay	20	20	20	20
Uncompensated Care	2	2	2	2
Total	100	100	100	100

(January 31, 2002, CON Application, page 5)

12. Due to many gifts, grants and donations, the Applicant is able to offer services to those who are in need and cannot afford the out of pocket expense of psychotherapy. The applicant has a sliding fee scale for those without any insurance coverage. *(January 31, 2002, CON Application, pages 6 and 7)*

Consideration of Other Section 19a-637, C.G.S. Principles and Guidelines

The following findings are made pursuant to other principles and guidelines set forth in Section 19a-637, C.G.S.:

13. There is no State Health Plan in existence at this time. *(December 17, 2001 CON Application, page 2)*
14. The Applicant has adduced evidence that this proposal is consistent with its long-range plan. *(December 17, 2001 CON Application, page 2)*
15. The Applicant currently has no teaching and research responsibilities. *(December 17, 2001 CON Application, page 3)*
16. There are no distinguishing characteristics of the Applicant's patient/physician mix. *(December 17, 2001, CON Application, page 3)*
17. The Applicant's proposal demonstrates that the Applicant has sufficient technical, financial and managerial competence to provide efficient and adequate service to the public. *(December 17, 2001 CON Application, pages 29-102)*

Rationale

The need for the outpatient psychiatric programs at the two churches, one in Waterbury and one in Woodbury, has been demonstrated by the lack of pastoral counseling services in each respective area. Pastoral Counseling Services of West Hartford, Inc. will be offering a unique service to area residents. The proposal will favorably contribute to the quality and accessibility of health care delivery in the region.

The proposal is financially feasible. There will be no capital expenditures associated with the proposal. Gifts, grants and donations allow Pastoral Counseling Services of West Hartford to offer its services to those who would otherwise be unable to afford psychotherapy.

Based upon the foregoing Findings and Rationale, the Certificate of Need application of Pastoral Counseling Center of West Hartford, Connecticut to operate two additional outpatient psychiatric facilities at no associated capital expenditure is hereby GRANTED.

Order

Pastoral Counseling Center of West Hartford, Inc. is hereby authorized to acquire and operate a satellite outpatient psychiatric facility at each of the following churches:

- a. Mill Plain Union Church, 242 Southmayd Road, Waterbury
- b. United Method Church, 3 Church Street, Woodbury.

There is no capital expenditure associated with this project.

All of the foregoing constitutes the final order of the Office of Health Care Access in this matter.

By Order of the
Office of Health Care Access

Date

Raymond J. Gorman
Commissioner

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