



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

M. JODI RELL  
GOVERNOR

CRISTINE A. VOGEL  
COMMISSIONER

August 3, 2004

Ms. Susan Santoro, Director  
Program and Business Development  
Norwalk Hospital  
34 Maple Street  
Norwalk, CT 06856

Re: Certificate of Need Determination; Report Number 04-30334-DTR  
Termination of Services at Westport Clinic in Westport Connecticut

Dear Ms. Santoro:

On July 9, 2004, the Office of Health Care Access ("OHCA") initiated a Certificate of Need ("CON") Determination process under Docket Number 04-30334-DTR to determine whether Norwalk Hospital ("Hospital") terminated a health care service offered in Westport. On July 30, 2004, OHCA received the Hospital's response to OHCA's CON Determination inquiry. OHCA staff has reviewed these responses and makes the following pertinent findings in this matter:

1. Norwalk Hospital (the "Hospital") is an acute care general hospital and a health care facility or institution as defined in Section 19a-630 of the Connecticut General Statutes. The Hospital's main campus is located at 34 Maple Street in Norwalk Connecticut.
2. Nursing and Home Care, Inc., through its subsidiary, The Family Center Services, Inc. ("The Family Center"), had executed a services agreement with the Hospital to serve as the behavioral health program provider at 1690 Post Road in Westport. Under the direction of the Hospital's Department of Psychiatry, individual, family and group counseling and medication management services were provided at The Family Center.
3. In 1999, The Family Center relocated to 319 Post Road East in Westport. The Nursing and Home Care, Incorporated subsequently encountered fiscal difficulties and could no longer provide community support and educational programs at this location.
4. In 2001, the Hospital assumed the lease for the 319 Post Road East location and re-named the site "The Westport Clinic" to be operated under the Norwalk Hospital license. This site is listed as a satellite location of the Hospital on the Hospital's General Hospital license.

5. The services at The Westport Clinic were billed for as Norwalk Hospital services and the utilization and associated revenues and expenses were expensed to the Norwalk Hospital books and records.
6. The Hospital states that the services provided at The Westport Clinic site have been relocated to the Norwalk Hospital campus. Patient which had been served at the 319 Post Road East location are now being served at the Norwalk Hospital Campus. The rationale for this change in site of service is the TheWestport Clinic was a full staff program with under-performing clinical workload volumes.
7. Norwalk Hospital is no longer providing satellite behavioral health services at the 319 Post Road East location effective July 6, 2004.

Based on the above, OHCA has determined that Certificate of Need approval is required pursuant to Section 19a-638 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended by Public Act 03-17, in order for Norwalk Hospital to terminate the operation of The Westport Clinic, at 319 Post Road East in Westport, a satellite behavioral health service location.

OHCA considers the submission of information received on July 30, 2004 as the complete Letter of Intent for this matter; therefore the Hospital may file a CON application with OHCA between September 28, 2004 and November 27, 2004. The CON application is being mailed to your attention separately. If you have any questions regarding the above, please contact Karen Roberts, OHCA Compliance Officer at (860) 418-7041.

Sincerely,

Signed by Cristine A. Vogel  
Commissioner

CAV: kr

cc: Rose McLellan, Licensing Examination Assistant, DHSR, DPH