



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

M. JODI RELL  
GOVERNOR

CRISTINE A. VOGEL  
COMMISSIONER

October 2, 2007

Mary Bawza  
COO  
Planned Parenthood of Connecticut, Inc.  
345 Whitney Avenue  
New Haven, CT 06511

RE: Certificate of Need Determination; Report Number 07-30993-EXM  
Planned Parenthood of Connecticut, Inc.  
CON Exemption Pursuant to Section 19a-639b, C.G.S.  
Closure of the Planned Parenthood Health Center located in South Norwalk

Dear Ms. Bawza:

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 close the Planned Parenthood Health Center at 50 Washington Street, South Norwalk.

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

1. Planned Parenthood of Connecticut, Inc. ("PPC") is a non-profit facility providing primary gynecological care, including birth control counseling and supplies, diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted infections, pregnancy testing and counseling, HIV testing, and coordination of follow-up for breast care and cervical cancer at various locations in Connecticut. PPC is under contract with The Department of Public Health at its Norwalk site, 50 Washington Street, Norwalk.
2. PPC is proposing to close the Planned Parenthood Health Center at 50 Washington Street, South Norwalk.
3. PPC is proposing to close its South Norwalk Health Center located at 50 Washington Street, South Norwalk, due to low patient demand for services, high costs of providing services at this location, overall financial constraints of Planned Parenthood, and the availability of easily accessible alternative options for its patients.

*An Equal Opportunity Employer*  
410 Capitol Ave., MS#13HCA, P.O.Box 340308, Hartford, CT 06134-0308  
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4. Commissioner J. Robert Galvin, M.D., M.P.H., M.B.A., of The Department of Public Health (“DPH”), stated in his letter that the needs of the Norwalk area previously served by Planned Parenthood will continue to be served in a satisfactory manner after the South Norwalk Health Center closes.
5. DPH states that the needs of Planned Parenthood’s patients served by the South Norwalk clinic can continue to be met satisfactorily by Planned Parenthoods’ other health centers in Stamford and Bridgeport and by other health care providers in Norwalk, who have agreed to accept patients currently being served by Planned Parenthood’s Norwalk facility.
6. DPH also states that for those patients who wish to continue their health care in Norwalk, Planned Parenthood has arranged with the following health care providers to accept referrals from Planned Parenthood:
  - AmeriCares, a health center for the poor and uninsured, located at 98 South Main Street, Norwalk. AmeriCares is in the process of expanding its services;
  - Norwalk Community Health Center, located at 121 Water Street, Norwalk. This Center provides services on a sliding fee scale and accepts Medicaid payments;
  - Norwalk Health Department, located at 137 East Street, Norwalk. The Department provides sexually transmitted disease testing; and
  - Norwalk Hospital, located at 98 South Main Street, Norwalk, which has agreed to provide breast and cervical screening for Planned Parenthood’s South Norwalk patients.
7. The total capital expenditure associated with the proposal is \$8,000.

Based on the above findings, OHCA has determined that Planned Parenthood of Connecticut, Inc’s request to close the Planned Parenthood Health Center at 50 Washington Street, South Norwalk meets the exemption requirements of Section 19a-639b of the Connecticut General Statutes and, therefore, is exempt from OHCA’s CON process. There is no need to act on the application under Docket Number: 07-30987-CON for the closure of the Planned Parenthood Health Center at 50 Washington Street, South Norwalk, due to the exemption from DPH.

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, Certification, Financial Analysis and Forecasting, at (860) 418-7001.

Sincerely,

***Signed by Commissioner Vogel on October 2, 2007***

Cristine A. Vogel  
Commissioner

C: J. Robert Galvin, M.D., M.P.H., M.B.A.  
Rose McLellan, Licensing Examination Assistant, BHSE, DPH

CAV:pf