



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF HEALTH CARE ACCESS

M. JODI RELL
GOVERNOR

CRISTINE A. VOGEL
COMMISSIONER

October 9, 2008

Mr. Jeffrey Walter
President and CEO
Rushford Center, Inc.
883 Paddock Avenue
Meriden, Connecticut 06450

Re: Certificate of Need Determination, Report Number 08-31191-EXM
Rushford Center, Inc.
CON Exemption Request Pursuant to Section 19a-639b, C.G.S.
Four Bed Reduction of the Adolescent Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program
in Durham

Dear Mr. Walter:

On June 19, 2008 with additional information on June 20 and July 31, 2008, the Office of Health Care Access ("OHCA") received your request for exemption from the Certificate of Need ("CON") process, pursuant to Section 19a-639b of the Connecticut General Statutes ("C.G.S."), for a four bed reduction of the adolescent residential substance treatment program at Stonegate Springs, 459 Wallingford Road, Durham, Connecticut.

Please be advised that OHCA has reviewed the information submitted and makes the following findings:

1. Rushford Center, Inc. ("RCI") is a private non-profit facility that provides adolescent residential substance abuse treatment at Stonegate Springs, 459 Wallingford Road, Durham, Connecticut
2. On May 21, 2008, under Docket Number: 08-31159-DTR, OHCA determined that RCI's proposal to relocate its 12 bed adolescent residential substance abuse treatment program, currently located at 25 Marlborough Street in Portland, Connecticut, to Stonegate Springs, 459 Wallingford Road, Durham, Connecticut, was exempt from the Certificate
3. of Need Process pursuant to General Statutes § 19a-639b.

4. RCI is requesting another exemption from Certificate of Need requirements to decrease the number of beds from 16 to 12 for their adolescent residential substance abuse treatment program at 459 Wallingford Road, Durham, Connecticut.
5. DCF, in a letter dated August 13, 2008, from Commissioner Susan I. Hamilton, JD, MSW, supports the proposal and the waiver of the CON requirements, pursuant to Section 19a-639b, C.G.S.
6. DCF states in its letter, "The Rushford Program had previously been licensed by both DCF and The Department of Public Health as a 16 bed program. DCF purchased and utilized 12 beds and the remaining 4 were utilized by other funders.
7. DCF states that intermediate to long-term programs have struggled to maintain full census and have been underutilized over the past 18 months due to a shortage of appropriate referrals in comparison to the number of beds and despite efforts to seek out additional referrals.
8. Due to need for some restructuring of the program and to eliminate problems that had arisen due to the multiple funders, approximately two years ago, DCF reduced the licensed bed capacity to 12 and re-based the rate on the new licensed bed capacity. However, at that time, Rusford Center did not seek to have its licensed bed capacity with DPH reduced, nor did it apply for a CON Waiver to support the reduction. At this point in time, and based upon recent referral and utilization data, DCF continues to support the bed reduction from 16 to 12 that was implemented 2 years ago.
9. In the meantime, on June 20, 2008, DPH issued RCI a license to maintain and operate a facility for the care or treatment of substance abusive or dependent persons at 459 Wallingford Rd, Durham, Connecticut. The license is for 12 intermediate and long term treatment and rehabilitation beds.
10. RCI will continue to provide the current 12 bed adolescent residential substance treatment program at the new location, Stonegate Springs, 459 Wallingford Road, Durham, Connecticut.
11. The total capital expenditure associated with the proposal is \$0.

Based on the above findings, OHCA concludes that no further action is required as Rushford Center, Inc. was previously exempted from the requirements of § 19a-639b on May 21, 2008 to relocate its 12 bed adolescent substance abuse program to its current location in Durham. Moreover, in reliance upon that determination, DPH issued a new license for the twelve bed program on June 20, 2008. The applicant is reminded; however, that termination of these services would require CON approval, pursuant to Section 19a-638, C.G.S.

Thank you for keeping OHCA informed of your plans regarding the proposal. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Paolo Fiducia, Associate Health Care Analyst, at (860) 418-7035.

Sincerely,

Signed by Commissioner Vogel on October 9, 2008

Cristine A. Vogel
Commissioner

c: Honorable Susan Hamilton, JD, MSW, Commissioner, DCF
Sandra Bauer, Health Processing Technician, DPH, DCBR

CAV:pf