



## **Office of Health Care Access Certificate of Need Application**

### **Final Decision**

**Applicant:** Christian Medical Fellowship

**Docket Number:** 06-30870-CON

**Project Title:** Establish Christian Medical Fellowship Health Center in Hartford

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

**Filing Date:** February 6, 2007

**Decision Date:** August 8, 2007

**Default Date:** August 8, 2007

**Staff Assigned:** Paolo Fiducia

**Project Description:** Christian Medical Fellowship ("Applicant or Health Center") is proposing to establish the Christian Medical Fellowship Health Center in Hartford, with an associated capital expenditure of \$343,500.

**Nature of Proceedings:** On February 6, 2007, the Office of Health Care Access ("OHCA") received a Certificate of Need ("CON") application from Christian Medical Fellowship ("Applicant") proposing to establish the Christian Medical Fellowship Health Center in Hartford, with an associated capital expenditure of \$343,500. The Applicant is a health care facility or institution as defined by Section 19a-630 of the Connecticut General Statutes ("C.G.S.").

Pursuant to Section 19a-638, C.G.S., a notice to the public concerning OHCA's receipt of the Applicant's CON application was published in the *Hartford Courant*, Hartford, on December 2, 2006. OHCA received no responses from the public concerning the Applicant's proposal. Pursuant to Section 19a-638, C.G.S., three individuals or an individual representing an entity with five or more people had until February 27, 2007, the twenty-first calendar day following the filing of the Applicant's CON Application, to request that OHCA hold a public hearing on

the Applicant's proposal. OHCA received no hearing requests from the public by February 27, 2007.

OHCA's authority to review and approve, modify or deny the CON application 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**

#### **Impact of the Proposal on the Applicant's Current Utilization Statistics Proposal's Contribution to the Quality of Health Care Delivery in the Region Proposal's Contribution to the Accessibility of Health Care Delivery in the Region**

1. Christian Medical Fellowship ("Applicant or Health Center") is a non-profit organization that seeks to establish the Christian Medical Fellowship Health Center at 48 Main Street, Hartford, Connecticut. *(November 15, 2006, Letter of Intent, page 6)*
2. The Applicant states that services at the Health Center will be provided primarily to uninsured and low-income residents of Hartford, as there is a growing population of over 40,000 patients of uninsured and low-income residents of Hartford that will benefit greatly from this service. *(February 6, 2007 Initial CON Application Submission, page 2)*
3. The Applicant states that health care services will be provided to eligible individuals with a total household income below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level ("FPL"), and who do not qualify for Medicaid. Individuals with a total household income between 200% - 300% FPL will be considered on a case by case basis, either by the Health Center staff or Medical Director. Those individuals with a total household income over 300% FPL are not eligible for services. *(April 20, 2007, Supplemental CON Material, page 4)*
4. The range of medical services include primary care services, annual women's health screening exams, pre-natal care, gynecological care, health screening services, pregnancy counseling. *(April 20, 2007, Supplemental CON Material, page 4)*
5. The Applicant states that the proposed Health Center will improve the efficacy and delivery of health care in Connecticut by providing comprehensive health services to the growing population of uninsured and low income residents of Hartford. *(November 15, 2006, Letter of Intent, page 6)*
6. The Applicant has developed working partnerships with existing providers to provide essential staff, equipment, supplies, guidance, and financial support for the Health Center. Established partnerships and responsibilities include:
  - Hartford Hospital (provide equipment, ultrasound, medicines, facility support)
  - University of Connecticut School of Medicine (residents and supervisory physicians will provide volunteer medical services)

- ABC and Care Net (sublet clinic space, generating rental income, provide prenatal and pregnancy counseling)
- Center City Churches (provide volunteers, promote ministry in churches, donations from missions budgets)
- Capital Region Council of Churches ( refer clients, promote ministry on radio programs), and
- Hispanic Health Counsel (afford educational opportunities for Hispanic community, refer Hispanic community to the Health Center).

*(February 6, 2007 Initial CON Application Submission, page 7)*

7. The Applicant states that the proposed Health Center is a free primary care clinic staffed by volunteer physicians, nurses, and other administrative personnel. The Applicant's payor mix consists of 100% free services. *(April 20, 2007, Supplemental CON Material, page 3)*
8. The Applicant states that Hartford Hospital, Charter Oak Health Center, Community Health Services, The South Park Inn Free Clinic, The South Marshall House Pediatric Clinic, Health Care for Homeless Clinic at Immaculate Conception and Health Care for the Homeless Clinic/Mercy Housing and Shelter are the existing providers of similar services in Hartford. *(February 6, 2006 Initial CON Application Submission, page 4)*
9. The Applicant based the need for the proposal on the following:
  - Improve accessibility; and
  - Alleviate burden to local providers.*(February 6, 2007 Initial CON Application Submission, page 2)*
10. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, approximately 38,000 people, or 31% of the population in Hartford are below the poverty level. *(U.S. Census Bureau)*
11. The hours of operation for the proposed Health Center will be as follows:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> 6 months  
4 days per month (3 Mondays: 1-5 pm and 6-9 pm,  
1 Saturday: 9 am – noon and 1-4 pm)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> 6 months  
5 days per month (4 Mondays: 1-5 pm and 6-9 pm,  
1 Saturday: 9 am – noon and 1-4 pm)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Year  
8 days per month (4 Mondays: 1-5 pm and 6-9 pm,  
4 Saturday: 9 am – noon and 1-4 pm)
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Year  
10 days per month (4 Mondays: 1-5 pm and 6-9 pm,  
4 Saturday: 9 am – noon and 1-4 pm, 2 Thursdays: 9 am – noon and 5-8 pm)

*(February 6, 2007 Initial CON Application Submission, page 2)*

12. The Applicant projects to serve the following number of clients for the first three years of operation as follows: *(April 20, 2007, Supplemental CON Material, page 2)*

**Table 1: Projected number of clients to be treated**

	2007	2008	2009
Clients to be treated	2,730	5,200	6,500

Currently the Applicant sees in health fair/health screening sessions approximately 6-9 patients in 2 hours, therefore expects to see 30 patients in an 8 hour session. For 2007, the Applicant projects to treat 30 patients per 8 hour session. The Health Center will expand the days of service and number of patients serving a total of 2,730 patients.

For 2008 the Health Center will operate 40 hours/week x 100 patients = 5,200 patients.

For 2009 the Health Center will operate 40-50 hours/week x 125 patients = 6,500 patients.

13. The Applicant states that by 2010 the Health Center will ensure the availability and accessibility of essential primary health services to 12.5% of the Hartford population who have the most limited access to services and face the greatest barriers to quality health care<sup>1</sup>. *(February 6, 2007 Initial CON Application Submission, page 2)*
14. The Applicant states that the volunteer physicians have admitting privileges at local hospitals (Hartford Hospital, St. Francis Hospital, UCONN Health Center). *(February 6, 2007 Initial CON Application Submission, page 6)*

**Financial Feasibility and Cost Effectiveness of the Proposal and its Impact on the Applicant's Rates and Financial Condition**  
**Impact of the Proposal on the Interests of Consumers of Health Care Services and the Payers for Such Services**  
**Consideration of Other Section 19a-637, C.G.S. Principles and Guidelines**

15. The total capital expenditure of \$343,500 for the proposal consists of the following components:

**Table 2: Total Proposed Capital Expenditure**

Component	Cost
Medical Equipment (Purchase)	\$10,000
Non-Medical Equipment	\$18,500
Building (Purchase)	\$300,000
Construction/Renovation	\$15,000
<b>Total Capital Expenditure</b>	<b>\$343,500</b>

*(February 6, 2007, Initial CON Submission, page 8)*

16. The proposed facility is a 25 room building located at 48 Main Street, Hartford. The Applicant states that the building is centrally located in an area without access to free medical services. The facility is located along public transportation routes, is handicap accessible, and offers ample parking. *(February 6, 2007, Initial CON Submission, page 10)*

<sup>1</sup> 12.5% is based on the following assumption. 40,000 individuals in Hartford are medically underserved and/or uninsured. These individuals visit hospital emergency rooms approximately four times per year, totaling 160,000 patient visits. By year 2010, the Health Center will administer to the needs of approximately 12.5% of this population, or 20,000 patients visits.

17. The Applicant states that no major construction or renovation of the building is needed. Painting of the inside of the building will be completed after 2 weeks of occupancy. *(April 20, 2007, Supplemental CON Material, page 5)*
18. The project will be financed through the contribution of \$390,000 from a major donor to the ministry of Christian Medical Fellowship. *(April 20, 2007, Supplemental CON Material, page 5)*
19. The Applicant projects no incremental revenue from operations associated with the CON proposal for 2007, 2008 and 2009, respectively. *(February 6, 2007, Initial CON Submission, page 69)*
20. The Applicant states that the proposal is cost effective for the following reasons:
- Volunteer Medical Director;
  - 10 Doctors will donate their services for 2-4 hours monthly;
  - Further administrative duties to be handled by the Health Center volunteers (nurses, counselors, etc.);
  - Additional ministry partners: ABC Women's Center, CareNet, La Casa de Puerto Rico will provide free services and provide additional revenue in the form of rent, counseling, chiropractic services, etc.
  - Administrative expenses will be supplemented by the Health Center donors and foundation grants; and
  - Supplies and equipment will be obtained through donations from the Remedy Foundation, Hartford Hospital, pharmaceutical suppliers, and medical equipment suppliers. *(February 6, 2007, Initial CON Submission, page 12)*
21. There is no State Health Plan in existence at this time. *(February 6, 2007, Initial CON Submission, page 2)*
22. The Applicant states that the proposal is consistent with its long-range plan. *(February 6, 2007, Initial CON Submission, page 2)*
23. The Applicant's proposal will improve productivity and contain costs. *(February 6, 2007, Initial CON Submission, page 7)*
24. The Applicant does not have any teaching and research responsibilities. *(February 6, 2007, Initial CON Submission, page 7)*

25. The Applicant's projected payer mix for the proposal is as follows: *(February 6, 2007, Initial CON Submission, page 11)*

**Table 3: Three-Year Projected Payer Mix with the CON Proposal**

<b>Payer Mix</b>	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Year 3</b>
Medicare	0%	0%	0%
Medicaid	0%	0%	0%
<b>Total Government</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>
Commercial Insurers	0%	0%	0%
*Uninsured	100%	100%	100%
<b>Total Non-Government</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Total Payer Mix</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

26. The Applicant's volunteer staff will provide sufficient technical, financial and managerial competence and expertise to provide efficient and adequate service to the public. *(February 6, 2007, Initial CON Submission, page 6)*

## **Rationale**

The Office of Health Care Access (“OHCA”) approaches community and regional need for Certificate of Need (“CON”) proposals on a case by case basis. CON applications do not lend themselves to general applicability due to a variety of factors, which may affect any given proposal; e.g. the characteristics of the population to be served, the nature of the existing services, the specific types of services proposed to be offered, the current utilization of services and the financial feasibility of the proposal.

Christian Medical Fellowship (“Applicant”) is a non-profit organization that seeks to establish the Christian Medical Fellowship Health Center at 48 Main Street, Hartford, Connecticut. This outpatient primary care clinic will provide services primarily to uninsured and low-income residents of Hartford. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, approximately 38, 000 people, or 31% of the population in Hartford are below the poverty level. The proposed Health Center will improve the efficacy and delivery of health care in Connecticut by providing comprehensive health services to the growing population of uninsured and low income residents of Hartford. Currently the Applicant sees in health fair/health screening sessions approximately 6-9 patients in 2 hours. The Applicant has developed working relationships with Hartford Hospital, University of Connecticut School of Medicine, ABC and Care Net, Center City Churches, Capital Region Council of Churches, and Hispanic Health Counsel to provide essential staff, equipment, supplies, guidance, and financial support.

The Applicant’s Health Center will provide a range of medical services which include primary care services, annual women’s health screening exams, pre-natal care, gynecological care, health screening services, pregnancy counseling. The Applicant states that the Health Center will ensure the availability and accessibility of essential primary health services to the Hartford population who have the most limited access to services and face the greatest barriers to quality health care.

A volunteer team of board certified internists, OB/GYNs, family practitioners, emergency medical physicians, and other specialists will form the core consulting team. In addition, the Health Center will have volunteer nurses, patient care assistants, and ancillary support. These volunteers, along with others, will provide services through several one day sessions per week. All of the services will be provided at no charge. Based on the foregoing reasons, OHCA finds that there is a need for the a free primary clinic for the uninsured and low income residents of Hartford and that the proposal will improve both the quality and accessibility for the uninsured and low-income population in the greater Hartford region.

The total capital expenditure for the CON proposal is \$343,500. The project will be financed through the contribution of \$390,000 from a major donor to the ministry of Christian Medical Fellowship. The Applicant projects no incremental revenue from operations by providing 100% free care. The Applicant’s volume and financial projections upon which they are based appear to be reasonable and achievable.

## **Order**

Based upon the foregoing Findings and Rationale, the Certificate of Need application of Christian Medical Fellowship to establish the Christian Medical Fellowship Health Center at 48 Main Street, Hartford, at a total capital expenditure of \$343,500, is hereby GRANTED, subject to the following conditions:

1. This authorization shall expire on August 8, 2008. Should the Applicant's proposal not be completed by that date, the Applicant must seek further approval from OHCA to complete the project beyond that date.
2. The Applicant shall not exceed the approved total capital expenditure of \$343,500. In the event that the Applicant learns of potential cost increases or expects that final project costs will exceed those approved, the Applicant shall notify OHCA immediately.
3. The Applicant shall notify OHCA in writing of the commencement date of the Christian Medical Fellowship Health Center by no later than one month after the commencement date.
4. If Christian Medical Fellowship proposes to terminate any services or programs at the Health Center, it shall file with OHCA a Letter of Intent.

Should the Applicant fail to comply with any of the aforementioned conditions, OHCA reserves the right to take additional action as authorized by law.

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

August 8, 2007

Signed by Cristine A. Vogel  
Commissioner

CAV: pf: