



Office of Health Care Access Certificate of Need Application

Final Decision

Applicant: Family Services Working, Inc.

Docket Number: 07-30911-CON

Project Title: Closure of a Psychiatric Outpatient Clinic for Adults in Monroe

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

Filing Date: July 5, 2007 (30 day extension)

Decision Date: September 19, 2007

Default Date: October 3, 2007

Staff Assigned: Paolo Fiducia

Project Description: Family Services Working, Inc. ("Applicant") is proposing to close its psychiatric outpatient clinic for adults in Monroe, Connecticut, with no associated capital expenditure.

Nature of Proceedings: On July 5, 2007, the Office of Health Care Access ("OHCA") received a Certificate of Need ("CON") application from Family Services Working, Inc. to close its psychiatric outpatient clinic for adults in Monroe, 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.").

Pursuant to Section 19a-638, C.G.S., a notice to the public concerning OHCA's receipt of the Applicant's Letter of Intent was published in the *Connecticut Post*, Bridgeport, on March 4, 2007. OHCA received no responses from the public concerning the Applicant's proposal. Pursuant to Public Act 05-75, three individuals or an individual representing an entity with five or more people had until July 26, 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 July 26, 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. Family Services Working, Inc. ("FSW or Applicant") is a not-for-profit corporation that operates psychiatric outpatient clinics for adults at 500 Purdy Hill Road, Monroe and at 475 Clinton Avenue, Bridgeport, Connecticut. *(January 29, 2007, Letter of Intent, page 2)*
2. The Applicant states that the Monroe service location provided individual counseling and psychotherapy to mostly adults. Several of the clients during the past three years were youth between the ages of 12 and 17. *(July 5, 2007, Initial CON Application Submission, page 3)*
3. The Applicant is proposing to terminate services at 500 Purdy Hill Road, Monroe, due to a lack of request for service. *(July 5, 2007 Initial CON Application Submission, page 3)*
4. The Applicant states that Trumbull, Monroe and Newtown are the service area towns for the proposed service location. *(July 5, 2007 Initial CON Application Submission, page 3)*
5. The Applicant states that due to fiscal constraints, the Board of Directors made the decision to close the Monroe office at the end of January, 2007. *(July 5, 2007 Initial CON Application Submission, page 2)*
6. The Applicant states that when the office closed there were three (3) open client cases, all clients were transferred to the Bridgeport location for service. *(July 5, 2007 Initial CON Application Submission, page 4)*
7. The Applicant states that during the last year of service, hours were offered by appointment based on client need. FSW did not schedule regular office hours in Monroe. *(July 5, 2007 Initial CON Application Submission, page 3)*
8. The Applicant states that the volume of service at the Monroe office has decreased considerably over the past several years to the degree that it was no longer cost-efficient to maintain the service. *(July 5, 2007 Initial CON Application Submission, page 2)*
9. The Applicant states that any client formerly seen at the Monroe location can be seen at FSW's Bridgeport location. *(July 5, 2007 Initial CON Application Submission, page 4)*

10. The following table shows the number of visits for the Monroe service location during FY 04–FY 06:

Table 1: Number of visits at Monroe service location from FY 04–FY 06:

	FY 04	FY 05	FY 06
Visits	112	110	85
Total	112	110	85

(July 5, 2007 Initial CON Application Submission, page 3)

11. The following table shows the number of clients admitted during FY 04–FY 06:

Table 2: Number of clients admitted at Monroe service location from FY 04–FY 06:

	FY 04	FY 05	FY 06
Clients Admitted	38	27	17
Total	38	27	17

(July 5, 2007 Initial CON Application Submission, page 19)

12. The Applicant states that Huntington Counseling Center, Trumbull Counseling Center, George Steinfeld, Maria Castillo and Michael Saad are the existing providers of individual and family counseling services in the service area. *(July 5, 2007 Initial CON Application Submission, page 5)*

13. The Applicant's payer mix for the Monroe location is as follows: *(July 5, 2007, Initial CON Application Submission, page 9)*

Table 3: Payer Mix for the Monroe location

Payer Mix	Shelton
Medicare	16%
Medicaid	56%
Total Government Payers	72%
Commercial	24%
Self-Pay	4%
Total Non-Government Payers	28%
Total Payer Mix	100%

**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
Payers for Such Services
Consideration of Other Section 19a-637, C.G.S.
Principles and Guidelines**

14. The project has no associated capital expenditure. *(July 5, 2007 Initial CON Application Submission, page 9)*

15. The Applicant had decreasing incremental gains from operations of \$948,000, \$355,000 and \$20,000 in FY 2004, FY 2005 and FY 2006, respectively. *(July 5, 2007 Initial CON Application Submission, page 13)*
16. The Applicant states that the process of termination included sale of the office property owned by FSW. *(July 5, 2007 Initial CON Application Submission, page 9)*
17. There is no State Health Plan in existence at this time. *(July 5, 2007 Initial CON Application Submission, page 2)*
18. The Applicant has adduced evidence that the proposal is consistent with the Applicant's long-range plan. *(July 5, 2007 Initial CON Application Submission, page 2)*
19. The Applicant has not undertaken any activities to improve productivity and contain costs. *(July 5, 2007 Initial CON Application Submission, page 8)*
20. The proposal will not result in any change to the Applicant's teaching and research responsibilities. *(July 5, 2007 Initial CON Application Submission, page 8)*
21. The Applicant states that the patient/physician mix will not change. *(July 5, 2007 Initial CON Application Submission, page 7)*
22. The Applicant has sufficient technical and managerial competence and expertise to provide efficient and adequate service to the public. *(July 5, 2007 Initial CON Application Submission, page 7)*

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.

Family Services Working, Inc. (“FSW or Applicant”) is a not-for-profit corporation that operates psychiatric outpatient clinics for adults in Monroe and Bridgeport. The Applicant is proposing to terminate services at its Monroe service location. The Monroe service location provided individual counseling and psychotherapy to adults and youths between the ages of 12 and 17. These clients were seen by appointment only, the Monroe location did not have regular office hours.

Due to reductions in service volume over the last few years, the Board of Directors decided to close the Monroe service location at the end of January, 2007. At the time the office closed there were 3 open client cases, all of which were transferred to the Bridgeport service location. The Applicant had a 2% and 23% decrease in visits from FY 04 to FY 05 and FY 05 to FY 06, respectively. The Applicant also had a 29% and 37% decrease in admissions from FY 04 to FY 05 and FY 05 to FY 06, respectively. Since OHCA was deprived of the opportunity to review the information prior to closure, it is unable to determine whether patient access was adversely impacted at the time of closing.

Based upon the information provided by the Applicant, it appears that the Monroe service location was closed primarily due to the lack of request for service. Patients in need of individual counseling and psychotherapy in the service area continue to have access to these services at FSW’s Bridgeport location as well as at existing providers in the service area.

The Applicant’s proposal to terminate its Monroe service location has no associated capital expenditure. The Applicant has experienced decreasing financial gains from operations over the past three years while operating the Monroe location.

Order

Based on the foregoing Findings and Rationale, the Certificate of Need Application of Family Services Working, Inc. to terminate its psychiatric outpatient clinic in Monroe, at no associated capital expenditure is hereby GRANTED.

Family Services Working, Inc. shall hereafter notify OHCA of any and all proposed termination of services prior to finalizing any decision to terminate any services or programs. Failure to notify OHCA in advance of any proposed termination of services may be considered as not filing required information and subject Family Services Working, Inc. to civil penalties pursuant to Section 19a-653, C.G.S.

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

Signed by Commissioner Vogel on September 19, 2007

Date

Cristine A. Vogel
Commissioner

CAV:pf