



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF HEALTH CARE ACCESS

M. JODI RELL
GOVERNOR

CRISTINE A. VOGEL
COMMISSIONER

January 3, 2005

Mr. Lawrence A. Tanner
President and Chief Executive Officer
New Britain General Hospital
100 Grand Street
New Britain, CT 06050

RE: Certificate of Need Determination; Report Number 04-30420-DTR
The closing of a Family Planning Clinic and relocation of services to Gynecology Clinic

Dear Mr. Tanner:

On December 22, 2004, the Office of Health Care Access ("OHCA") received a response from New Britain General Hospital (the "hospital") to OHCA's December 14, 2004 inquiry into the closing of a family planning clinic on December 31, 2004. OHCA has reviewed the December 14, 2004 submission and makes the following findings in this matter:

1. In a December 9, 2004 newspaper article, the Hartford Courant reported that the hospital is closing a Family Planning Clinic effective December 31, 2004 and that those services will instead be provided within the hospital's existing gynecology clinic. Both clinics are in the main hospital building at 100 Grand Street in New Britain.
2. All services provided in the Family Planning Clinic will now be provided to the same patient population in the Gynecology Clinic. The relocation of services from the Family Planning Clinic to the Gynecology Clinic will result in an increase in clinic hours from two evenings per week to five days per week. In addition, an attending physician will be present at all sessions in the Gynecology Clinic.
3. The Family Planning Clinic and the Gynecology Clinic are departments of the hospital that overlap in functionality and the services are billed for as hospital services.
4. According to the December 9, 2004 Hartford Courant article, the hospital indicates that "*there will be no change in confidentiality or patient service*" and that there will be no anticipated adverse impact on patients.

5. Also according to the December 9, 2004 Hartford Courant article, the hospital made the decision to terminate the Family Planning Clinic *“because the state and federal grants the clinic receives – about \$100,000 annually – don’t cover the hospital’s costs. The money is channeled to the hospital from Planned Parenthood of Connecticut through the University of Connecticut Health Center.”*
6. All clients of the Family Planning Clinic will be allowed to enroll in the Gynecology Clinic and all current clients of the Family Planning Clinic have been notified of the relocation of services to the Gynecology Clinic.
7. The hospital is currently working with Planned Parenthood of Connecticut for funding under Title X and XX.

Based on these findings, OHCA has determined that the hospital will not be terminating a health care function or service pursuant to Section 19a-638 of the Connecticut General Statutes. Therefore, Certificate of Need approval from OHCA is not required for New Britain General Hospital to close the Family Planning Clinic and relocate those services to the hospital’s Gynecology Clinic.

If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact Karen Roberts, Compliance Officer at (860) 418-7001.

Sincerely,

Signed by Cristine A. Vogel
Commissioner

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

CAV:kr