



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

M. JODI RELL  
GOVERNOR

CRISTINE A. VOGEL  
COMMISSIONER

November 29, 2005

Ms. Deanne Scaringe  
Deputy Director  
Community Partners in Action  
110 Bartholomew Avenue, Suite 3010  
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: Certificate of Need Determination; Report Number 05-30595-DTR  
Termination of outpatient substance abuse programs within Alternative Incarceration  
Programs in Hartford, Manchester and New Britain  
Community Partners in Action

Dear Ms. Scaringe:

On October 4, 2005, the Office of Health Care Access ("OHCA") commenced a Certificate of Need ("CON") Determination inquiry on the termination of outpatient substance abuse facility licenses by Community Partners in Action at three of its service sites in Hartford, Manchester and New Britain. A response to OHCA's inquiry was received on November 9, 2005. OHCA has reviewed the matter and makes the following pertinent findings:

1. Community Partners in Action ("CPA") is a non-profit health care facility or institution as defined in Section 19a-630 of the Connecticut General Statutes ("C.G.S.").
2. Prior to June 30, 2005, CPA held Facility for the Care or Treatment of Substance Abusive or Dependent Persons licenses for outpatient treatment programs at three service locations:

Community Partners in Action (Hartford AIC) at 119 – 121 Washington Street in Hartford  
Manchester AIC (Community Partners in Action) at 31 Bent Street in Manchester  
New Britain Alternative Incarceration Center (Community Partners in Action) at 50 Harvard Street in New Britain

3. OHCA commenced the Certificate of Need inquiry on October 4, 2005 after receiving copies of the change in licensure forms from the Department of Public Health ("DPH") indicating that the above health care services closed effective June 30, 2005. CPA did not directly inform OHCA of this change in service provision.

4. On CPA's letterhead, CPA lists the following health care and social service programs:
  - Alternative to Detention for Boys
  - Alternative to Detention for Girls
  - Beyond Fear
  - Coalition Employment Services
  - Family Reunification
  - Hartford Community Court
  - Hartford Alternative Incarceration Center
  - Hartford Area Mediation Program
  - Hartford Transitional Housing
  - Juvenile Detention Center for Girls
  - Maloney Juvenile Reception and Assessment Program
  - Manchester Alternative Incarceration Program
  - Prison Arts
  - Probation Transition Program
  - Resettlement
  - Technical Violation Unit
  - Substance Abuse Mental Health (SAMH)
  - Work Release
  - Young Offender
  
5. According to CPA's website ([www.cpa-ct.org](http://www.cpa-ct.org)) an Alternative Incarceration Center is a *"program which monitors individuals referred by the criminal justice system to community supervision. It restricts the offender's freedom without incarceration to protect public safety and, at the same time, establishes positive ties between the community and offender. Clients attend self-help groups, informational workshops, perform community service, and work with staff to effect positive change. The CPA, which created the state's first AIC in 1986, now runs AIC programs in Hartford and Manchester."*
  
6. In a 2001 CON Determination action under Report Number 01-A4, OHCA determined that a CON was not required for CPA to initiate Substance Abuse Outpatient Treatment Services at the Alternative Incarceration Centers in Hartford, Manchester and New Britain, as that request met the criteria for exemption from CON pursuant to Section 19a-639b of the Statutes. Pursuant to that 2001 CON determination request:
  - a. CPA was under contract to the Court Support Services Division ("CSSD") of the State of Connecticut Judicial Branch to operate several Alternative Incarceration Centers in Connecticut. AIC programs were created to divert appropriate offenders from jail or prison. AIC provides the offenders with the needed services to assist them in a successful reintegration into the community.

- b. In an October 10, 2001 letter from the Executive Director of CSSD of the Judicial Department, CSSD recommends exemption *“to allow CPA to obtain a substance abuse outpatient treatment license as it will enhance the AIC program, promote favorable outcomes, and reduce the risk of substance abuse and related behavioral problems of this at-risk population.”*
7. CPA maintained these outpatient substance abuse licenses up until June 30, 2005 at which point the Judicial Department, which funds all three programs in question, closed the New Britain AIC, which is now being operated in New Britain, by Wheeler Clinic, at another location. Judicial also defunded all the substance abuse counselor positions at the AICs statewide. CPA no longer employs substance abuse counselors.
8. CPA surrendered their licenses to DPH, at the request of Frank Marino of DPH, on August 17, 2005. In CPA’s letter to DPH, CPA indicates that *“the model for the AICs has dramatically changed and no longer includes Substance Abuse Counselors. Therefore, the licenses are not required and per your request they are being returned.”*
9. Section 19a-638 (a)(3) of the Connecticut General Statutes states *“Each health care facility or institution which intends to terminate a health service offered by such facility or institution ... shall submit to the office, prior to the proposed date of such termination .. a request to undertake such termination ...”*

Based on the above findings, OHCA has determined Community Partners in Action, a health care facility or institution, is required to seek and obtain Certificate of Need approval for the June 30, 2005 termination of the outpatient substance abuse programs in Hartford, Manchester and New Britain pursuant to Section 19a-638(a)(3) of the Connecticut General Statutes. OHCA considers the submission of information received on November 9, 2005 as the completed Letter of Intent for this matter; therefore Community Partners in Action may file a CON application with OHCA between **January 8, 2006** and **March 9, 2006**. The CON application is being mailed to your attention separately.

If you have any questions regarding the above CON determination inquiry, please contact Karen Roberts, Compliance Officer at (860) 418-7041. If you have any questions regarding the CON process, please contact Kimberly Martone, Supervisor of Certificate of Need, at (860) 418-7029.

Sincerely,

*Signed by Commissioner Cristine A. Vogel on November 29, 2005*

Cristine A. Vogel  
Commissioner

CAV:kr

Copy: Sandra Bauer, Health Processing Technician, DPH, DCBR