



## Office of Health Care Access Certificate of Need Application

### Final Decision

**Applicant:** Catholic Charities of Fairfield, Inc.

**Docket Number:** 05-30658-CON

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

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

**Filing Date:** August 28, 2006

**Decision Date:** September 25, 2006

**Default Date:** November 26, 2006

**Staff Assigned:** Paolo Fiducia

**Project Description:** Catholic Charities of Fairfield, Inc. (“Applicant”) is proposing to close its psychiatric outpatient clinic for adults in Darien, Connecticut, with no associated capital expenditure.

**Nature of Proceedings:** On August 28, 2006, the Office of Health Care Access (“OHCA”) received a Certificate of Need (“CON”) application from Catholic Charities of Fairfield, Inc. to close its psychiatric outpatient clinic for adults in Darien, 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 CON application was published in the *The Advocate*, Stamford, on December 31, 2005. 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 September 21, 2006, 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 September 21, 2006.

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. Catholic Charities of Fairfield, Inc. ("Applicant") is a not-for-profit corporation that operates psychiatric outpatient clinics for adults at the following locations: *(December 20, 2005 Letter of Intent, page 2)*

**Table 1: Applicant's service locations**

Name of Program	Location
Catholic Charities of Fairfield, Inc.	1986 Post Road, Darien
Catholic Family Services of Stamford, Inc.	30 Myano Lane, Stamford
Catholic Charities	1 Park Street, Norwalk
Catholic Family Services at Merton Center	43 Madison Avenue, Bridgeport
Catholic Mental Health Clinic	238 Jewett Avenue, Bridgeport
Catholic Mental Health Clinic	452 Howe Avenue, Shelton
Catholic Mental Health Clinic of Danbury	30 Main Street, Danbury

*(Department of Public Health Bed and Service Listings)*

2. The Applicant states that the Darien service location provides a range of outpatient clinical and counseling services, including comprehensive assessment and psychiatric evaluations for individuals, couples and families residing in Darien. *(December 20, 2005 Letter of Intent, page 7)*
3. The Darien service location offered these services on a part time basis. Office hours were Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 4pm-8pm. *(April 18, 2006 Initial CON Application Submission, page 3)*
4. The Applicant is proposing to terminate services at its Darien location, with no associated capital expenditures. *(December 20, 2005 Letter of Intent, page 2)*
5. The Applicant states that the Darien service location was a satellite convenience office of Catholic Family Services of Stamford, located at 30 Myano Lane in Stamford. *(April 18, 2006 Initial CON Application Submission, page 2)*

6. The Darien office was located at St. John Catholic parish. In September 2005, St. John's informed Catholic Family Services of Stamford that due to expansion of parish programs, it could no longer offer the use of office space to Catholic Family Services of Stamford, effective December 31, 2005. *(April 18, 2006 Initial CON Application Submission, page 2)*
7. The Applicant states that clients serviced were from Darien (primarily) and Norwalk (secondarily). *(April 18, 2006 Initial CON Application Submission, page 3)*
8. The Applicant states that the last client to receive services at the Darien office was transferred to the Myano Lane office on December 16, 2005. There were no services provided between December 17, 2005 and December 31, 2005. *(August 28, 2006 Supplemental Material Submitted, page 1)*
9. The following table shows the number of visits by patient town of origin for the Darien service location during FY 03–FY 05:

**Table 2: Number of visits at Darien service location from FY 03–FY 05:**

Location	FY 03	FY 04	FY 05
Darien	69	56	50
Norwalk	17	20	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>55</b>

*(April 18, 2006 Initial CON Application Submission, page 3)*

10. The following table shows the Applicant's proposed timetable:

**Table 3: Applicant's timetable**

	Date
Termination Effective	12/16/05
State agency notified DPH	12/05
Notified OHCA	12/05
Returned licenses to DPH	01/12/06

*(August 28, 2006, Supplemental Material Submitted, pages 1 & 2)*

11. The Applicant states that on January 12, 2006 it returned its psychiatric outpatient clinic for adults license for the Darien service location to the Department of Public Health ("DPH"). *(August 28, 2006 Supplemental Material Submitted, page 2)*
13. The Applicant stated that The Depot, Family and Children's Agency, Family Centers and East Avenue are the existing providers of outpatient clinical and counseling services, including comprehensive assessment and psychiatric evaluations, in the primary and secondary service areas. *(August 18, 2006 Initial CON Application Submission, page 4)*

14. The Applicant's payer mix for the Darien location is as follows: *(April 18, 2006, Initial CON Application Submission, page 8)*

**Table 4: Payer Mix for the Darien location**

<b>Payer Mix</b>	<b>Darien</b>
Medicare	15%
Medicaid	10%
<b>Total Government Payers</b>	<b>25%</b>
Commercial Insurance	20%
Self-Pay	35%
<b>Total Non-Government Payers</b>	<b>55%</b>
Uncompensated Care	20%
<b>Total Payer Mix</b>	<b>100%</b>

**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**

15. The project has no associated capital expenditure. *(December 20, 2005 Letter of Intent, page 3)*
16. The Applicant anticipated the loss of approximately (\$2000.00) of annualized revenue which had been realized from the collection of client fees and 3<sup>rd</sup> party recovery activity. *(August 28, 2006 Supplemental Material Submitted, page 4)*
17. There was no alteration to staff, as the part time staff person assigned to the Darien office was transferred to continue her service provision at the Myano Lane office. Office space was provided gratis by St. John's parish. *(August 28, 2006 Supplemental Material Submitted, page 4)*
18. There is no State Health Plan in existence at this time. *(April 18, 2006 Initial CON Application Submission, page 2)*
19. The Applicant has adduced evidence that the proposal is consistent with the Applicant's long-range plan. *(April 18, 2006 Initial CON Application Submission, page 2)*
20. The Applicant has not undertaken any activities to improve productivity and contain costs. *(April 18, 2006 Initial CON Application Submission, page 7)*
21. The proposal will not result in any change to the Applicant's teaching and research responsibilities. *(April 18, 2006 Initial CON Application Submission, page 6)*
22. The Applicant states that the patient/physician mix will not change. *(April 18, 2006 Initial CON Application Submission, page 6)*

23. The Applicant has sufficient technical and managerial competence and expertise to provide efficient and adequate service to the public. (*April 18, 2006 Initial CON Application 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.

Catholic Charities of Fairfield, Inc. (“Applicant”) is a not-for-profit corporation that operates psychiatric outpatient clinics for adults in Darien, Stamford, Norwalk, Bridgeport, Shelton, and Danbury. The Applicant is proposing to terminate services at its Darien service location.

The Darien service location provided a range of outpatient clinical and counseling services, including comprehensive assessment and psychiatric evaluations for individuals, couples and families two days a week, four hours a day. The Darien service location is a satellite office of Catholic Family Services of Stamford, located at 30 Myano Lane in Stamford. The Darien office was located at St. John Catholic parish. In September 2005, St. John’s informed Catholic Family Services that due to the expansion of parish programs, it could no longer offer the use of office space to Catholic Family Services, effective December 31, 2005. The last client to receive services at the Darien office was transferred to the Myano Lane office on December 16, 2005. There were no services provided between December 17, 2005 and December 31, 2005. The Applicant stated that it had 86, 76 and 55 visits in FY 03, FY 04 and FY 05, respectively. On January 12, 2006, the psychiatric outpatient clinic for adults’ license for the Darien service location was mailed to the Department of Public Health. Since OHCA was deprived of the opportunity to review the information prior to closure, it can not determine that patient access was not impacted.

The Applicant’s proposal to terminate its Darien service location has no associated capital expenditure. The Applicant projected losses from total operations of (\$2000.00) due to the closure of the Darien office.

Based on the foregoing Findings and Rationale, the Certificate of Need Application of Catholic Charities of Fairfield, Inc. to terminate its psychiatric outpatient clinic for adults’ services in Darien, at no associated capital expenditure is hereby GRANTED.

## **Order**

The proposal of Catholic Charities of Fairfield, Inc. to close its psychiatric outpatient clinic for adults in Darien, Connecticut, with no associated capital expenditure is hereby GRANTED.

Catholic Charities of Fairfield, 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 Catholic Charities of Fairfield, 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

September 25, 2006

Signed by Cristine A. Vogel  
Commissioner

CAV:pf