



Office of Health Care Access Certificate of Need Application

Final Decision

Applicant: Carucci Chiropractic Center

Docket Number: 06-30837-CON

Project Title: Termination of Substance Abuse Outpatient Treatment Services in Wethersfield

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

Filing Date: December 19, 2006

Decision Date: March 2, 2007

Default Date: March 19, 2007

Staff Assigned: Paolo Fiducia

Project Description: Carucci Chiropractic Center (“Applicant”) is proposing to terminate its substance abuse outpatient treatment services in Wethersfield, CT with no associated capital expenditure.

Nature of Proceedings: On December 19, 2006, the Office of Health Care Access (“OHCA”) received a Certificate of Need (“CON”) application from Carucci Chiropractic Center to terminate its substance abuse outpatient treatment services in Wethersfield, CT, 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 Public Act 05-75, three individuals or an individual representing an entity with five or more people had until January 9, 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 January 9, 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. Carucci Chiropractic Center ("Applicant") is a health care provider that operates an outpatient substance abuse recovery program at 415 Silas Deane Highway, in Wethersfield, Connecticut. *(October 3, 2006 CON Determination Letter, page 1)*
2. On April 12, 2004, under CON Docket Number 03-30175-CON, OHCA granted a Certificate of Need to Carucci Chiropractic Center to establish the Mountain Top Recovery Program ("MTRP"), an outpatient substance abuse recovery program, at 415 Silas Deane Highway in Wethersfield. The MTRP is licensed as a Substance Abuse Outpatient Treatment Program. *(October 3, 2006 CON Determination Letter, page 1)*
3. The specific service components provided by the Applicant in Wethersfield are: chiropractic, auriculotherapy, nutritional consultation, exercise and fitness programming/consultation, massage therapy, craniosacral therapy, drug and alcohol and psychological counseling and spiritual counseling. *(December 19, 2006 Initial CON Application Submission, page 3)*
4. The Applicant is proposing to terminate its substance abuse outpatient treatment services in Wethersfield, CT. *(December 19, 2006 Initial CON Application Submission, page 2)*
5. The Applicant states the following:
 - The MTRP no longer has an on site substance abuse counselor and refers clients to qualified providers based on the individual's need and mental status and biopsychosocial exam completed on intake,
 - The MTRP only saw one patient while in operation during the period April 2005 to June 2005, and
 - The time and expense to respond to the licensure process exceeded what was gained from the program.
(October 3, 2006 CON Determination Letter, page 1)
6. The hours of operation at this service location are: Monday and Wednesday 8:30 am–11:30 am, 2:00 pm–6:00 pm, Tuesday 3:00 pm–6:00 pm and Friday 7:30 am–4:30 pm. *(December 19, 2006 Initial CON Application Submission, page 3)*

7. The Applicant states that the primary service area is Wethersfield, Hartford, Rocky Hill, Newington, and Glastonbury. The secondary service area is New Britain, Cromwell, Windsor, Berlin, East Hartford and Manchester. *(December 19, 2006 Initial CON Application Submission, page 3)*
8. The Applicant states that it had no referrals for substance abuse or dependence treatment services, and did not have any displaced patients. *(December 19, 2006 Initial Con Application Submission, page 4)*
9. The Applicant's payer mix for the Wethersfield location is as follows: *(December 19, 2006, Initial CON Application Submission, Page 9)*

Table 1: Payer Mix for the Wethersfield location

Payer Mix	Percentage
Medicaid	0.00%
Total Government Payers	0.00%
Commercial	12.00%
Self-Pay	88.00%
Total Non-Government Payers	100.00%
Uncompensated Care	0.00%
Total Payer Mix	100.00%

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

10. The project has no associated capital expenditure. *(December 19, 2006 Initial CON Application Submission, page 8)*
11. There are no incremental gains or losses from operations as a direct result of the termination of the license for the treatment of substance abuse or dependent persons. *(December 19, 2006 Initial CON Application Submission, page 9)*
12. There is no State Health Plan in existence at this time. *(December 19, 2006 Initial CON Application Submission, page 2)*
13. The Applicant states that the proposal is not consistent with the its long-range plan due to state licensure procedures. *(December 19, 2006 Initial CON Application Submission, page 2)*
14. The Applicant's proposal will improve productivity and contain costs. *(December 19, 2006 Initial CON Application Submission, page 6)*
15. The Applicant does not have any teaching and research responsibilities. *(December 19, 2006 Initial CON Application Submission, page 8)*

16. The Applicant states that the current patient/physician mix will not change. (*December 19, 2006 Initial CON Application Submission, page 6*)

17. The Applicant has sufficient technical and managerial competence and expertise to provide efficient and adequate service to the public. (*December 19, 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.

Carucci Chiropractic Center (“Applicant”) operates an outpatient substance abuse recovery program known as the Mountain Top Recovery Program (“MTRP”) at 415 Silas Deane Highway in Wethersfield, Connecticut. The Applicant provides chiropractic, auriculotherapy, nutritional consultation, exercise and fitness programming/consultation, massage therapy, craniosacral therapy, drug and alcohol and psychological counseling and spiritual counseling at this site location. The Applicant is proposing to terminate the substance abuse outpatient treatment services at this site due to the fact that it has treated only one client in the last 18 months.

The Applicant based the need to terminate these substance abuse services for the following reasons: the MTRP no longer has an on site counselor and refers clients to qualified providers based on the individual’s need and mental status and biopsychosocial exam completed on intake. The MTRP only saw one patient while in operation from April 2005 to June 2005. The Applicant states that it had no referrals for substance abuse or dependence treatment services and did not have any displaced patients. Since only one client was treated for substance abuse, the termination of the substance abuse outpatient treatment services has not created any barriers to access in the region; therefore OHCA determines that patient access was not impacted. The other services will continue to be offered at this site location.

The proposal has no associated capital expenditure. There are no incremental gains or losses from operations as a direct result of the termination of the services for the treatment of substance abuse or dependent persons.

Based on the foregoing Findings and Rationale, the Certificate of Need Application of Carucci Chiropractic Center to terminate its substance abuse outpatient treatment services in Wethersfield, CT, at no associated capital expenditure is hereby GRANTED.

Order

The proposal of Carucci Chiropractic Center to terminate its substance abuse outpatient treatment services, with no associated capital expenditure is hereby GRANTED.

Carucci Chiropractic Center 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 Carucci Chiropractic Center 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

March 2, 2007

Signed by Cristine A. Vogel
Commissioner

CAV:pf