



Office of Health Care Access Certificate of Need Application

Final Decision

Applicant: Catholic Charities of Fairfield, Inc.

Docket Number: 07-30915-CON

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

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

Filing Date: May 29, 2007

Decision Date: August 15, 2007

Default Date: August 27, 2007

Staff Assigned: Paolo Fiducia

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

Nature of Proceedings: On May 29, 2007, 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 Shelton, 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 *Connecticut Post*, Bridgeport, on April 15, 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 June 19, 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 June 19, 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. Catholic Charities of Fairfield, Inc. ("Applicant") is a not-for-profit corporation that operates psychiatric outpatient clinics for adults at the following locations:

Table 1: Applicant's service locations

Name of Program	Location
Catholic Family Services of Stamford, Inc.	30 Myano Lane, Stamford
Catholic Charities	205 Wakelee Avenue, Ansonia
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 Shelton service location provided a range of outpatient clinical and counseling services, including comprehensive assessment and psychiatric evaluations for individuals, couples and families residing in Shelton. Client ages ranged between 5 years to 80+ years. *(May 29, 2007, Initial CON Application Submission, page 3)*
3. The Shelton service location offered these services by appointment and on a part time basis. Office hours were Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 4pm–8pm. *(May 29, 2007 Initial CON Application Submission, page 3)*
4. The Applicant is proposing to terminate services at 452 Howe Avenue, Shelton, due to a change in funding. *(January 31, 2007 Letter of Intent, page 2)*
5. The Applicant states that the Shelton service location was a satellite office of Catholic Charities of Fairfield County, Inc., located at 238 Jewett Avenue, Bridgeport. *(May 29, 2007 Initial CON Application Submission, page 2)*
6. The Applicant states that historically, The Valley United Way had funded two (2) Catholic Sponsored agencies (Catholic Charities of Shelton, an agency of Catholic Charities of

Fairfield County, serving Shelton, and Catholic Charities/Catholic Family Services of Ansonia, an agency of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Hartford, serving Ansonia). *(May 29, 2007 Initial CON Application Submission, page 2)*

7. In January 2006, planning discussions were initiated by The Valley United Way, to consolidate the delivery of counseling services in Shelton and Ansonia under one agency. In March 2006, this process resulted in a decision to de-fund Catholic Charities of Shelton and increase dedicated United Way funding to Catholic Charities/Catholic Family Services Ansonia office, which agreed to assume responsibility for the remaining Catholic Charities of Shelton client caseload and to provide services to Shelton residents, commencing July 1, 2006. *(May 29, 2007 Initial CON Application Submission, page 2)*
8. The Applicant states that the facility closed June 30, 2006. *(May 29, 2007 Initial CON Application Submission, page 2)*
9. The Applicant states that approximately 8 weeks prior to the anticipated closure, the four (4) remaining active clients were offered the option of accepting transfer to Catholic Charities/Catholic Family Service Ansonia Office for reassignment to a staff clinician at the agency. Three of four clients opted for reassignment and one client chose to voluntarily terminate service. *(May 29, 2007 Initial CON Application Submission, page 4)*
10. The following table shows the number of visits by town of origin for the Shelton service location during FY 04–FY 06:

Table 2: Number of visits at Shelton service location from FY 04–FY 06:

Location	FY 04	FY 05	FY 06
Shelton	360	216	108
Total	360	216	108

(May 29, 2007 Initial CON Application Submission, page 3)

11. The Applicant stated that Valley Mental Health and Counseling Associates of Shelton are the existing providers of outpatient clinical and counseling services, including comprehensive assessment and psychiatric evaluations. *(May 29, 2007 Initial CON Application Submission, page 4)*
12. The Applicant states that the Catholic Charities/Catholic Family Service of Ansonia office has the capacity to provide services comparable to those offered by Catholic Charities/Shelton. *(May 29, 2007 Initial CON Application Submission, page 4)*
13. The Applicant states that the Catholic Charities/Catholic Family Service office in Ansonia is located approximately two (2) miles from the former Catholic Charities-Shelton office. *(May 29, 2007 Initial CON Application Submission, page 5)*

14. The Applicant's payer mix for the Shelton location is as follows: *(May 29, 2007, Initial CON Application Submission, page 9)*

Table 3: Payer Mix for the Shelton location

Payer Mix	Shelton
Medicare	10%
Medicaid	35%
Total Government Payers	45%
Self-Pay*	35%
Total Non-Government Payers	35%
Uncompensated Care**	20%
Total Payer Mix	100%

*Self Pay Clients: are those who are not covered by 3rd party insurance of any kind, but can document a regular income. For this client category an "out of pocket" session fee (based on average monthly income) is determined via the agency's sliding fee scale.

**Uncompensated Care Clients: are those for whom the session fee is waived because they lack both 3rd party insurance and personal income.

**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. *(January 31, 2007 Letter of Intent, page 3)*
16. The Applicant anticipated the loss of (\$16,246) of annualized revenue which had been realized from the annual United Way allocation. *(May 29, 2007 Initial CON Application Submission, page 4)*
17. One .2FTE staff clinician was transferred to a primary provider location in Bridgeport. There was no impact to the agency budget. *(May 29, 2007 Initial CON Application Submission, page 9)*
18. There is no State Health Plan in existence at this time. *(May 29, 2007 Initial CON Application Submission, page 2)*
19. The Applicant has adduced evidence that the proposal is consistent with the Applicant's long-range plan. *(May 29, 2007 Initial CON Application Submission, page 2)*
20. The Applicant has not undertaken any activities to improve productivity and contain costs. *(May 29, 2007 Initial CON Application Submission, page 7)*
21. The proposal will not result in any change to the Applicant's teaching and research responsibilities. *(May 29, 2007 Initial CON Application Submission, page 8)*
22. The Applicant states that the patient/physician mix will not change. *(May 29, 2007 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. (*May 29, 2007 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 Ansonia, Stamford, Norwalk, Bridgeport, Shelton, and Danbury. The Applicant is proposing to terminate services at its Shelton service location.

The Shelton 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 Shelton service location was a satellite office of Catholic Charities of Fairfield County, Inc., located at 238 Jewett Avenue, Bridgeport. The Valley United Way had funded 2 Catholic Sponsored agencies: Catholic Charities of Shelton, an agency of Catholic Charities of Fairfield County, serving Shelton; Catholic Charities/Catholic Family Services of Ansonia, an agency of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Hartford, serving Ansonia. In January 2006, planning discussions were initiated by The Valley United Way to consolidate the delivery of counseling services in Shelton and Ansonia under one agency. In March 2006, this process resulted in a decision to de-fund Catholic Charities of Shelton and increase dedicated United Way funding to Catholic Charities/Catholic Family Services Ansonia office, which agreed to assume responsibility for the remaining Catholic Charities of Shelton client caseload and to provide services to Shelton residents, commencing July 1, 2006.

The Shelton facility closed June 30, 2006. Approximately 8 weeks prior to the anticipated closure, the 4 remaining active clients were offered the option of accepting transfer to Catholic Charities/Catholic Family Service Ansonia Office for reassignment to a staff clinician at the agency. Three of four clients opted for reassignment and one client chose to voluntarily terminate service. The Applicant stated that it had 360, 216 and 108 visits in FY 04, FY 05 and 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 Shelton service location was closed primarily due to the lack of funding. Similar services however, are currently being provided by the Catholic Charities/Catholic Family Services of Ansonia to the residents of Shelton. Accordingly, despite the closure of the Shelton office, the patients from Shelton continue to have access to similar services albeit in an alternative location.

The Applicant's proposal to terminate its Shelton service location has no associated capital expenditure. The Applicant anticipated the loss of (\$16,246) of annualized revenue which had been realized from the annual United Way allocation.

Order

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 Shelton, at 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

August 15, 2007

Signed by Cristine A. Vogel
Commissioner

CAV:pf