



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF HEALTH CARE ACCESS

M. JODI RELL
GOVERNOR

CRISTINE A. VOGEL
COMMISSIONER

August 17, 2005

Sue Bouchard
Executive Assistant
Sound Community Services, Inc.
165 State Street
New London, CT 06320

RE: Certificate of Need Determination; Report Number 05-30451-EXM
Sound Community Services, Inc.
CON Exemption Pursuant to Section 19a-639b, C.G.S.
Merger between Integrated Behavioral Health, Inc. and First Step, Inc.

Dear Ms. Bouchard:

The Office of Health Care Access ("OHCA") is in receipt of your request for exemption from the Certificate of Need ("CON") process, pursuant to Section 19a-639b of the Connecticut General Statutes ("C.G.S."), for the merger between Integrated Behavioral Health, Inc. and First Step, Inc. at 165 State Street in New London.

Upon review of the information contained in the request, OHCA finds the following:

1. Integrated Behavioral Health, Inc. ("IBH") is a non-profit facility providing psychiatric outpatient care for adults at 165 State Street in New London.
2. First Step, Inc. ("FS") is a non-profit social rehabilitative agency focusing on case management, residential and vocational services at 38 Green Street in New London.
3. IBH and FS propose to merge into a new entity Sound Community Services, Inc. located at 165 State Street in New London.
4. The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services ("DMHAS"), in a letter dated July 22, 2005, from Commissioner Thomas A. Kirk, Jr., Ph.D., recommends an exemption under CGS Section 19a-639b for a merger between Integrated Behavioral Health, Inc. and First Step, Inc. to provide psychiatric and supported services for adults.

5. DMHAS states that the merger will improve the quality of behavioral health services offered in New London County by increasing client access through a continuum of care resulting in better outcomes. Also, the merger will allow for more cost effective administration of services.
6. There is no associated capital expenditure with this proposal.

Based on the above findings, OHCA has determined that the merger between Integrated Behavioral Health, Inc, and First Step, Inc. to form a new entity Sound Community Services, Inc. located at 165 State Street in New London meets the exemption requirements of Section 19a-639b of the Connecticut General Statutes and, therefore, is exempt from OHCA's CON process. Termination of these services would require CON approval, pursuant to Section 19a-638, C.G.S.

Thank you for providing information to OHCA regarding this proposal. If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact Paolo Fiducia, Associate Health Care Analyst, Certification, Financial Analysis and Forecasting, at (860) 418-7001.

Sincerely,

Signed by Cristine A. Vogel
Commissioner

C: Honorable Thomas A. Kirk, Jr., Ph.D., Commissioner, DMHAS
Sandra Bauer, Health Processing Technician, DPH, DCBR
Al Bidorini, Director, OPAS, DMHAS
Donna C. Stimpson, Planning Specialist, DMHAS

CAV:pf