

**Written Testimony for the
Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Health and Hospitals
Funding for the Connecticut Mental Health Center**

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Senator Osten, Representative Walker, and Honorable Members of the Appropriations Committee, it is my privilege to address leaders who have over the years shown an unwavering dedication to the needs of people with mental illness and addictions.

My name is Bob Malison. I am here on behalf of the Yale Department of Psychiatry and it's Chairman, Dr. John Krystal, and I feel privileged to represent a group of more than 1000 dedicated mental health professionals, including faculty, trainees, and staff who work at sites from Greenwich, to New Haven to New London, including at the Connecticut Mental Health Center where I am Director of the Clinical Neuroscience Research Unit.

I will keep my comments brief, as I primarily want to thank you for your continued funding of CMHC and DMHAS, and briefly remind you on the critical missions sustained by the State's ongoing support.

1. Patient Care. CMHC is the primary provider of treatment for patients with chronic disabling mental illnesses and addictions in the New Haven area. Beyond its local community role, however, CMHC is also a statewide resource. CMHC patients come from 101 of Connecticut's 169 cities and towns. CMHC houses unique programs that have a statewide impact, such as the STEP Program for young people with new psychosis symptoms, La Clinica Hispana, for Spanish-speaking patients, or our Forensic Psychiatry Programs that work at the interface of mental illness and the legal system. Finally, the research unit that I direct, is a tertiary care facility where those who are not helped by existing treatments are offered the latest breakthroughs in investigational treatments.
2. Educating and training the next generation of CT's psychiatrists. We attract the best and brightest of those aspiring to enter our field from across the State, country and, in fact, the world. This year we had 1200 applicants for 16 residency positions. State support for this mission is further augmented by federal research education and training grants as well – three of which I am happy to report were just renewed for another 5 years each, including 1 with a perfect review score.

3. The State / Yale partnership remains a “win-win” for the people of CT.
- a. Yale supports CMHC’s development of new treatments and biotechnologies. For example, Yale recently invested \$10M in CMHC renovations and it provides \$1.2M of annual support to CMHC faculty.
 - b. The State’s \$1.2M investment in research infrastructure at CMHC is critical cost-multiplier, covering expenses that cannot be supported by federal grants. Such support helped make us the #1 Department nationally in federal NIH grant support, including \$38.8 million in federal grants to CMHC this past year. These grants will return over \$1.0 M in overhead cost recoveries to the State General Fund this year, covering the lion’s share of the State’s annual investment.
 - c. CMHC research has been a magnet for investment in Connecticut, drawing Pfizer’s Clinical Research Unit to New Haven, across the street from CMHC. In a recently released study commissioned by the City of New Haven and reported on in the New Haven Register, Ninigret Partners cited neuroscience as a key driver of the city’s future economy and specifically cited CMHC as an important resources.
 - d. For example, CMHC research programs have spun off companies including Neurogen, PsychoGenics, Spring Healthcare, and Biohaven Pharmaceuticals. Biohaven, located in New Haven, debuted in May, 2017 and now has a total value of \$2.6 B.

In closing: CMHC remains a critical community and state resource, a national model for clinical innovation, and an engine for the Connecticut economy. Thank you for you recognizing its importance to the citizens of the State and for your continued support for CMHC and DMHAS funding.