

Written Statement of Clarence A. Payne
Volunteer
Willimantic Recovery Community Center
Concerning DHMAS funding
Appropriations committee
Friday 02/21/2020

Senator Osten, Representative Walker, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify regarding the CT DHMAS budget, an important resource to the Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery (CCAR.)

I believe CCAR is an important place for recovery from addiction, dependency, and related conditions. I hold the belief CCAR should be a resource available in every town, because it is helpful to those who are lost in Connecticut. There are All Recovery meetings available every afternoon, to stay connected with the community, and receive the welcoming atmosphere of recovery we need to feel accepted in society. I personally and strongly believe if there were a CCAR based in Waterbury, I would not have relapsed into my addiction and past toxic behavior while living there. In my experience, community members in Waterbury do not presently have that atmosphere of recovery and the resources or knowledge of other options.

Expanding the resources and atmosphere of recovery CCAR has to help those lost here in Connecticut heavily depends on the continued support of the CT DHMAS. I urge the committee to support ongoing and extended funding for the DHMAS so that CCAR can continue to provide the recovery support services to the communities it serves, and expand into surrounding areas.

Thank you for hearing/reading my testimony,

Clarence A. Payne