



Getting Help...Getting Better...Giving Back.  
Governor's Proposed Budget FY2021-23

Appropriations Hearing

HB 6439 AAC the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

Tuesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021

Sharon L. Castelli  
Chief Executive Officer  
Chrysalis Center, Inc.

*(Main Campus locate in Hartford, providing services state-wide)*

Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Representative Gibson, Senator Hartley, Representative Kennedy, Senator Somers, and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee, thank you for hearing my testimony today on House Bill 6439 (AAC the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023). I am here to discuss the important investments through the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to support efforts to end homelessness in Connecticut. My name is Sharon Castelli and I work in Hartford and am a resident of Middletown, CT.

**I respectfully request that the committee support the following proposals and expansions from the Governor's budget for the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS):**

- I support the proposed budget for the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services' Housing Supports and Services line at \$23.4 million in each year of the biennium.
- I request a new targeted investment of \$2.25 million in the DMHAS' Housing Supports and Services line to provide supportive services to 300 households in scattered-site and development units.
- I support the CT Community Nonprofit Alliance proposal to restore \$461 million over five years to community nonprofits. Funding for nonprofits, does not adequately cover increased costs and demands for services.

Chrysalis Center was one of the original Reaching Home Members and since 2012, the number of people utilizing Connecticut's shelter system has decreased by 57%. Investing in proven solutions to homelessness is necessary in continuing our progress and ensuring that every youth, family, and individual has a safe, stable place to call home.

Also, over the past 5 years our organization has received a less than 1% (.007%) increase in COLA on WAGES ONLY, not operations and have received 12.4% cuts to services. As essential employer who staff worked through the entire COVID pandemic **at the workplace**, so we were available for client's; **it is time for to prioritize funding to the non-profit community**. This business model of continued underfunding the PNP's is no longer going to work and I know if we receive further cuts and zero COLA's, we will be cutting services to clients despite the enormous increase in social isolation, anxiety, and depression.

Thank you to the committee for the opportunity to present this testimony, and for your hard work making important and life-saving decisions during this public health crisis – it is with your support that we can help make sure Connecticut's residents are healthy and stably housed.

Sincerely,  
Sharon L. Castelli,  
Chief Executive Officer  
Chrysalis Center, Inc.

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*Our Mission: "To provide supportive services to assist people in need to transform their lives."*