

Testimony Before the Appropriations Committee
March 2, 2021
DMHAS BUDGET HEARING
H.B. 6435 An Act Concerning the State Budget for The Biennium Ending June 30, 2023
And Making Appropriations Therefore.

Hello Senator Osten, Representative Walker and members of the Appropriations Committee.

My name is Anna Colangelo, and I am a registered voter in the city of Bridgeport.

I am testifying in support of maintaining the budget for the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

Thank you for reading my testimony. This past year, Bridge House—a mental health rehabilitation clubhouse program in Bridgeport to which I have belonged for years—has helped me so much, especially in light of the coronavirus pandemic. Bridge House has helped me with the structure that I need each and every day. When I was able to start attending the clubhouse again (after it had closed due to the pandemic), staff gave me important projects to do on the computer. I also appreciate the staff for making sure I had food on my table, as well as activities that I could do at home and would keep me occupied. They sent me word puzzles with their weekly and monthly mailings; they even delivered jigsaw puzzles. Because of them, I feel lucky to be alive!

I am asking that funding for the Department of mental Health and Addiction Services is increased this budget session.

Thank you very much, again, for taking the time to allow me to give my testimony.