

Testimony before the Appropriations Committee
March 2, 2021
DMHAS BUDGET HEARING
H.B. No. 6439 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE
BIENNIUM
ENDING JUNE THIRTIETH, 2023, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS
THEREFOR.
Brenda Kingsley

Good evening to the members of the Appropriations committee.

My name is Brenda Joyce Kingsley and I am a registered voter from the town of Putnam Ct. I am here to testify today for more money for the workers of the non-profit, United Services, so we can keep workers in the social program. So that good, qualified, quality workers are able to work for United Services and not leave because they can't make enough working with us to pay their bills, to support their families while helping with case management and behavioral health.

A lot would go on for years in the social club. You do not have to like or love. At least talk to the Person, be social to another. That's what social is all about. Staff had to talk about this to members. It is a social program. Every human being deserves the dignity of a human being in a social program. In that light the social program people have to get along.

Not a judge, not a jury, not keeper of a person's life. You do not know of another's life, as to what happened to the person. That is why it is wrong. Not control over another. A person is as themselves. Whether you like it or not the person is there. Alive, living with life in them. And still breathing as you single out and talk to another who is talking about you. What you are saying in public, on phones and cameras everywhere?

We are the Welcome Arms clubhouse. Our staff had a speaker named Patty who gave talks against bullying and being a bully toward another. Look at ourselves how we treat our fellow members. We are the clubhouse without a building of our own. I know, myself included, members going into therapy sessions, as to what goes on in the social program talking to case management. Asking for non-profits so we can keep the workers we have. The staff at times had to be there for the members going to them with the problems they would have at hand. Staff had to do what would be best for the member. Trying to be a help to the members first-hand experience.

United services have been keeping check-ins to find out how members are. United Services set up the Zoom groups for the members to talk just like being there. Giving members a chance to talk and socialize with others besides our activities.

The group doing all that staff does for us. Doing all the groups shows the members that staff is there for us and cares that we are not alone, we are connected to the staff and the members. There are so many groups, social case management and behavioral health, to name a few, exercises, chair yoga, walking group, nutrition, mindfulness, healthy eating, groups for stress, depression and diabetes. Staff connects us with others and up from chairs watching our tv's. As our staff says to get us to move around to get us to be active and be with others is so good for us. Doing activities with others and staff taking up some of the time we'd be by ourselves. What United Services does for us is connection and keeping in mind that we can keep our staff and our workers there for each and everyone of us.

What happened to me recently in the year 2021 at the Putnam Bank in Price Chopper. I was with my homemaker Emily who witnessed when I was getting money from my account. I told the teller I wanted \$200.00 in twenties, 3 tens, 2 fives and a roll of quarters to make \$250.00. And could she count it out to me. She counted the 10's, fives and \$10 in quarters to make fifty.

She counted 20 dollar bills of \$100.00 and she was giving it to me and that was it. I said wait a minute there is another hundred. She said wait I will have to go into the other draw for the other hundred. She was trying to give me \$150.00 instead of the \$250.00. This happened at the bank right out in front of everyone.

I have something to say. People with mental illness are treated real bad in public by others because they are not all there mentally. People pull it over on a person thinking they can get away with it. There was no kindness toward another. There is meanness and cruelty and laughing because not all there mentally. Think it is ok to be that way to another. The person would never know how bad you were being toward another, think the person did not know it and get away with it. You are in front of everyone. Being that mean to a person in front of everybody.

Thank you

Brenda Kingsley