

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.

Brian Leyh

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

My name is Brian Leyh and I am registered voter from Waterbury Connecticut.

I am here to testify regarding H.B. No. 6439 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE THIRTIETH, 2023, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR

I attend Non-profit Organizations such as Catholic Charities and Mental Health Connecticut's Independence Center which is a safe place to where people get counseling and help that they may not know they need.

Even the Covid-19 Pandemic has not prevented the Independence Center from doing the work that they do. We are still able to access services and get food assistance each week.

I live in Waterbury have volunteered to help the homeless, those in need of food and people with mental illness. With the Independence Center, I can show them a place to go. Mental Illness is rampant in our state ad we need to increase the funding for services and non-profit programs- especially since they've been cut for the last 10 years or more. If you increase the funding, you will represent the people most in need. Thank you

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 request \$375,000 in new funding in the DMHAS' Housing Supports and Services line for enhanced outreach services that would enable us to better identify individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness.
I support the Governor's proposal to provide an additional \$4 million in FY22 and \$7.2 million in FY23 in DMHAS for continued discharges from Connecticut Valley Hospital, including 30 new Money Follows the Person placements.
- I request the addition of \$352,500 in each year of the biennium for wrap-around services for 47 individuals anticipated to receive federal HUD Mainstream vouchers during FY22.
- I support the CT Community Nonprofit Alliance proposal to restore \$461 million over five years to community nonprofits. Funding for nonprofits, including those working to end homelessness, does not adequately cover increased costs and demands for services.

Thank you for listening to my testimony today.