

**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.**

**Matthew Rowe**

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

My name is Matthew Rowe 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

Please increase funding to the DHMAS budget! The many non-profits need the funds desperately to provide services to the community, especially since they have been cut for the past decade. One such place is the Independence center in Waterbury. They remain very active in these dire times. They help with referrals toward other agencies which may help me such as tax services. They also hold groups online. One I started last week helps me with writing my story. They also provide meals weekly during this pandemic to its members and also help with a food bank which helps supplement my food stamps. They also help by listening to my many needs and offer encouragement and advice. In Hebrews 13 verse 1 which says Let brotherly love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers for there by some have entertained Angel's unaware. They help me always somehow. They are truly my Angel's for listening to many plights. Thank you for your time. God speed.

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.