



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 30th, 2023

Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

Tuesday, March 2nd, 2021

Edith Torres

Program Manager, Supportive Housing

Chrysalis Center

Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Representative Gibson, Senator Hartley, Representative Kennedy, Senator Somers, and members of the Appropriations Committee, thank you for hearing my testimony today on House Bill 6439.

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 Edith Torres, and I am the Program Manager for the Supportive Housing programs at Chrysalis Center. I am a resident of the Town of East Hartford, CT.

Chrysalis Center is a nonprofit, socially innovative, multiservice organization that serves individuals and their families living in the State of Connecticut. We help people living in poverty, Veterans, men, women, children, and young adults who are struggling with mental health, addiction, HIV/AIDS, homelessness, and those returning from incarceration.

I am here today to discuss the important investments through the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services which support the efforts to end homelessness in Connecticut.

As the Program Manager for Supportive Housing programs at Chrysalis Center I have seen people coming from homelessness and families who are on the brink of homelessness. It is critical to support housing programs, like Chrysalis Center's, which make a big difference in people's lives. We know that safe, affordable, and permanent housing is the only solution to homelessness. When our state's residents have stable housing, their economic and health outcomes improve. During COVID-19, the need for permanent housing for all of Connecticut's residents has become even more important.

I respectfully request that the committee support House Bill 6439.

Investing in these critical programs, like Chrysalis Center's, is so important to ensure everyone has a safe stable place to call home.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak about Chrysalis Center and the important work we can do together to help provide a home for everyone in Connecticut.

Sincerely,

Edith Torres

Program Manager, Supportive Housing

Chrysalis Center

etorres@chrysaliscenterct.org

255 Homestead Avenue, P.O. Box 320613 • Hartford, CT 06132 • www.chrysaliscenterct.org • (860) 263-4400

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