

Hello. My name is Mary Bell. I receive case management services from Gilead Community Services in Middletown. I am here today to help advocate for increases in the financial budgets of non-profits in Connecticut.

I receive my medicine monitoring and help with doctor visits. I receive psychiatrist visits and therapy. I also get help with finding a safe place to live.

We need more staff to help keep our Clubhouse open. We need new vans because the old ones are falling apart.

If we want to have picnics and barbecues for help in socializing we need to have money for the food. We want to invite more clients to come to the social club.

The staff need a raise. We need safe housing for the older clients, and they need home health aids to stay out of the hospital. We all need help to stay on our medication and stay sober if we have issues with drinking or drugs.

We need to be able to call the crisis hotline. This keeps us out of the hospital which is really expensive. No one likes being in the hospital. It is a lot less money for the state for us to be helped to live outside of the hospital.

I think it's not fair that non-profit companies work so hard with such small budgets. If the legislature can't help us we will need to go talk to Governor Rell. I hope she can help us.

Thank you very much for listening to me today. God bless you all for doing such an important job.