

Testimony for Public Hearing
Appropriations Committee
February 20, 2009
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Hello, my name is Carol Gee, and I am an advocate for people with disabilities. My concern as an advocate is the decision that is being made to put people with disabilities into institutions, or mini institutions rather than integrating them into the community. With the release of people with disabilities after the closing of Cedarcrest (if it happens), putting them in group homes and supportive housing makes more sense than spending money on renovations at Connecticut valley hospital.

Two years ago the Governor committed to restore funding for 150 units of supportive housing that will provide desperately needed housing for veterans, families with children and people with disabilities that are homeless. If we provide supportive housing rather than cutting funding which will add up to \$8.26 dollars on mental health services the next two years in the long run we will save money, because we can get people out of hospitals . Let's face it there will always be an ongoing problem with people having disabilities. If we want to keep people with disabilities stable do not make it hard for them to get medication. Medication is the only help they have.

By my personal experience I can say that if you really want to help disabled individuals teach them about medication. Maybe some funding should go to informing the disabled a little more about medications, since there are always people with disabilities and so they can help themselves.