

**Testimony for Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Health and Hospitals
On the DMHAS Budget
H.B. 6365, the Governor's Proposed Biennial Budget**

**By Jill Spinetti, President and CEO
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DBA The Governor's Prevention Partnership
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Good afternoon, Senator Harp, Representative Geragosian, Senator Harris, Representative Ryan and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Jill Spinetti and I am the president of The Governor's Prevention Partnership. Our non-profit organization is recognizing its 20th anniversary this year and focuses on providing resources to law enforcement, community coalitions and organizations, school leaders, state agencies, youth groups and others so that young people in our state will grow up free from substance abuse, underage drinking, violence, and bullying and be able to take their place in our future workforce.

I'm here today to ask for your continued support for prevention programs so that our young people can grow and thrive in nurturing families and communities. I'm joined here by several of our partnering groups and individuals as well as our colleagues in the Regional Action Councils. I commend DMHAS, the General Assembly and State of Connecticut on its leadership and belief in prevention and the dedication of my colleagues who work tirelessly on behalf of our young people.

3 key messages that I'd like to provide about prevention in Connecticut are as follows:

- 1. Prevention is cost effective and saves the state money.** We know that nearly \$10 is returned for every dollar invested in prevention. Our public-private partnership model has been put to work for 20 years, and in that time we have leveraged over \$14 million dollars in private funding from businesses and corporations and foundations, matching the government's investment in prevention. Right now we are working with 115 businesses

who provide resources for youth mentoring programs. (List attached to my written testimony.) The Partnership provides the expertise to help prevention programs grow and enlist businesses to invest in prevention.

2. Threats continue to occur—right now prescription drug abuse is a prevalent among teens and communities across the state. The Partnership along with DMHAS, DEA and many other formed a task force last year to look at the problem. In partnership with the RACS, we've disseminated information warning parents to lock up their medicine cabinets. Whether it's cyberbullying, underage drinking, or prescription or over the counter drug abuse, these threats are constant. In my 10 ½ years with The Partnership I've seen waves of similar threats come and go—but the constant is that the prevention community remains poised and ready to attack the problem as a first line of defense.

3. During times of economic stress we must remain vigilant. As families face uncertain times, an investment in prevention will net a tremendous return in costs saved in treatment and incarceration to name two.

How does The Partnership add value during unsure economic times? We work in partnership to maximize resources; we stretch every dollar that comes our way by attracting corporate funding; we scan the environment for threats and respond immediately and effectively; and, we work to leverage funding by strengthening the public-private partnership.

In the days ahead, I ask for your continued support. Just to name a few of our initiatives. We are launching a new effort to prevent bullying in schools. We're working with CREC and other schools on a federal grant to strengthen prevention efforts in schools and with the UConn Health Center on a federal grant to prevent gang violence as a follow up to a statewide urban youth violence summit that was held last fall. We're developing new modules for mentors on prevention of smoking and obesity. We're getting messages out through the media to raise awareness about drugs and underage drinking. And, we're supporting over 100 chapters of Students Against Destructive Decisions in the state.

Thank you for your support.

2008 Corporate Mentoring Honor Roll

The Governor's Prevention Partnership recognizes and commends the following businesses that have provided resources for mentoring, including funding and employee mentors throughout the state:



Aetna Inc.	The Greater Bridgeport Bar Association, Inc.
Alstom Power Inc.	Gregg Wies & Gardner Architects
Antinozzi Associates	Grove Hill Medical Center
Aquarion Water Company	The Guilford Savings Bank
AT&T	Hallama & Pelliccione
TD Banknorth	Hamilton Sundstrand
Barnes Group Inc.	Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc.
Bridgeport Hospital	Health Net of the Northeast
Greater Bristol Chamber of Commerce	Hubbard Hall
Bristol Hospital	Langan Engineering & Environmental Services
BVH Integrated Services	Liberty Bank
CARTUS	Macchi Engineers
Cesar Pelli & Associates Architects Inc.	McLagan
Citibank	Middle Oak
Citizens Bank of Connecticut	Milford Bank
City True Value Hardware	Montagno Construction Inc.
Comcast	Newman Architects
The Connecticut Light and Power Company	Northrop Grumman Norden Systems
Connecticut Valley Hospital	Norwalk Hospital
Culpen and Woods Architects	Nutmeg State Federal Credit Union
Datastrip	O & G Industries, Inc.
Dehar Associates LLC	Océ North America-Document Printing Systems
Dewberry	OFI Contract Interiors
Dominion	Otis Elevator
East River Energy	Palace Theater
ebm-papst, Inc.	People's United Bank
Edward Stanley EngineersLLC	Petra Construction Corp.
Environmental Engineering, Inc.	Pfizer Inc.
ESPN, Inc.	The Phoenix Companies, Inc.
Firestone	Pitney Bowes, Inc.
First Bristol Federal Credit Union	Pratt & Whitney
Fletcher Thompson Inc.	Project Technologies Group
GE Commercial Finance	Prospect Partners
GE Consumer & Industrial	Purdue Pharma Company
General Electric	Quality Coils
Genworth Financial	Ricci & Company CPA's
Gerber Scientific, Inc.	RiSu Martial Arts Academy, LLC
Gilbane Building Company	Rockville Bank

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