



Community Providers Association
Caring for Connecticut.

Public Health Committee - February 6, 2009

S.B. No. 756 AN ACT CONCERNING A DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT REGISTRY CHECK FOR APPLICANTS OF EMPLOYMENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES OR THE DEPARTMENT'S PROVIDERS.

The Connecticut Community Providers Association represents organizations that provide services and supports for people with disabilities and significant needs including children and adults with substance use disorders, mental illness, developmental, and physical disabilities.

Our members provide vital human services to hundreds of thousands of individuals across the state. Community providers have been inadequately funded by the state for over 20 years, with increases to cover costs of services that don't come close to the rate of inflation. Despite this chronic underfunding, we face growing regulation and increasing unfunded mandates. With a 0% COLA in FY09 and proposed 0% COLAs in FY10 and FY11, any additional unfunded mandates will put further strain on the community provider agencies supporting individuals with developmental disabilities.

We urge the Committee to review this legislation to assure that it doesn't create additional unfunded mandates and prolong the staff hiring process. According to a CCPA survey, community providers contracting with DDS struggle with a 25% turnover rate for direct care staff. Providers are constantly managing the costly and labor intensive process of recruitment and hiring. Any additional steps in this process would create an additional administrative burden on community providers.

Specifically we ask that you raise the following questions regarding this legislation:

1. What are the potential costs for DDS, DCF and for community providers to process an additional registry check?
2. How much time will this additional check add to the hiring process for direct care staff?
3. What can DDS and DCF do to assure that the process of checking the additional registry is simple to access and that responses are processed in a timely manner?

We welcome the opportunity of discussing any questions you may have about this proposed legislation. If you have questions please contact Alyssa Goduti, VP, Public Policy at 860-257-7909 or agoduti@ccpa-inc.org Thank you for your time and consideration.

CCPA

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