

I AM SUBMITTING MY TESTIMONY ON AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING PUBLIC HEALTH. THIS BILL IMPLEMENTS CHANGES IN THE DMHAS BUDGET – SUCH AS THE CONSOLIDATION OF CEDARCREST HOSPITAL INTO CVH, ACHIEVING UNIFORMITY IN THE DMHAS PRETRIAL ALCOHOL AND PRETRIAL SUBSTANCE ABUSE EDUCATION PROGRAM AND FUNDING THE AGENCY'S TOBACCO ENFORCEMENT EMPLOYEES FROM THE DRUG FORFEITURE ACCOUNT.

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I will be discussing the section of the bill about implementing changes in the DMHAS budget such as the consolidation of Cedarcrest into CVH. State mental hospitals are terrible places. Inmates suffer for years at a time, behind locked doors. IT is very oppressive and frighten go be behind locked doors.'

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That is why in the budget we need community support so people can live in the community instead of locking people up, and the budget should use the money saved from the closing of Cedarcrests and supported affordable housing instead of lockups in large dungeon prison hellhole torturous institutions such as Cedar Crest, CVH, and Greater Bridgeport Community Mental Health Center. The pain and suffering of inmates in CVH, the largest and most oppressive state mental hospital in the state shouldn't be increased or proliferated just because they are closing down Cedarcrest. As my friend and roommate told me today, she had a horrible time at Cedarcrest.

I admire the Governor and the legislature for closing own a notoriously dungeon prison hellhole warehouse mental hospital called Cedarcrest. But I don't trust the governor to provide outpatient community support services to people who are just want to get them.'

When Rowland resigned a governor, Jodie Rell became governor and Kevin Sullivan became assistant governor. Jodie Rell gave Kevin Sullivan the job of investigating and solving the crisis in the mental health system especially gridlock in nursing homes, shelters, emergency rooms, prison and state mental hospitals. Kevin Sullivan held hearings across the state, and the consensus as that every consumer

and recovery mental health staff worker] wanted more housing an he concluded he should build 500 new units of housing for people who need supported housing who have psychiatric disabilities.

So now there are 132 apartments which are so-called]

Ready to shovel. But Governor Rill is against the legislation and people are homeless with psychiatric disabilities gridlocked with out homes in nursing homes, emergency rooms, shelters, prisons, and state mental hospitals.

People at CVH don't need an expanded CVH its expansion making worse another oppressive toreros hellhole dungeon state mental hospital

The money saved the budget from closing down Cedarcrest should go to community services>so people can live out in the community>When Fairfield Hills was closed down for being the worst torturous oppressive dungeon hellhole warehouse there ever was. It was close down in smooth manner that gave every person a resident housing. And keep the promise evolved.

Keep the promise is that the money saved from the closing down of Fairfield hills be all saved in support services in the community. That is why I think it is possible to close down Cedarcrest smoothly because the closing down of Fairfield Hills was a success closing down. In the many years I have testified at the

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*legislature this is the first time I have seen a bill
closing down a specific stat mental hospitals.
Programs like Laurel House are the modern
alternative to incarceration and institutionalization
And free people from locked doors, and rescue
people who were written off as basket case on eh
back wars.*

*Laurel House is all for being an alternative to mental
hospitals and is all for
Helping people with support apartments, food,
shelter, employment and help getting and going to
college.*

*As the poet Galway Kinnell wrote, "every day I
transcend the pain anew." It is painful for all these
people locked up in Cedarcrest in an oppressive
atmosphere, with uncomfortable furniture, locked
door, psych med that make them shake and even
cause diabetes, are marched about from breakfast
onward from one room to the next, are served
horrible food don't have the newspapers, margarine
and books, don't have computers and don't have
email, Microsoft word documents and internet, and if
they rebel they are beaten up with needles or
restraints which are very painful. This is why when I
learned the bill closing down Cedarcrest I was very
enthusiastic, as long as the money released from the
closing goes to community support, and starts the go-
ahead for operation shovel,*

And creates the housing needed for people such as people being discharged from Cedarcrest, so they don't have to go to CVH.

The time has come to close down state mental hospitals and give people community supports especially supported housing. Closing down Fairfield Hill, although a fantastic victory for freedom and quality living, is only the beginning, on rescuing people from gridlock and oppression. When they are discharging people from the then closed down Cedarcrest, and they have probably a few inmates who can't live on their own in apartments, they could send them to private hospitals such as Silver Hill, Holbrook and Yale.

Anything is better than state mental hospitals.