



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES
A Healthcare Service Agency

M. Jodi Rell
Governor

Patricia A. Rehmer, MSN
Commissioner

Memorandum:

TO: Public Health Committee

FROM: Patricia Rehmer, MSN
Commissioner

DATE: March 12, 2010

SUBJECT: **S. B. No. 402 AN ACT CONCERNING THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PARTNERSHIP**

Sen. Harris, Rep. Ritter and distinguished members of the Public Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on **S. B. No. 402 AN ACT CONCERNING THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PARTNERSHIP**.

DMHAS supports the proposal to have us be an active participant in the Behavioral Health Partnership and Oversight Committee but has some reservations regarding the bill before you. The current Partnership has been in existence for a number of years where alliances have been formed and relationships strengthened. While we appreciate the work they have accomplished over a very short amount of time, we are a little leery of coming into something that has been working so well and which has concentrated all of its efforts on the child and adolescent behavioral health population. The people we serve have very different needs and face different challenges. We would not want their needs to get lost in this process.

While we are still evaluating the current language and will have specific recommendations for changes in the near future, we do want to register some of our concerns.

We believe the membership needs to be made more reflective of persons in recovery from psychiatric disabilities and substance use disorders as well as their family members and other advocates. We would want language that allows for the holding of joint contracts with DMHAS, DSS and the administrative services organization. We remain firmly committed to our responsibility of clinical management of the contract and holding a joint contract would insure that responsibility.

We look forward to working with you as this issue moves forward and thank you for your time and attention to this matter.