

Testimony – A plea to keep the *Hartford Enhanced Clinical Care Coordination Hartford at Wheeler Clinic* fully funded to help families at times of critical need.

Hello my name is Joyce Bosco. First, I would like to tell you that I never pictured myself testifying on this issue. Not because I don't think it is importance issue. But because I never thought it would touch me personally. I never thought it would affect me because I am an educated professional person that never thought our family would need outside help in raising my child. But we did.

My child is adopted and unfortunately was struggling terribly through his adolescents. He developed a chronic runaway problem, which resulted in him developing a substance abuse problem, legal problems and had on-going mental health issues. So much so he required residential placement to complete his last two years of high school which he was able to complete in that supportive setting.

When it was time to transition him back into the community he was referred to the Hartford Enhanced Clinical Care Coordination Hartford at Wheeler Clinic. It is a fair statement to say I do not think I could have made it through this period if I had not had the support this program gave me at this time. They help parents navigate through a system that is very difficult When you have a child that has the type of issues my son has it is completely overwhelming for the parents to have work through systems of care that are often telling what they can't do to help your child rather than what they are able to.

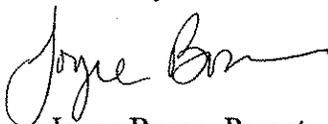
This program provided professional advocates that work effectively with both the child and the family to ensure that services that are required and promised are followed through on. They help to coordinate all the clinical services that are needed to help the child succeed as they transition back into community settings. The staff is completely professional and knowledgeable about community resources and they are supportive to the family at the time they need it most.

Unless you have a child with the myriad difficulties our son had you can not understand the stress it can cause the entire family unit as you pursue the help and support and programming they need to succeed.

I encourage you to continue funding for these types as services. This support services are often the difference between having the stress of working with children with myriad issues manageable or destabilization of the entire family unit

Surely, this lack of family stability would have a much greater societal impact and cost then the cost of these programs overall.

Sincerely,



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