

Testimony before the Appropriations Committee

DMHAS Budget Hearing

February 18, 2010

Greetings all:

Our imminent danger is not the hospital, it is extinction. In Jean-Paul Sartre's book, "Anti-Semitism and the Jew," the author states, "We will not rest till no Jew is extinct."

It is so imperative to give DMHAS the resources for existing programs and programs that need to be developed. Every person who is no longer in the hospital needs to be treated as the precious, priceless gift that they are.

All of the savings from closing Cedarcrest Hospital must be used for housing and community based services that we need to help us thrive as individuals with meaning to our lives.

Chrysalis Center, AU, Capitol Region, Shepherd Park and Keep the Promise can be viewed as the temples where the light was burning out. It will take a miracle to keep the light alive so that it can continue to bestow love and friendship and honor and hope and recovery and unique, priceless experiences to all.

They have smashed us and they have kicked us but they have not defeated us. The lights are still burning—there is still hope. Please **KEEP THE PROMISE!**

Janet Auster

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