

#58

**Testimony for Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Health and Hospitals
On the DMHAS Budget
As proposed in the Governor's FY 12 budget**

**By Jill Spinetti, President and CEO
The Governor's Partnership to Protect Connecticut's Workforce
DBA The Governor's Prevention Partnership
March 1, 2011**

Good evening, Senator Harp, Representative Walker, Senator Welch, Representative Candelaria, Representative Perillo and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Jill Spinetti and I am the president and CEO of The Governor's Prevention Partnership. For over 20 years, our non-profit organization has provided resources and services so that young people in our state can grow up free from substance abuse, underage drinking, violence, and bullying and be able to take their place in our future workforce.

I'm here today to ask for your continued support for prevention programs so that our young people can grow and thrive in nurturing families and communities. I commend DMHAS and their prevention unit, the General Assembly and State of Connecticut on its leadership and belief in prevention over the past years and the dedication of my colleagues who work tirelessly on behalf of our young people.

prevalent among teens and communities across the state and we're starting to see a rise in the use of synthetic marijuana. The Partnership along with DMHAS, DEA, the Regional Action Councils and many others are working together to address these problems. Whether it's cyberbullying, underage drinking, or prescription or over the counter drug abuse, these threats are real and constant. In my 12 ½ years with The Partnership, I've seen waves of similar threats come and go—but the constant is that the prevention community remains poised and ready to attack the problem as a first line of defense.

3. Partnership is The Key To Prevention. DMHAS has created a network of providers that serve the state with prevention resources and programs. Partnerships at the local, regional and statewide levels are effective, operate efficiently and work together to maximize resources. It is important for this safety net to stay in place so that young people can remain healthy and one day take their place in our workforce.

The Governor's Prevention Partnership:

- Collaborates with local, regional and statewide youth organizations to maximize program and funding resources