

**Peggy A. Lane, LCSW**

Alternative Paths  
300 Church St.  
Yalesville, CT 06492  
203-265-7770

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To the Appropriations Committee,

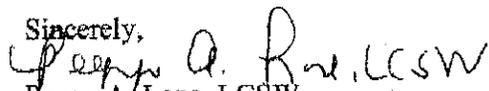
I am a Clinical Social Worker who has worked in the mental health field for the past 20 years. I own a group mental health practice of 8 clinicians who accept both private and Husky insurance. It has recently come to my attention that there is a current proposal to further cut mental health services to Husky clients.

I would like to share this case history with you. T.S. is a client with whom I worked with for 5 years. She was in the Husky A program for mothers and their children. T.S. has a young son in elementary school. She also has a chronic mental illness (bi-polar disorder). T.S. did well with regular visits with me and monthly visits with her prescriber. She would be on multiple medications at any given time and needed frequent monitoring to help her live in the community and keep her job. She became medically ill this past year and needed several surgeries. This caused her to experience an increase in psychiatric symptoms. She had to give her sister temporary guardianship of her son. She then lost her Husky A insurance and was given Husky D insurance. She was no longer able to see me as I am not reimbursed under Husky D.

In the past year, this person has lost her health, her job, her son, and her therapist. She has not been able to find another therapist during the last five months. Most out-patient therapy is not covered by Husky insurance. She has had to rely on expensive in-patient programs and sometimes daily home visits by nursing staff to monitor her well being.

This situation has not saved the State of Connecticut any money. These services are very costly and inappropriate for the chronically mentally ill. They are much better served by regular monitoring with out-patient services by those trained to do this work such as LCSWs and LPCs currently not reimbursed on the Husky D plan. Further cuts will cause tax payers to pay for expenses that could have easily been avoided. Please consider this as you make your decision on this proposal.

Sincerely,

  
Peggy A. Lane, LCSW  
354 Knob Hill Rd.  
Meriden, CT