

Testimony of Diane Manson

February 22, 2012

My name is Diane Manson and I live in Middletown, Connecticut. I am here to testify on the DMHAS budget, in particular, increased funding for Connecticut Legal Rights Project. I have been represented by CLRP ten times over the past six years. I have had a Section 8 voucher for eight years and have always been a good tenant. On February 7th, I celebrated four years of being clean.

In 2010, I received notice that my voucher had been terminated. I was scared and I didn't know what I was going to do. I worried and cried a lot, I was going to be homeless. At the time my voucher was terminated, my son, who has a substance abuse problem, was taking advantage of my psychiatric disability. By trying to help him, I hurt myself more than I helped him.

I knew that CLRP could help me and I called them right away. With CLRP's help, I was able to keep my voucher and my recovery. I would be homeless if it wasn't for CLRP's help. Sometimes people who have a psychiatric disability get taken advantage of and it is a relief to know that CLRP is there to help me. It's comforting to know that CLRP is there to help when I need them and that I can rely on them; and if not for me, then for other people with psychiatric disabilities who may not know their rights. CLRP has helped me with a few different issues and has helped me learn that I do have rights. Please make sure that CLRP has enough funding to serve me and other people.