



Central Naugatuck Valley
HELP, Inc.

900 Watertown Avenue, Waterbury, CT 06708 Phone/Fax 203-756-8984

**Testimony before the Appropriations and Human Services Committees
7/24/12
Regarding:
Section 1115 Demonstration Draft Waiver Application**

Senator Harp, Representative Walker, Senator Musto, Representative Tercyak and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of our clients and our agency, Central Naugatuck Valley Help, Inc.. My name is Stephan Skelly, and I am the Fiscal Administrator of this private non-profit. Central Naugatuck Valley Help, Inc. provides substance abuse, mental health and employment services to over six hundred clients in the Greater Waterbury area per year, including Torrington and Danbury. The clients we serve are among the poorest citizens of this state and many of them are currently covered by the Low-Income Adult Medicaid program.

We are gravely concerned about the Department of Social Services' (DSS) Section 1115 Demonstration Draft Waiver Application relating to this program.

This waiver proposal will result in limited access to essential services for our clients. In addition, the necessity for individuals to reapply for the Low-Income Adult program will cause interruption in the treatment for approximately 78,000 people. Although our agency would continue to provide services to our clients, it would certainly cause our agency financial hardship, and other services needed by our clients may be interrupted.

The majority of our clients have no other affordable healthcare options. The proposal is likely to increase costs in other service areas such as Emergency Departments and the criminal justice system.

Additionally, since the LIA program will become a federally funded and regulated program in 2014, to further overburden our Department of Social Services with temporary changes will only hurt our clients by causing unnecessary confusion and disruption in health care.

We ask your consideration of the proposed changes effects on the clients we serve and the agencies that are dependent upon receiving payments for the services provided. Thank you for your time and consideration.

For questions, please contact Roberta Murtagh, Executive Director, (203) 756-8984 x 103.