STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES
A Healthcare Service Agency

DANNEL P. MALLOY
GOVERNOR

PATRICIA A. REHMER, MSN
COMMISSIONER

Testimony by Patricia A. Rehmer, MSN, Commissioner
Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
Before the Appropriations, Human Services and
Public Health Committees
October 1, 2012

SAPT BLOCK GRANT HEARING

Good morning, Senator Harp, Senator Musto, Senator Gerratana, Representative Walker, Representative Tercyak, Representative Ritter, and distinguished members of the Appropriations, Human Services and Public Health Committees. I am Pat Rehmer Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. I am here before you today to present the department's federal fiscal year (FFY) 2013 Allocation Plan for the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant.

The Allocation Plan before you assumes a federal Block Grant of $16,883,413. Actual funding for FFY 2013 will not be known until Congress passes its budget. This figure assumes level funding, based upon the final FFY 2012 federal appropriation.

Please keep in mind, as you review this plan, that it represents only a portion of DMHAS' spending for substance abuse prevention and treatment services. Most of the programs which are funded with federal Block Grant dollars also receive state funding. There is no reduction in the overall funding of addiction services or of any particular service. Any reductions contained in the FFY 2013 SAPT Allocation Plan are only the result of changes in funding allocation between the SAPT block grant and state funds. The state funding component is not reflected in the plan before you today.

Block Grant-funded activities include services for the treatment of alcohol and other drug addiction (such as detoxification, residential and outpatient rehabilitation), as well as prevention and education services. A major department goal is the creation of a more recovery-oriented system of care. First and foremost, movement to a recovery-oriented model requires re-conceptualizing clinical and rehabilitative care within a collaborative model. As part of this system change, it is particularly crucial to promote opportunities in the areas of independent living, employment, socialization, and community integration. The emphasis of a recovery-oriented system of care is to provide the supports needed for individuals to participate fully in community life.

(AC 860) 418-7000
410 Capitol Avenue, P.O. Box 341431, Hartford, Connecticut 06134
www.dmhas.state.ct.us
An Equal Opportunity Employer

This Allocation Plan is based upon our knowledge of the needs of persons who access our services and the approaches that are most effective in resolving those needs. In so doing, the plan serves to facilitate broader access to services and an integrated system of services for prevention and treatment that is person-centered. This thinking is central to all of DMHAS' efforts and is consistent with its recovery-oriented focus. In support of its recovery initiative DMHAS is in the process of strengthening vocational supports and promoting peer-to-peer services to persons in recovery.

DMHAS is aggressively moving forward to ensure that the resources available to address the service needs of our citizens are used wisely. This FFY 2013 SAPT Block Grant Allocation Plan is an important component of reaching our goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today on the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant. I would be happy to take any questions you may have at this time.

(AC 860) 418-7000
410 Capitol Avenue, P.O. Box 341431, Hartford, Connecticut 06134
www.dmhas.state.ct.us
An Equal Opportunity Employer