

**Eastern  
Aging & Disability Network**

*Connecticut Community Care, Inc.  
Disability Network of Eastern Connecticut  
Senior Resources - Agency on Aging*

**Testimony of the Eastern Aging and Disability Network  
3/01/2012  
Public Hearing Human Services Committee**

***In support of SB 230  
An Act Concerning Community Choices for Long-Term Care and Disability Services***

Good afternoon Senator Musto, Representative Tercyak and members of the Human Services Committee. I am Sherry Ostrout, Director of Government Initiatives at Connecticut Community Care, Inc. I am happy to be providing this testimony on behalf of the Eastern Aging and Disability Network – a partnership among Senior Resources, Disability Network of Eastern CT and Connecticut Community Care, Inc. (CCCI). This partnership has been active since December 2010, memorialized by a Memorandum of Understanding to work as one with a mission to identify, integrate, streamline and coordinate aging and disability information, services and programs within our partnership and across our community. We aim to create a seamless aging and disability system or network that is much more accessible for the citizens of Eastern CT.

In other states, the “single point of entry” system is operated by a single state entity or through local or regional agencies or networks which include the State Health Insurance Programs, Medicaid waivers, Money Follows the Person demonstrations and vocational and rehabilitation/disability services. The single point of entry system envisioned in CT is not a single organization but rather an integrated community-wide network for trusted information and assistance so that fully informed consumers can make choices that will best meet their individual needs.

To establish in statute a statewide “single point of entry” or a “no wrong door” or “Aging and Disability Resource” system helps move CT forward in our long-term care plan [CT Long Term Care Plan 2010 <http://www.ct.gov/opm/cwp/view.asp?a=3072&q=482894#Plans> ] and Medicaid rebalancing initiatives and is particularly compelling for three reasons:

- The State of Connecticut Long-Term Care Needs Assessment conducted by the University of CT Health Center in 2007 identified a disjointed, fragmented and confusing long-term care system. **The establishment of a statewide single point of entry network for long-term care information, services and supports will improve access and provide assurances that the information received is trustworthy.** Fully informed consumers can make choices that will best meet their individual needs.

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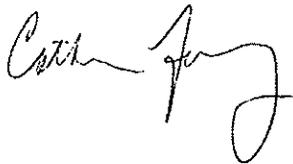
- It supports CTs rebalancing plans by providing consistent information about the broad range of community long-term care options available. **This system enhances the State's nursing home diversion efforts.** Community care in lieu of nursing home care is preferable and less costly.
- A "single point of entry" integrated system is **consistent with federal priorities and provides CT with the opportunity to apply for the Balancing Incentive Payment Program (BIPP)** <sup>3</sup> which requires a statewide single point of entry system, a universal assessment or level of care screening tool (identified in the governors budget) and conflict-free case management (that is case management that has no financial interest in the delivery of direct services).

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. The Eastern Aging and Disability Network partners anticipate and appreciate your support on this bill.

Sincerely,



Joan Wessell  
Executive Director  
Senior Resources



Cathy Ferry  
Executive Director  
DNEC



Molly Rees Gavin  
President  
Connecticut Community Care, Inc.