Testimony before the Appropriations and Human Services Committees
July 24, 2012
Medicaid Low Income Waiver 1115
Claudette Pirruccio

Good morning/afternoon members of the Appropriations and Human Services Committees. My name is Claudette Pirruccio from New Britain CT. I have a lot of things that I would like to say in a short period of time. I'm really kind of nervous, but I will do my best.

I am disabled and been getting Social Security Disability and DSS services for 10 years, nothing much has changed. I want to thank everyone from DSS that has helped me over all these years. It is very much appreciated!!

My belief is that the current DSS system is flawed in CT. It took me six months to get my cash assistance and Medicaid after my redetermination. The redetermination paper was put in on time as instructed by DSS, by my case manager in person.

Myself, my case manager and advocates had been in contact following all protocol of DSS. We went months with no answers and no contact, not being able to leave voice mails, etc.

On the day that my case worker got in contact with a DSS worker, she was told that all paperwork had been received, so there was no need for an appointment at DSS. Still nothing! So at that point, I had myself, two state agencies, and two State Reps from New Britain trying to help me. We all even called the Commissioner of DSS in Hartford. Within 1-2 hours after that, the head of DSS in New Britain had emailed my case manager and stated that my cash assistance was just put in retroactive along with my Medicaid. I checked the next morning, and it was all in. Thank you! This took six months!

I have an idea on how to lower the high case loads of all DSS workers: During the normal redetermination period, allow people with disabilities that have been disabled for many years and obviously not getting off disability anytime soon, to not have to fill out and send in redetermination papers, and not have DSS workers waste their precious time. Work on people that they should already know are going to still be disabled and low-income and still qualify for DSS services with not much change. There really isn't a need to have these people fill out re determination papers as often as maybe some other people.

If you really want to make sure that everything for these people is up to date, send a much shorter version of a redetermination papers to people who are disabled and have little changes, or just simply if there are no changes, have a place to check off no changes. There is no need in these people for long redetermination papers, or to have them as frequently as others.

Everybody Wins!

I also have other ideas, but because of time restraints in saying this testimony, I am unable to include anything else.

I want to thank everyone for listening to my testimony! If there are any questions, I'd be glad to answer them.