

## Testimony of Ingrid Gillespie, President, Connecticut Prevention Network

Senator Harp, Representative Walker and members of the Appropriations Committee: My name is Ingrid Gillespie and as President of the Connecticut Prevention Network, the association of thirteen Regional Action Councils in Connecticut, I am pleased to submit written testimony for your review regarding the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

The Connecticut Prevention Network (CPN) would like to thank Governor Malloy, Commissioner Pat Rehmer and all of our legislators for their continued commitment to substance abuse prevention in Connecticut. The Regional Action Councils remained funded in Section 32 of HB 6350, the Governor's proposed budget. We respectfully ask for your continued support for this funding as you deliberate the budget proposal.

The work of Regional Action Councils to reduce substance abuse includes supporting 169 cities and towns in Connecticut to implement community-wide coordinated evidence-based strategies. These strategies can include those that reduce access to alcohol, tobacco and other drugs (ATOD) such as implementation of compliance checks to reduce underage sales of alcohol and tobacco. Evidence-based strategies to reduce the demand include a coordinated approach that often start with engaging people in informed conversations in a variety of settings e.g. family, schools, town forums, local business and civic organizations and more.

This support to local communities is provided through identifying needs and an inventory of community resources to meet these needs, building capacity through education, training and advocacy and providing and overseeing funding to local prevention councils.

Under the Governor's budget, we will be able to continue to do this work.

Regional Action Councils will also continue to bring in additional prevention funding through federal, state and local grants as noted in the graph on the next page.

Again on behalf of the thirteen Regional Action Councils represented in the Connecticut Prevention Network, thank you for your continued recognition of the value of our work and the understanding of the importance of substance abuse prevention and treatment to the people of Connecticut.

Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at Ph: 203-391-7914.

Ingrid Gillespie

President of the Connecticut Prevention Network (CPN)

Director of the Lower Fairfield County Regional Action Council (LFCRAC)



# Connecticut Prevention Network

Local partnerships promoting wellness by addressing substance abuse statewide.

## What is the Connecticut Prevention Network

The Connecticut Prevention Network (CPN) is an association of the state's 13 community partnership Regional Action Councils (RACs) that work to provide your community with education, training and advocacy for substance abuse prevention.

### What We Do

- Provide your community with education, training, and advocacy for substance abuse prevention
- Inventory community resources to address substance abuse problems
- Identify gaps in services and changes to community environments
- Design/develop/implement programs to fill identified gaps in services
- Reduce the negative effects of substance abuse and related risky behaviors on youth and the community

### How We Do It

- Mobilize government leaders, mental health/substance abuse professionals, law enforcement, schools, faith organizations and youth
- Advocate for wellness and health promotion across all 169 cities and towns
- Tailor prevention strategies to meet each community's specific needs

2011-2012 RAC Funding

