
From: John Parise <JParise@Bridgesmilford.org>
Sent: Thursday, February 14, 2013 1:27 PM
To: AppropriationTestimony
Subject: Dont cut funding...

I'm going to keep this short. But we are living in a time where people's mental health are at an all time low. School shootings (Sandy Hook), mall shootings, autism, joblessness all are some reasons people's mental health issue are on the rise. Included in this are also societies inclusiveness, where more and more people with severe disorders are trying to be stabilized within their communities. The days of sending people "away" to institutions are gone. What does this mean? More people with mental health disorders that otherwise would have been institutionalized 30-50+ years ago and out of general society, are now walking among us and need support. Without support negative things are happening and it's no coincidence that jail statistics are showing that 60% of its inmates suffer from mental health disorders. This is also on the rise. "Inclusiveness" combined with state cut backs in support for those with mental health disorders is creating a "perfect storm" if you will where people who need support aren't getting it, thus creating issues within our society. It is up to those who recognize this to create change! It is up to the government to spend money where its NEEDED and it's NEVER been more needed in the mental health area of our society. If we want to stop negative things from happening like Sandy Hook, etc., we need to give people like those the support they need so they don't feel hopeless and turn to a life of negativity.

Yours truly

John Parise

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