

From: Terri Eblen <TEblen@Bridgesmilford.org>
Sent: Thursday, February 14, 2013 3:14 PM
To: AppropriationTestimony
Subject: Support for the Safety Net

I am unable to attend the hearing and appreciate the opportunity to address the committee and its members.

My name is Terri Eblen and I am a resident of Woodbridge and a 25 year employee at Bridges.. A Community Support System, Inc. in Milford.

It is my experience of working for an agency whose mission includes providing quality behavioral health services across the age spectrum that the years of no additional increases to grants is at its breaking point. For more years than I can count on one hand, we have had to either lay off staff or consolidate services in such a way that the staff are struggling to keep up with the increasing numbers of persons asking for help.

We are more and more aware that we need to be able to be here when persons are ready to address their problems, illnesses and/or events that have gotten in their way of having a productive life worth living. Access should be easier not more difficult - being able to be open hours that meet the needs of the persons served is critical and we are limited now due to funding.

Please keep this in mind as you hear others testify as to the critical nature of these community based behavioral health services.

Thank you.

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