

**Robbyn Sibley Testimony
Appropriations Committee
February 15, 2013**

Good Afternoon Appropriations Committee members. My name is Robbyn Sibley and I am an Oakdale resident. I'm testifying about budget for the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS).

As a current client of DMHAS's Southeastern Mental Health Authority I know that DMHAS provides a service that is needed by the residents of this state. I can't believe how much is being cut from the DMHAS budget before you.

One of its many funded services is the Connecticut Legal Rights Project (CLRP). They provide an extremely valuable service to the residents of our state that have psychiatric disabilities. One of the line items in the budget is to cut CLRP's budget by about half. This is highly unacceptable. Previous budget cuts to CLRP have caused cuts to services and staff to make sacrifices. One of the largest portions of their cases is related to housing. Causing CLRP to cut services will leave more people open to housing problems and potential homelessness.

I understand about the budget crisis. Is hurting those that need help going to help matters? Without CLRP there, who knows our needs, and knows what they do, who will help? We know how much DMHAS and CLRP is needed, but do you? Thank you.

