

Testimony of Barbara A. Lockhart, M.S.

President, Connecticut Youth Services Association

Director, Montville Youth Service Bureau

289 Norwich New London Tpke Uncasville, CT. 06382

[Barbara@montvilleyouth.org](mailto:Barbara@montvilleyouth.org) /860-848-7724

Senator Slossberg, Representative Abercrombie and Members of the Human Services Committee;

My name is Barbara Lockhart and I am the President of the Connecticut Youth Services Association, and the Director of Youth Service for The Town of Montville. Currently there are 102 Youth Service Bureaus in Connecticut serving over 145 communities. State statute mandates Youth Service Bureaus to operate as the coordinating agencies of community based services in both the provision and delivery of comprehensive programs and services which support prevention, intervention, treatment, follow-up and positive youth development initiatives.

Should this bill pass it is our sincere hope that Youth Service Bureaus in both Hartford and New Haven counties are asked to be part of the work group for the proposed ***Pilot Program for the Provision of Emotional and Behavioral Health Services to Youth***. The role that YSB's have taken on in many communities regarding mental health services for youth is a long standing one. Many YSBs have had "teen drop-in centers" in operation for years and multiple youth service bureaus have functioned as the "***central repository of information and referral services***" for many years as well.

Over the past 5 years YSBs have been committed to the Results Based Accountability Initiative and tracking the progress of program participants allows us to measure outcomes and program efficacy. We ask that this committee consider reaching out to the Youth service Bureaus in the aforementioned "targeted" counties for our expertise and input as part of the work group and ultimately for the implementation plan.

Please feel free to contact me for names of Youth Service Bureau Directors whom I think would be an asset to your work group as you move forward. We would be happy to discuss this with you further and in light of these difficult economic times we believe that since YSBs already offer so many of the services and programs suggested in the bill that it make "fiscal sense" to not recreate what currently exists in so many CT communities through YSBs already. Thank you in advance for your consideration, and review of this testimony.

Respectfully submitted:

*Barbara A. Lockhart*