



**Connecticut Department of Public Health**

**Testimony Presented Before the Public Health Committee**

**March 19, 2014**

**Commissioner Jewel Mullen, MD, MPH, MPA  
860-509-7101**

**Senate Bill 417: An Act Concerning The Provision Of  
Psychiatric And Substance Use Treatment Services**

The Department of Public Health (DPH) supports Senate Bill 417. This bill will allow adults with psychiatric and/or substance abuse disorders to receive psychiatric services or substance use disorder treatment services at an alternate location that may not be physically part of a licensed psychiatric outpatient clinic or facility licensed to provide substance use treatment services. While DPH is supportive of this proposed bill, the Department believes that the provision of care at an alternate location should be based on a patient assessment and included in each patient's treatment plan and such language should be included in the bill. Expanding the treatment plan to provide services at an alternative location that is comfortable and convenient for the patient is consistent with current standards of care and patient centered.

Many psychiatric and substance use treatment facilities provide multiple services and maintain multiple licenses. The Department is currently revising these regulations to compress four regulation sets (19a-495-550: Private Freestanding Mental Health Day Treatment Facilities, Intermediate Treatment Facilities and Psychiatric Outpatient Clinics for Adults, 19a-495-551: Private Freestanding Mental Health Residential Living Centers, 19a-495-560: Private Freestanding Community Residences, and 19a-495-570: Private Freestanding Facilities For the Care or the Treatment For Substance Abusive or Dependent Persons) into one set of regulations, therefore requiring one license. The revisions will reflect a patient centric approach to care and revise outdated regulations.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's views on this bill.