



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES
A Healthcare Service Agency

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Testimony by Patricia A. Rehmer, MSN, Commissioner
Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
Before the Appropriations, Human Services and
Public Health Committees
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SAPT BLOCK GRANT HEARING

Good morning, Senator Bye, Senator Slossberg, Senator Gerratana, Representative Walker, Representative Abercrombie, Representative Johnson and distinguished members of the Appropriations, Human Services, and Public Health Committees. I am Pat Rehmer, Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. I am here before you today to present the department's federal fiscal year (FFY) 2015 Allocation Plan for the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant.

The Allocation Plan before you assumes a federal Block Grant of \$17,584,936. This figure assumes level funding, based upon the final FFY 2014 federal appropriation. Actual funding for FFY 2015 will not be known until Congress passes its budget.

As you review this plan, please keep in mind that it represents only a portion of DMHAS' spending for substance abuse prevention and treatment services. Most of the programs which are funded with federal Block Grant dollars also receive state funding. There is no reduction in the overall funding of addiction services or of any particular service; all line items are level funded from the previous federal fiscal year. The state funding component is not reflected in the plan before you today.

Block Grant-funded activities include prevention, education, and services for the treatment of alcohol and other drug addiction (such as detoxification, residential and outpatient rehabilitation). The department's "recovery system of care" is realized through use of evidence-based practices, modernization of data management, and a comprehensive approach to treating the individual.

This Allocation Plan is based upon our knowledge of the needs of persons who access our services and the approaches that are most effective in meeting those needs. The plan serves to facilitate DMHAS' "recovery system of care" in which individuals, regardless of the complexity of issues they present, are provided the supports needed to improve their health and wellness, live self-directed lives, and strive to reach their full potential.

DMHAS is aggressively moving forward to ensure that the resources available to address the service needs of our citizens are used wisely. This FFY 2015 SAPT Block Grant Allocation Plan is an important component of reaching our goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today on the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant. I would be happy to take any questions you may have at this time.