

Post Traumatic Stress Center, LLC

19 Edwards Street, New Haven, Connecticut 06511

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Appropriations Committee
Connecticut State Legislature
Hartford, Connecticut

From:

David R. Johnson, Ph.D.
194 Quaker Farms Road
Oxford, CT 06478

March 4, 2015

Dear Members of the Appropriations Committee,

I am writing to strongly argue against any cuts to the budget of the Connecticut Mental Health Center. I am a clinical psychologist in practice in New Haven for the past 35 years. I have been a Connecticut citizen for 46 years.

The Connecticut Mental Health Center is a critical and central component of the mental health system of care in the entire greater New Haven region. It is not only an excellent inpatient and outpatient health center for thousands of patients with severe mental illness, but more importantly it provides the fundamental infrastructure for innumerable programs in our community including rehabilitation, substance abuse, housing support, and coordination of care. Its integration with the Department of Psychiatry at Yale brings tremendous expertise and capacity, which is shared on a daily basis with clinicians like me in the community. Its research programs not only produce important discoveries of new treatments and medications, but stimulate the entire health care community with state of the art information and consultative support.

My practice at the Post Traumatic Stress Center has relied on the services, expertise, and networking capacity of the Connecticut Mental Health Center for many, many of our clients. Cuts such as those proposed would severely impact the system of care in the New Haven region, as well as our care of our patients.

I understand and appreciate the budgetary challenges you are facing, and indeed cuts in the overall budget may have to occur. But it is unwise to cut at the trunk of the tree, for it puts the entire tree at risk; much better to prune some of the branches, that is, more peripheral, specialized programs. I implore you to maintain budgetary support for the Connecticut Mental Health Center as you have done over the many decades of its existence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David R. Johnson, Ph.D." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'D' and a long, sweeping tail for the 'n'.

David Read Johnson, Ph.D.
Licensed Clinical Psychologist
Co-Director, Post Traumatic Stress Center