

March 5, 2015

To whom it may concern.

I am writing to counteract proposed cuts to the budget of Connecticut Mental Health Center (CMHC).

I am a psychiatry resident in training at Yale University and have worked at CMHC for both clinical and research purposes. Hands down, CMHC is the most impressive hospital I have ever worked at. I love working there. This hospital serves patients with limited or no health insurance, and thus provides greatly needed care to the state of Connecticut. When I worked at CMHC I was inspired by the passion and dedication of the staff in providing such complex care. Such passion has led to an array of clinical services at CMHC, including inpatient psychiatry, transitional-stay psychiatry, inpatient research psychiatry, outpatient services, a clinic for Spanish-speaking patients, and many other services. As part of patient care, CMHC also provides a number of social resources, including vocational support, peer support, and a variety of psychotherapies. These clinical services alone make CMHC outstanding and unique among hospitals across Connecticut, and the U.S.

CMHC also houses world-class research laboratories that have advanced our understanding of numerous complex psychiatric illnesses. As a direct result of research from CMHC, biomedical industry has grown in New Haven. These research laboratories have provided valuable starting grounds for junior faculty, and valuable training for graduate students and post-docs. I am currently completing post-doctoral work in a cutting-edge laboratory examining schizophrenia at CMHC run by one of the most talented junior faculty members at Yale. I plan to use this experience as a springboard to start my own research and clinical career. Working at CMHC has been a defining experience of my time in Connecticut.

Mental illnesses affect everyone—patients, families and the greater community. CMHC is an amazing place that houses world-class clinical care and world-class laboratories under the same roof. Together, these disciplines enrich one another to better serve the mental health of the Connecticut community.

In order to continue providing these important services, CMHC needs to operate at a larger budget. Please support this budget and vote against cuts to this great hospital.

Sincerely,



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