Appropriations Committee Public Hearing

Friday, March 06, 2015

I would like to thank the Chair and distinguished members of the committee for allowing me to speak in regards to CMHC and the proposed budget cuts. This legislative body has tirelessly supported CMHC in years past, for which I am also deeply thankful. My name is Chadrick Lane, and I am currently a first year resident physician in Psychiatry at Yale University. My decision to train at Yale was strongly shaped by the unique and special bond that Yale has with CMHC and its mission. Seeing as I am in my first year of training, I believe I am what they call a "newbie. " My colleagues and I began this journey back in June, arriving at the door step of a dream held so close for so long – to finally be a doctor. We are not here today to talk about my dreams, or the dreams of my colleagues, rather this is about someone else's dreams. Someone else's hopes and wishes; what life has meant and will continue to mean in years to come. I am speaking about the men and women who pass through CMHC's doors, walk its hallways, and warm our hearts. These souls are not numbers, rather they are faces and in those faces I have discovered the power of caring. Many of us in this room have our reasons for pursuing mental health as a profession, and as numerous as those reasons may be, I believe there is one in particular that unites us all – the privilege of hearing stories. Since June my colleagues and I have heard stories of triumph, despair, courage and turmoil. We find ourselves humbled with each passing day as those who were once strangers welcome us into their realities, giving us glimpses of the complex and beautiful person beneath the words. They laugh, cry, love, and persevere. In spite of their enormous strengths, they are members of society's most vulnerable population –those living with severe and persistent mental illness. Dr. Li and I are here before the committee in a fortunate position – we belong to the next generation of mental health providers. We use our words and medicines to heal, but there is another role in the forefront of our minds – that of advocate. This is a moment in our state's history when trainees, mentors, and the good people in this very room can come together as advocates. In decades past and in many places around the world even today, these souls were ignored, or worse, forgotten by our society. Let us not take the expedient route, yet rather let us make the right calls and protect our brave patients from ever being forgotten again. Please stand with us, but more importantly with those served by CMHC, in rejecting these proposed cuts. Thank you.

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