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Founded in 1957, Bridges provides a comprehensive range of community based mental health and addiction services to the residents of our geographic area. We respond effectively to the needs of children, adolescents, adults, families and the elderly with a range of prevention, outreach, mental health, addiction recovery and primary care programs. Bridges serves over 5,000 people annually at sites in Milford, Orange and West Haven, Ct. Our service area covers a population of over 200,000 adults and children, many whom come to us when they are at their most fragile, at risk and vulnerable due to serious mental illness, trauma and loss, economic and employment challenges, incarceration, substance dependence and family crises. Bridges is well recognized as a life-saving resource that improves the quality of life for persons in our communities.

- Bridges provided services to **2,401** adults in FY 2014.
- Of this number, **515** were referred to us by the Department of Corrections, local police departments and Connecticut's Court Support Services Division; **98** were homeless; **152** were referred directly from emergency rooms or inpatient psychiatric facilities; **659** were struggling to effectively parent their children and referred themselves; **1,213** had serious and prolonged mental illness; **482** had a substance dependence diagnosis; **1,321** required medication to manage symptoms.
- DMHAS funding supports operations in all of our adult programs as well allows us to retain qualified professionals that deliver the services. Over time, this funding has diminished considerably, leading to staff reductions, decreased access and waiting lists.

If the next round of cuts are actualized, we may be forced to close many or all of our adult programs. Where then will these citizens go when they need help? How safe will our communities be? The governor's plan is not only misguided, it's reckless. And in the end, it will be more costly.

Respectfully submitted by:

Barbara DiMauro

President/CEO

Bridges...A Community Support System, Inc

Providing Behavioral Health Services to Milford, Orange and West Haven.

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