



The Connection

Community-based Services, Advocacy
and Research for Connecticut

March 6, 2015

Members of the Appropriations Committee:

My name is Simone Powell and I am the Prevention Program Manager for The Connection. The Connection provides community-based prevention programs and also outpatient behavioral health clinics, gambling-specific treatment programs, state-mandated driving-while-intoxicated and drug education programs for first-time offenders and evidence-based prevention strategies to reduce the incidence of substance use among youth. The Connection works closely with BHcare's, Greater Valley Substance Abuse Action Council (GVSAAC). At this time I would like to ask you to restore funding for the Regional Action Councils.

I have worked closely with BHcare's, Greater Valley Substance Abuse Action Council for the past several years. Reductions in funding the Regional Action Councils would weaken and close down prevention initiatives in our community. The technical assistance, trainings, and collaborations they provide have helped create a strong prevention movement here in the City of New Haven. Through our work with GVSAAC we have been able to:

- Install a Medication Drop Box
- Provide training and education to providers and community members on Suicide Prevention, Youth Mental Health First Aid, Internet Safety and various other prevention topics.
- Create a New Haven Drug Endangered Children's Alliance

I ask you to restore the funding for the Regional Action Councils, as without them we would not have access to the wide array of comprehensive prevention and education programs or expertise in the field of substance abuse prevention.

Respectfully submitted,

Simone Powell M.Ed.
Prevention Program Manager II
The Connection