

Testimony of Brian Cutino  
Chairman of the Board of Directors  
InterCommunity Recovery Centers, Inc.  
March 6, 2015  
Before the Appropriations Committee

I am Brian Cutino, Chairman of the Board of Directors for the InterCommunity Recovery Centers, Inc. This evening I seek your support to increase the appropriation of this year's budget to fully fund DMHAS so we can continue to sustain our services and save lives.

For over 40 years, the InterCommunity Recovery Centers, previously known as ADRC, has provided services that include substance abuse treatment and recovery-support to the people of the state. We've taken in people that have nowhere else to go and people who could not afford medical care. We've taken in people because if we didn't—we weren't sure who would. We've become a safety net for our state and we've been able to do it because of the support we've received directly from DMHAS. We do this to save lives, rebuild families, prevent incarceration, and get people jobs. In fact, more than 2,000 people have obtained paid jobs through our Recovery-Oriented Employment Services program, since the program's inception in 2008. Other programs include detoxification, recovery houses, intensive and intermediate residential programs, outpatient counseling center, women's services and other recovery support services.

Reducing DMHAS' appropriation will impact the critical programs in the state and impact the ability for organizations like the InterCommunity Recovery Centers to provide care to those who need it.

We understand the budget constraints of the State of Connecticut. This committee has already made strides to restore \$10M in funding to DMHAS—thank you. But we need more support. Aside from being a fiduciary, I come from a business background. I know that to sustain strategic longevity, any organization needs to reduce expenses and diversify our revenue streams. Over the last several years, we've made great progress on this front. Just over one month ago, we have affiliated with InterCommunity, Inc, marrying our Alcohol and Drug Recovery services with InterCommunity's Behavioral health and primary care services. It amplifies the services we can provide our clients and patients, but also saves on organizational cost. Most of all—it simply makes sense. This is just one step of many we've taken to reduce our financial need. Others have included leaning our operations, improving our processes and leveraging technology where applicable. We continue to apply for grants outside of DMHAS funding and improved the collection of receivables. Though these steps have been prudent and yielded returns, they are not enough. We still rely on DMHAS support to continue our operations—we have no more levers to pull.

We've learned a great deal over the last 40 years, but the largest lesson has been the impact we have had to mothers, fathers, sons and daughters—our neighbors. We've changed the lives of members of our community---your community, one person at a time. Please, fund DMHAS fully this year, continue to invest in Mental Health and Addition Services and help us strengthen the people of our state. Thank you.