



**Lower Naugatuck Valley
Parent Child Resource Center, Inc.**

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Good afternoon Senator Bye, Representative Walker and members of the Appropriations Committee.

On behalf of the Lower Naugatuck Valley Parent Child Resource Center, I urge you to restore funding the Regional Action Council's. BHcare's Greater Valley Substance Abuse Action Council (GVSAAC) provides vital prevention services to our communities. They are very active and engaged in many initiatives that work to improve the behavioral health systems and prevent substance abuse, suicide and improve mental wellness. For the past 25 years, they have conducted community and school assessments that outline critical behavioral health issues and work in collaboration to address identified issues.

GVSAAC provides valuable resources such as staff trainings, student and parent programs, technical assistance, curriculum development, and capacity building. Recently, they held opiate forums bringing diverse sectors of the community together to address increases in opiate abuse and overdoses in our communities. These forums were very successful in creating a work group to address the issue. In addition, they have held sub-regional planning meetings that identified gaps in the substance abuse and mental health services in our region. These initiatives help our communities plan and address gaps and barriers in services.

We recognize that this budget session is difficult, but the small amount of funding the Regional Action Councils receive impacts the entire continuum of care for behavioral health services including prevention, treatment, and recovery, having an overall impact on people in need. We know that prevention and early intervention save lives. I ask you to remember that for every \$1 invested in prevention we save \$10 in related costs. It is an investment that should not be overlooked and I ask you to fully restore their funding.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael J. Wynne
Chief Executive Officer

