



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES
A Healthcare Service Agency

DANNEL P. MALLOY
GOVERNOR

MIRIAM E. DELPHIN-RITTMON, Ph.D.
COMMISSIONER

Testimony by Miriam Delphin-Rittmon, PhD, Commissioner
Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
Before the Appropriations, Human Services and
Public Health Committees
September 28, 2015

SAPT Block Grant Hearing

Good morning, Senator Bye, Senator Moore, Senator Gerratana, Representative Walker, Representative Abercrombie, Representative Ritter and distinguished members of the Appropriations, Human Services, and Public Health Committees. I am Miriam Delphin-Rittmon, Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. I am here before you today to present the department's federal fiscal year (FFY) 2016 Allocation Plan for the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant.

The Allocation Plan before you is based on estimated federal funding provided by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) of \$17,596,352, which is subject to change when the final appropriation is authorized. This amount represents a 0.06% increase over last year's funding, and the additional funding is included in the Community Treatment Services line item in response to the identified need for specific treatment to address addiction from the use of heroin and other opioids. All other line items are level funded from the previous fiscal year. As you review this plan, please keep in mind that it represents only a portion of DMHAS' spending for substance abuse prevention and treatment services. Most of the programs which are funded with federal Block Grant dollars also receive state funding. The state funding component is not reflected in the plan before you today.

A state requirement of the SAPT Block Grant is to maintain expenditures at a level not less than the average level of such expenditures for the two year period preceding the fiscal year for which the state is applying for the grant. Due to a legislative action which reallocated funding from DMHAS to the Department of Social Services (DSS) as part of the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid expansion, solely evaluating the DMHAS budget would not fully depict the state's commitment to funding substance abuse prevention and treatment. As a result, DMHAS has requested a determination of material compliance from SAMHSA based on other relevant factors such as the state's expenditure history, the number of persons served, and the state's future funding commitment to more accurately demonstrate the state's compliance.

Block Grant activities include prevention, education, and services for the treatment of alcohol and other drug addiction (such as detoxification, residential and outpatient rehabilitation). The department's recovery-oriented system of care is realized through use of evidence-based practices, modernized data management and a comprehensive approach to treating the whole person. DMHAS is also closely focused on efforts related to addressing the rising use of heroin and related overdoses.

This Allocation Plan is based upon our knowledge of the needs of persons who access our services and the approaches that are most effective in meeting those needs. The plan serves to facilitate DMHAS' recovery-oriented system of care in which individuals, regardless of the complexity of issues they present, are provided the supports needed to improve their health and wellness, express their preferences regarding the care they receive and realize their full potential.

DMHAS is aggressively moving forward to ensure that the resources available to address the service needs of our citizens are used wisely. This FFY 2016 SAPT Block Grant Allocation Plan is an important component of reaching our goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today on the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant. I would be happy to take any questions you may have at this time.