



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

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COMMISSIONER

Testimony by Nancy Navarretta, MA, LPC
Deputy Commissioner
Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
Before the Human Services Committee

Good afternoon Senator Moore, Representative Abercrombie, and distinguished members of the Human Services Committee. I am Deputy Commissioner Nancy Navarretta of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), and I am here today to respectfully request your support of the Governor's proposal, Senate Bill 17, AA Implementing the Governor's Budget Recommendations for Human Services.

The proposed bill makes two changes that will impact the DMHAS services. First, is the repeal of language related to the funding of Community Care Teams (section 17a-484e). This language repeals a new grant program for acute care and behavioral health services which was established in Public Act 15-5, June special session. The Governor's proposed budget incorporates a \$3 million reduction which will eliminate this program.

Community Care Teams (CCTs) currently exist at Hartford Hospital, Yale, St. Francis, Bristol, and Backus using the technical assistance and resources of Beacon Health Options via the Behavioral Health Partnership. Beacon Health Options is also supporting CCTs at Norwalk, Middlesex, Danbury and Griffin Hospitals. Some areas of the state initiated a CCT with no state support; that is they were started via grassroots efforts. The reduction does not impact these existing CCTs, it eliminates support for any new program start-up.

The second portion of the bill repeals the provisions of section 17b-8, which require DSS to submit applications for federal waivers, waiver renewals, and certain proposed amendments to the Medicaid state plan to the committees of cognizance for review and approval before submission to the federal government. Qualified DMHAS clients receive services funded by the ABI waiver and the mental health waiver. Repeal of this provision will allow for a more nimble application process with a quicker turnaround time for changes that have critical fiscal and programmatic implications and translate directly to clients' receipt of services. DMHAS believes the proposed bill allows for stakeholder input during waiver development in accordance with the rigorous guidelines of federal law.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. Favorable action on this bill will impact DMHAS' ability to continue to provide needed services in a fiscally responsible manner. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding this proposal.

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