

Public Health Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6729

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND
ADDICTION SERVICES' RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE

Title: MEMBERSHIP OF VARIOUS ADVISORY BOARDS AND COUNCILS.

Vote Date: 3/20/2023

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/13/2023

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

The Public Health Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill enhances the make-up of the Connecticut Valley Hospital Advisory Council and various other advisory boards for state-operated facilities for people with psychiatric disabilities and substance abuse disorders by requiring that people with lived experience be added to the boards and councils.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Nancy Navarretta, Commissioner, CT Department of Mental health and Addiction Services (DMHAS)

The Commissioner of DMHAS supports this bill, stating that the key to providing effective mental health care services is to engage individuals who have lived with a mental health or substance abuse disorder. DMHAS values the voice of people with lived experience and the statutory documentation in support of this premise is powerful.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Margaret Watt, Public Policy Chair, NAMI, CT

NAMI represents people who have been affected by mental illness and who have seen both the positives and negatives of our treatment system. Too often, the system develops plans for treatment without consulting people who have lived with these conditions. Adding people with lived experience to the advisory boards and councils will raise awareness of the needs of

people with mental illness and substance abuse disorders and, hopefully, improve the treatment options for Connecticut residents.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

There was no written testimony in opposition to this bill.

Reported by: David Rackliffe, Asst. Clerk

Date: 3/30/2023