



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

M. Jodi Rell
Governor

Patricia A. Rehmer, MSN
Commissioner

Memorandum:

To: Members of the Commission on Enhancing Agency Outcomes

From: Patricia Rehmer, MSN,
Commissioner

Date: March 19, 2010

Subject: **HB 5515 AN ACT CONCERNING GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY
THROUGH REGIONALIZATION IN CONNECTICUT**

**H. B. No. 5520 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONVEYANCE
OF CERTAIN PARCELS OF STATE LAND**

Sen. Slossberg, Rep. Spallone and distinguished members of the Government Administrations and Elections Committee. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to present written testimony on **HB 5515** An Act Concerning Government Efficiency Through Regionalization in Connecticut and **HB No. 5520** An Act Concerning the Conveyance of Certain Parcels of State Land.

DMHAS has several concerns about HB 5515 as proposed. DMHAS currently operates our service system through local systems of care that serve multiple cities and towns. We have regional advocacy structures that provide advice to our agency on local psychiatric and substance abuse treatment needs. Those advocacy structures are made up of people in recovery and their families as well as local officials or appointees. They are a strong voice for local accountability, outcome measures and quality assurance.

HB 5515, as written, does not provide for individuals with expertise in our service system to play a crucial role in deciding what the behavioral health needs are for a specific region in the state. It does not take into account the fact that we operate inpatient psychiatric and substance use beds throughout the state that are used on statewide basis and are not regionally driven. It does not recognize our General Assistance Behavioral Health Program rate setting structures nor does it recognize the role of Connecticut Valley Hospital, DMHAS' inpatient psychiatric hospital.

If regionalism is an approach this committee would like to explore, we ask that you not disrupt the delicate nature of our service system at this time and remove our agency from this plan.

HB 5520 An Act Concerning the Conveyance of Certain Parcels of State Land. This bill contains language in section (3) of the bill that would require DMHAS to give certain parcels of land attached to the Cedarcrest Campus to the town of Newington. We want to inform the committee that once DMHAS leaves the Cedarcrest campus, it will revert to the control of the Department of Public Works. The language in section (3) should reflect that change. It is our intention to use some of the small cottages on the campus of Cedarcrest for a short period of time. We do not believe that the land identified in section (3) would prevent that, but would want to confer with DPW to insure the land is not currently in use by the state.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.