

CCPA Talking Points
Modernizing the Safety Net

Community Provider Initiative (CPI) Public Policy Steering Committee 1/19/12

About Community Providers

- **Connecticut Community Providers Association (CCPA) advocates on behalf of organizations that serve Connecticut’s most vulnerable residents with health and human services across the state. Community providers do so in the most cost effective and efficient manner that not only benefits our consumers but also benefits the state. We are the safety net.**
- **Community providers provide high quality, vital safety net services but the infrastructure for the delivery system has become outdated and cumbersome. Together with our partners in the state, this infrastructure must be modernized and revitalized to meet the challenges of current demands while maintaining efficiency and high standards of care.**
- **Without investment in the following improvements to the safety net infrastructure, Connecticut runs the risk of destabilizing a network that has proven, year after year, that it can provide excellent service for its consumers and save the state precious dollars as well.**

Specific Examples Include:

- Modernization of the contracting system and reduce regulatory burden
- Strategic planning for emergency preparedness
- Support the implementation of electronic medical records to prepare for healthcare reform mandates
- Workforce training and job force readiness
- Addressing financial obligations regulations for community providers

Supporting Narrative:

The Safety Net provides services for thousands of Connecticut residents, each and every day. These services allow individuals to live in their communities, help them find and keep employment, and provide the support systems they need to keep them out of institutions, hospitals and the penal system. The Safety Net has proven time and time again that there is a cost effective and efficient way to assist people with mental and physical disabilities in leading meaningful and productive lives.

But the Safety Net is frayed. Piecing the Net together, as costs rise and reimbursement rates stay flat, has meant that many programs can barely survive - and infrastructure needs have often been deferred in the interest of maintaining programs and retaining employees. With new technology, as well as new technological demands, it is time to invest in the modernization of the Safety Net to ensure that it can continue to cost-effectively meet the needs of Connecticut residents. Healthcare reform offers many opportunities to invest in the Safety Net. From electronic medical records, to workforce training to planning for emergency preparedness, the time to modernize the Safety Net is now.