

June 19, 2009

To: President/CEO CCPA Terry Edelstein

From: Terry Edelstein, President/CEO

RE: **Support Essential Services – Support Community Providers**

Connecticut community providers serve more than 500,000 of the state's most vulnerable residents. Our services support people with disabilities and other significant needs including children and adults with mental illness, substance use disorders, developmental and physical disabilities.

- 1) **Support a budget that provides equitable funding for community providers.**
The potential of three straight years of flat funding - at time when our costs and demand for human services are rising, means devastating cuts to vital human services. Our clients – your constituents – are at risk.
- 2) **Help to develop a long term solution to our funding crisis.** Support the establishment of a “Community-Based Services Commission” (formerly HB 6609). This bill passed the House unanimously on the last night of the session, but was not heard in the Senate by the midnight deadline.
- 3) **Support a pilot study of major proposed changes in the Department of Developmental Services reimbursement system to allow for legislative oversight and the involvement of key stakeholders.** Please follow this link to an amendment that describes the pilot proposal
<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2009/lcoamd/pdf/2009LCO09411-R00-AMD.pdf>
- 4) If there is no budget agreement by July 1, **we need your support for an emergency funding stream in order to meet payroll and other obligations.**

Please support the community provider system so that your constituents can continue to access essential human services.

Thank you.

CCPA