



Community Providers Association  
Caring for Connecticut.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
February 4, 2010

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**MAINTAIN THE SAFETY NET FOR RESIDENTS IN NEED**  
*Extraordinary Legislative Hearing to Consider Funding of Essential Human Services*

**Where:** Legislative Office Building, Room 2C

**When:** 5:30 p.m. – 9:00p.m. – Thursday February 4, 2010

**Who:** Legislature's Human Services Committee and members of the Appropriations Committee

**What:** Taskforce on Community Based Human Services

The Co-Chairs of the Legislature's Human Services Committee have created a Taskforce on Community Based Human Services. This Taskforce is holding a second field hearing on **Thursday February 4, 2010** to consider how to maintain services for more than 500,000 Connecticut residents who rely on state funded, community based, human service programs.

The hearing comes as the Legislature has reconvened and will be considering adjustments to the current state budget. For the last three years, community based providers of social services have been operating under a funding freeze even as demand for their services grows and costs continue to rise. To compound the impending crisis, the Governor's November rescissions have cut spending by 2% in almost all human services accounts.

"We will be asking for current services funding to maintain the safety net for our clients who include; people with developmental disabilities, mental illness and substance use disorders," said Terry Edelstein, President/CEO of the Connecticut Community Providers Association. "The fact is, if we continue to cut spending for these programs, clients will lose the services they need and people who work in the industry will continue to lose jobs. Both of those outcomes will put additional strain on the state budget."

Among those expected to testify at this special field hearing are:

**Spencer Cain** – Retired Section Chief of the Legislature's Office of Fiscal Analysis

**Peter Gioia** – Vice President and Economist with the Connecticut Business and Industry Association

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Both are expected to testify that further investment in the community provider system is in the best interest of balancing the state budget. There is general agreement that providing social services in a community based setting is the most effective in terms of treatment and cost.

Community providers will also be asking members of both legislative committees to lead a special legislative delegation to tour community provider facilities, so lawmakers can see first-hand how clients and staff are impacted by the deliberate under-funding of these programs.

This special field hearing will be the first opportunity for lawmakers to consider the status of the community provider system following Governor Jodi Rell's budget address.

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