

TESTIMONY before the Medical Inefficiency Committee
2/08/10

Barbara Albert

Good afternoon / evening members of the Medical Inefficiency Committee, also everyone else.

My name is Barbara Albert, renter in Hartford, registered voter, advocate for Human Rights, and multiply medically challenged. Some visible, most not. I'm on disability and Medicare and Medicaid, and do volunteer work when able.

The definition proposed by the Department of Social Services concerning the Medicaid medical necessity definition being changed to Medicaid Medical 'Appropriateness' Definition, in my opinion, is an oxymoron. While it may look good on paper, in my opinion it will take too much wasted time, and make even getting an appointment with a doctor, and appropriate help from a health care facility, even more difficult than it already is. This will not "ameliorate", a.k.a. improve this, I believe it will create more work for doctors and other healthcare people already taxed with time constraints, leaving less time to be, being what they choose to do, caring for and with, people's health.

'Ameliorate', so much for effective communication.

First of all, Mental Illnesses are Medical Conditions. What works for one person, does not necessarily work for someone else. Human beings were not created from cookie cutters. Between mismedications, misdiagnoses, and over medications, my body has developed several other medical conditions. With anti – depressants, I've been on everything from Amitriptylines to Zoloft, at varied dosages and combinations of, with either messed up side effects or no help. I've also needed to go through many trials of many other medications. My Primary Doctor refers to this as "my multitude of medical problems". Not having access to a qualified therapist and other medical specialists not only worsens my medical conditions, it's been deteriorating most all aspects of my health, and it's also a violation of my Medicare Beneficiary Rights.

I also need to cope with 'Prior Authorization' all the time; my body knows the difference between 'Generic' and 'Brand Name', also with over the counter 'meds', many of which side effects cause nausea, migraines, anaphylactic symptoms, and grand mal seizures. Some of my medical needs aren't on any formulary.

I've been 'making do' without most basic human necessities as long as I can remember. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "Of all forms of inequality, injustice in healthcare is the most shocking and inhumane." I would appreciate feeling alive, before I die.

Please do not support D.S.S.'s proposed definition of Medicaid Medical Necessity.

Thank you for listening.