



KEEP THE PROMISE COALITION

Sample Candidate Forum Questions

The Keep the Promise Coalition is dedicated to advocating for the expansion of community mental health services for adults and children and housing options to meet their needs.

Listed below are examples of the kinds of questions KTP members can ask their candidates regarding mental health issues like support for community services, supportive housing and access to medications.

1. Do you support increased funding for community based mental health services to provide a cost-effective alternative to unnecessary institutionalization and if so, how will you do this?
2. Many individuals with serious mental illness are stuck living in nursing facilities and hospitals due to lack of housing and community services. What steps would you take to ensure that people with serious mental illnesses have opportunities to live in settings that maximize their integration into community life? How would you shift the current trends and institutional biases?
3. Do you support holding DCF and DMHAS accountable for expanding age-appropriate services for young adults (14-25) transitioning from DCF to DMHAS? How will you assure the agencies work together to provide a smooth transition?
4. Supportive Housing is a proven means to providing recovery centered support. How would you address the need for affordable housing with community services for individuals with mental illness?
5. The cost of supportive housing is \$54 a day versus much more expensive institutional alternatives including \$183/day for prison, \$218/day for nursing facility care, \$1,089 for hospital care and \$1,187 for inpatient psychiatric care. How would you address the problem of individuals with chronic service needs cycling through institutions such as homeless shelters, jails, prisons and hospitals?
6. Will you support measures to stop the placement of children with mental illness in costly out of state residential treatments? How will you remedy this?
7. Do you oppose limiting access to medications through co-payments, restrictions and closed formularies and how will you assure CT residents that co-pays won't increase?
8. How will you support cost of living increases for private non-profit mental health providers that contract with DMHAS to provide services to their clients?
9. In Connecticut, there is a critical demand for affordable housing for individuals and families with very low incomes. How would you address the needs of the 2,400 households on the waiting list with a wait time of three years for a state Rental Assistance Program Certificate?
10. How would you protect good quality client-oriented specialized mental health services from being lost in a massive consolidated agency with distinct client groups and entrenched bureaucracies?

