

Bob Doran, MSW, LICSW, Counseling Service of Addison County,
Middlebury
Testimony for the House Appropriations Committee
January 6, 2022

Thank you for the chance to testify. Thank you for the great work you do to make our state such the compassionate place it is. My name is Bob Doran. I work as a social worker and licensed clinician at the Counseling Service of Addison County (CSAC) in Middlebury.

I appreciate how our designated agencies help so many people with a variety of life experiences. We have effective and cost saving programs – from residential services to working in schools, from in-house therapy to visiting elders in their homes. To build on these successes further funding with investment in flexible funds for recruitment and retention bonuses, shift differentials and hazard pay would be helpful.

There are people at CSAC and likely at other designated agencies living paycheck to paycheck. Recently one clinician with over 15 years of working at CSAC, a single mother, took her son to UVM Medical. During the intake she was surprised to discover that she qualified for a box of free food. She tried turning it down since she could not believe a licensed clinician would qualify. Still, she said the food was good, and the money saved allowed her to buy snow pants and boots for her child.

People leave CSAC for higher paying positions. A clinician went to UVM Porter Medical and said she planned to earn \$72,000 a year. After 8 years as a licensed clinical social worker at CSAC I earn \$52,000 a year, considered a top salary.

Investment in flexible funds for recruitment and retention bonuses, shift differentials and hazard pay would be greatly appreciated so that we can hire and keep qualified people to help others.

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Thank you again for your continued efforts in making Vermont a
wonderful place to live.

Sincerely,

Bob Doran, MSW, LICSW