



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

DDS

Terrence W. Macy, Ph.D.
Commissioner

Kathryn du Pree
Deputy Commissioner

August 23, 2011

Dear Families and Consumers,

The last several months have been a time of unprecedented stress and concern for all of us as the state has had to deal with significant budget issues. I understand this has created enormous stress among the families who receive services from the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). Nothing that DDS experienced during this time was more troubling than having to produce budget options that reduced or eliminated essential services to families such as respite and family support services. I know the anxiety that those budget options caused for many of you. As I came into the Commissioner's position, my first priority was to think about ways to expand family services and give families a more central role in this department. The very last thing I wanted to do was to reverse that effort.

It's hard for me to express how relieved I am that the SEBAC agreement has been reached, thereby allowing DDS to rescind the closures of our respite centers and our Individual Family Support teams. I am also excited to finally be able to work with DDS staff to create a family and self advocate work group that will help shape new thinking about family supports. All along, I have been working to create a new position in the agency that will report directly to me and be responsible for family advocacy.

Thank you for your patience during this most trying time. I am confident that there are brighter days ahead and I look forward to reengaging in the things that matter most to those who receive services from DDS and their families.

Sincerely,

Terrence W. Macy, Ph.D.
Commissioner