

Southbury Training School Recommendations

Date: 12/30/15

To: Commissioner Murray, DDS

From: Lynn and David Arezzini, parents of Karl Arezzini who is 25, has autism and is supported in his day program at Chapel Haven by DDS.

Re: STS Recommendations

Recommendation 1: The money saved from closing Southbury and regional centers goes back to DDS and serves the former Southbury residents and the people like Karl who are on the wait list.

Justification: All people with IDD deserve funding, not just people served in state institutions. It would be most unfair for savings from closing institutions went to fund highway projects etc. while Karl waits for residential services as a priority 1 on the DDS wait list.

Recommendation 2: As many people from Southbury as possible should be moved to private agencies now so that savings and the transition process can be spread out over time.

Justification: CT has many private agencies all over the state of high quality and with decades of experience such as Chapel Haven. There are many people from Southbury who have already successfully

transitioned into the community and saved the state much money in the process. If my son was placed at Southbury today the price tag would be around \$400,000 per year. Chapel Haven's SAIL program costs well under \$100,000 and is a perfect fit for Karl as a placement for individuals that need more support than living totally independently in the community. Karl attends SAIL now funded by us at great financial hardship. This inequity between state institutions and private agencies needs to stop.

Thank you for allowing us to be heard about this important issue.

Lynn and David Arezzini