

Date: 12/28/15

To: Commissioner Murray, DDS

From: Marylyn and Laurence Hendricks parents and guardians for daughter Susan resident at STS since 1979
Marylyn active member of the Home and School Association and the Human Rights Commission

Re: STS Recommendations

Recommendation 1: Establish community homes on STS campus for residents who have lived their most of their lives.

Justification: Continue care by experienced, long term direct care staff, doctors and nurses who are familiar with the special needs of residents and with whom residents are comfortable.

Recommendation 2: Change the name of this facility to 'Southbury Community Village'.

Justification: STS has an outdated name suggesting a restrictive organization.

Recommendation: 3: Keep our daughter Susan (having Rett Syndrome and level 7 of need) well cared for in a familiar environment with frequent oversight and consistency of care givers.

Justification: Being quadriplegic, unable to speak, having tube feeding and and needing repositioning every 2 hours she needs care givers and doctors who know her well and can interpret her needs.

Recommendation: 4: Ease the waiting list of families of severely disabled children by offering empty beds when they become available.

Justification: Offer relief to waiting list families.

Recommendation: 5: Respect the Olmsted decision by giving parents the right to choose the best home for their child.

Justification: Our daughter's care is best accomplished with the consistency of long term medical staff. Visits to emergency rooms with ever changing staff of strangers would not be in the best interest of her peace of mind.

Recommendation: 6: Do a valid cost study of costs that includes the all inclusive services at STS.

Justification: Take note that STS provides doctors, nurses and ambulance services that are readily available on grounds. Provided also are day programs, PT, OT, social workers, dental care, direct care staff, music therapy, fire department, maintenance workers (grounds, lawn, snow removal, cleaners), and cooks. Also take note that ICF/DD facilities are reimbursed 50% by the Federal government. This direct cost reduction is not factored into per diem costs at STS.