

December 12, 2015

Marie I. Falus

STS Recommendations
Introduction:

Dear Comm. Murray

My brother, Richard
Iadarola, has been a
resident for 60 years
at STS where an
experienced staff have
diligently cared for his
physical, emotional, and
social needs despite
his severe intellectual
disability.

For years Richard has enjoyed and thrived at his "work" at the farm with director Ron Hoyt and fellow residents. But now that he is older his day is modified because of an erratic diabetes condition and atrial fibrillation, and the nurse(s) in residence monitors him four times a day. The cottage staff check his whereabouts every half hour and allow him the freedom to be outdoors, also checking on him at five minute intervals. His food is prepared as "ground"

especially for his needs.

Richard's life at STS has been unusually happy as he enjoys the safety of familiar surroundings and the care of a staff who are able to anticipate his behavior and treat him like family.

Recommendation:

Of course STS should remain open, even if it is a smaller version on Yankee Drive. Would our legislators agree to their two-year-olds, whose feelings and memories encompass 60 years, being housed somewhere other than the group home they already have and know?

Recommendation:

Because the current population at STS is elderly, DDS should consider converting one

or more Yankee Drive buildings into nursing homes. Where else would physically and intellectually challenged citizens get better care?

Recommendation:

With 2,000 or so families needing respite from the care they currently give their disabled relatives at home, why close any of STS? These families need a respite center.

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