

Southbury Training school Recommendations

October 26, 2015

To: Commissioner Murray, DDS

Ronda Buchmeier

DDS BSP CMS

Re: STS recommendations

I am a DDS case manager supervisor for the BSP program. With the recent rescissions in the BSP budget and the new collaboration with Husky insurance and private insurance, to cover services for those diagnosed with ASD, I believe our Department needs to relook at the supports we provide to youth with ASD. We need to continue to provide at least one waiverable support so families will remain eligible for Husky but those supports can be minimal in nature allowing case managers to reduce budgets saving the state millions of dollars.

My recommendation is to allow our vendor agencies to be assigned a cottage at STS This agency will staff and oversee the upkeep of that unit. The agency would then develop a schedule to provide families with regular respite opportunities. The cost for respite would be billed as the 24 hour out of home respite rate using the youth's individual budget. Respite is a waiverable service and would maintain the families Husky thus allowing them to receive in home behavioral and technical assistance through either their husky insurance. The scheduled respite would provide families with a needed break in their own home.

A second recommendation would be for a transitional unit to be developed on the grounds at STS. The transition unit would provide a "step down" setting for individuals who are in the hospital and ready for discharge or for youth that have been in out of state residential treatment settings who wish to return to CT but not ready for a community based settings such as a CRS or CLA. The transition unit would be a treatment based setting with the goal for community integration. The stay would be limited to a period of time between 3 months and a year with the DDS professionals overseeing the treatment of these individuals and constant reevaluation.

Respectfully submitted

Ronda Buchmeier

