

Southbury Training School Recommendations
Formatting Guidelines

Date: 11/12/15

To: Commissioner Murray, DDS

From: Rob Weinstein

Position Case Manager

Organization: DDS-STS

Re: STS Recommendations

I have been employed by the State of Connecticut for almost 30 years, all of them at Southbury Training School. I have worked in positions from Recreation Therapy, Quality Enhancement and Case Management. I have also had a chance to provide Respite Services in the past in the Community for families in the Greater Waterbury area. During that time I had seen the struggles of the families in the community trying to secure services for their loved ones especially long term care (during severe health challenges). Many of their loved ones were placed in Nursing Homes. While, I think Nursing Homes provide basic care, I do not think that it is the best for the DDS individuals.

Recommendation 1: Let STS remain open for the individuals whom presently live here and have chosen to live out their lives here. Also, the addition of a new long term care facility (even small one 100-200 beds)

Justification: Family members in the community who have placed their loved ones in Nursing Homes (presently 300-400 individuals in Connecticut Nursing Homes) or who have their loved ones at home and cannot provide all the services would benefit from the many years (10-30 plus for the STS workers) of experience that the workforce at STS. That work force includes: Residential Care, Nursing, and Doctors on campus, Day Program, OT, PT, Speech, Music Therapy, Dietary, Building Services and the STS Fire Department for Fire Protection and Medical Emergencies and Transport to hospitals. The opportunity would also provide a beautiful campus and community experiences from the surrounding towns that have always embraced STS. A facility that can be staffed by the workers who are presently working at STS who have many years of skills and expertise.

Recommendation 2: Specialized Autism Unit

Justification:

Recommendation ...: DDS Respite Center and Emergency Unit/Temporary Unit for Individuals on Waiting List waiting for Housing

Justification: Many parents and family members in the community are having a terrible time getting services respite etc; They are in need of rest and recuperation. A place where their loved one can come for a few days or more if a family member needed to have a brake and to recuperate.

Recommendation 3: Living Opportunities for individuals in the Southbury area who need services and want to live within their community.

Justification: Example-Veterans from the Southbury area who are unable to live alone who do not want to move away from their families and friends may be able to benefit from the supports provided at STS.