



COMMUNICATIONS

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COMMISSIONER MACY THANKFUL TO EAST HARTFORD POLICE

East Hartford Investigation Leads to Arrest

(EAST HARTFORD, CT) - The Connecticut Department of Developmental Services' (DDS) Commissioner Terrence W. Macy, Ph.D., today released a statement following the arrest of the person who allegedly physically abused an individual with an intellectual disability at a privately operated group home:

"Most public and private employees provide the utmost care and support to thousands of individuals they serve," said Commissioner Macy. "But to the ones that don't, I hope the message is clear – abuse of any kind will not be tolerated.

"I want to thank the East Hartford Police for their swift response to this alleged crime," said Commissioner Macy. "Their professionalism and dedication to this investigation is very much appreciated. Partnerships like this are essential in maintaining a system of protection to the people we support and their families."

DDS and the provider, Options Unlimited, Inc. anonymously received a dvd with horrific images of abuse against the client on Tuesday, July 10, 2012. The accused person was immediately removed from her duties and the video was provided to the East Hartford Police Department.

Due to the seriousness of this incident; DDS has placed the provider on enhanced monitoring. This immediate action allows DDS staff to assess every individual residing in each of the Options Unlimited homes for any signs of abuse and to monitor the homes at various times during the day, sometimes unannounced and it also suspends all new admissions to the provider. This daily presence will inform DDS as to the required next steps.

Anyone who has knowledge of abuse or neglect against an individual with intellectual disability should report the information to either the Office of Protection and Advocacy (OPA), if the individual is between the ages of 18-59, the Department of Children and Families (DCF), for children aged 17-years-old or under and the Department of Social Services (DSS) for adults aged of 60 years or over.

Please visit the DDS website at www.ct.gov/dds for the state agency contact numbers.

To Report Abuse & Neglect

Children aged 17 or under:

The Department of Children and Families (**DCF**)
1-800-842-2288

Adults aged 18 to 59:

The Office of Protection and Advocacy (**P&A**)
1-800-842-7303 or TDD (860) 566-2102

Adults aged 60 years or over:

The Department of Social Services (**DSS**)
Info Line 211

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