

-----Original Message-----

From: Carol Adduci [<mailto:carol.adduci@gmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, December 06, 2016 8:10 AM

To: ddsct.co

Subject: Five year plan

Hello,

I am emailing you in regards to the draft of the 5 year plan I read for those with disabilities through DDS. My son has autism, is 21, and soon to leave his transition program with Fairfield Public Schools. We are currently on the autism waiver list, of which I was told there are no funds and nothing allocated for this waiver. I also saw in the 5 year plan that there's zero monies allocated for autism. This concerns me greatly, as my son is almost nonverbal, does not go in the community by himself and needs usually someone with him at work and in the community. He also has a severe nut allergy, and does not administer his own epipen if needed. He will be in need of many services when he leaves school, and we are anxious as to how his needs will be met.

I do understand that the autism waiver was moved to DSS recently. I am quite unclear, as are many other parents who have children on the autism waiver, how this change will be beneficial; if at all to our children. Can you please explain what services, if any, we may be eligible for? We have applied for Medicaid also. Surely, there must be some monies in this budget and 5 year plan for the autism community.

Many of our children are aging into young adulthood and out of the public schools without employment opportunities, support in the community at work and with life skills, transportation, leisure and recreational activities, and help to the caregivers at home.

I am truly disappointed in how the state of CT is handling this situation and would like to see some positive changes in how we treat our autism community, and the help we afford them.

Thank you and I look forward to a reply.

Carol Adduci
143 Melville Drive
Fairfield CT 06825

Sent from my iPhone