

From: Lisa Roland <lawr888@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2016 10:23 AM
To: ddsct.co
Cc: Scheff, Jordan A; Murray, Morna
Subject: DDS 5 year plan

My name is Lisa Weisinger-Roland and I am the mother of a 21 year old son named Jamie with an intellectual disability. I have read the 5 year plan and I am concerned that the steps outlined are not going to be far reaching enough to make an impact on the adults with ID in the state of Connecticut. Here are some of my issues:

- 1) The system is difficult to navigate for those of us looking for something outside of an agency provider.
- 2) The idea of customized employment does not truly exist in CT. According to your numbers in the 5 year plan, only 2% of the population is competitively employed!
- 3) Residential supports is nonexistent for over 2,000 people waiting in CT
- 4) There is no plan now or in the 5 year plan to help people get off the residential "waiting list"
- 5) The dichotomy between the state and private run facilities, as well as the pay rate for state vs private employees
- 6) Fair wages within the private community has not been addressed in a meaningful way to help support the people within DDS - you are moving people from state run to private run facilities to save money but the wages for the private workers are not addressed. How are they supposed to make a decent living caring for our adult children if they do not receive a living wage with COLAs to help them maintain their families?
- 7) STS should be closed based on a moral objection of institutionalizing our adults with ID, as well as a financial obligation to care for all individuals within the state.
- 8) The partnership with DORS/BRS would go a long way to preparing our individuals for employment and independent living
- 9) DDS needs to charter a course within the communities for inclusion - employment and residential - our children should not be relegated to a life of poverty because they have not found employment opportunities

These issues are a few plaguing DDS and therefore, our family members with ID. Until we address the real issue of how to care for ALL community members with ID, we cannot possibly consider a 5 year plan. There is a great deal of work to be done and I believe that DDS can make significant strides to close the gap between the "haves and the have nots". Please consider restructuring the mammoth organization, rethink your allegiance to STS, consider how you would reorganize if your child's future depended on DDS.

Respectfully,

Lisa Weisinger, M.D.