



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services



M. Jodi Rell
Governor

Peter H. O'Meara
Commissioner

Kathryn du Pree
Deputy Commissioner

May 2009

Dear Colleagues and Friends:

Enclosed is the Department of Developmental Services' (DDS) Annual Mortality Report for fiscal year 2008. The Division of Family and Community Services of DDS assembles the report. The report analyzes and summarizes information on all deaths for persons who have been determined to be eligible for DDS supports. This is the seventh annual mortality report, which is now required by Executive Order #25.

This analytical report and a comprehensive two tiered mortality review process are critical components of the quality and risk management systems present within the DDS system. DDS is committed to a process that identifies important patterns and trends that may help increase knowledge about risk factors and guide systems enhancements to mitigate future risk. In fact, Connecticut is one of a few states that consistently compiles mortality information.

CT DDS has made significant strides in our standardizing of reporting systems, improving our clinical mortality review process and comparing our data against state and national death statistics.

I remain committed to the significance of this independent mortality report as a vital and essential component of the Department's quality management and improvement system and a process for identifying important or new initiatives pertaining to the management of consumer risk.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Peter H. O'Meara".

Peter H. O'Meara
Commissioner