



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

M. Jodi Rell
Governor

Peter H. O'Meara
Commissioner

Kathryn du Pree
Deputy Commissioner

August 20, 2010

To: DDS Consumers, Families, Providers and Staff (*via the DDS website*)

From: Commissioner Peter H. O'Meara *Peter H. O'meara*

Re: Budget Options for the Biennium that includes fiscal years (FYs) 2012 & 2013

The purpose of this letter is to communicate the most recent budget information with you as it relates to the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). Pursuant to state law, the Governor's budget office (the Office of Policy and Management) is required to provide the Governor-elect with a transition budget by November 15, 2010. Given the current state of the economy, all state agencies have been directed to submit budget reduction options totaling 15 percent of their FY 2012 current services budget request by September 24, 2010.

This means that each state agency is required to propose how it would operate with 15 percent less funding during FY 2012, which starts on July 1, 2011. This planning exercise does not affect our current operating budget for the current fiscal year which runs through June 30, 2011. Therefore, it does not affect current services being delivered to our consumers and families at this time.

DDS's current services budget needs (what it will cost DDS to maintain all services that are currently being provided) will exceed \$1 billion in FY 2012. Therefore, DDS is required to submit a plan detailing how we would operate with approximately \$150 million less in funding. This is a significant target to achieve. I am sharing this information with the DDS community in an effort to emphasize the potential impact that next year's budget situation could have on our service system, as well as, to solicit ideas from all of you for how we may achieve this planning requirement. To be clear, budget reduction options are only a first step in the budget process. It is not automatic that everything we submit will be implemented, and the impact of any proposed reduction will be carefully evaluated.

I ask that if you have any new or creative ideas for cost savings, please share them with DDS staff as soon as possible by sending an email to DDS.SuggestionBox@ct.gov. All ideas will be reviewed and considered. Specifically, the focus is on streamlining government by identifying core governmental services and the programs necessary to support these services.

Please know that throughout the recent budget deficit mitigation process, DDS has made a concerted effort to maintain as many direct services for consumers as possible. We recognize the importance that our service system plays in the lives of our consumers and their families. This will continue to be our goal. However, the challenge for DDS is that all options must be explored and we may be required to implement significant reductions.

I thank each of you for your continued patience and diligence as we move into the next budget cycle and through this first planning phase for next year's budget.

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