



Joan C. Barnish  
Director of Communications  
Phone: (860) 418-6044  
Cell: (203) 233-0150  
[joan.barnish@ct.gov](mailto:joan.barnish@ct.gov)

**Press Release**

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**DDS Releases New “Draft” Mission and Vision Statements**

The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) has released a “draft” of the agency’s Mission and Vision. More than 60 stakeholders created the first draft and it was then reviewed by John O’Brien, a leader in the intellectual disability field and a small reader group comprised of volunteers.

The draft Mission and Vision;

**Mission**

The mission of the Department of Developmental Services is to partner with the individuals we support and their families, to support lifelong planning and to join with others to create and promote meaningful opportunities for individuals to fully participate as valued members of their communities.

**Vision**

All citizens supported by the Department of Developmental Services are valued contributors to their communities as family members, friends, neighbors, students, employees, volunteers, members of civic and religious associations, voters and advocates. These individuals:

1. Live, learn, work and enjoy community life in places where they can use their personal strengths, talents and passions.
2. Have safe, meaningful and empowering relationships.
3. Have families who feel supported from the earliest years and throughout their lifetimes.
4. Have lifelong opportunities and the assistance to learn things that matter to them.
5. Make informed choices and take responsibility for their lives and experience the dignity of risk.
6. Earn money to facilitate personal choices.
7. Know their rights and responsibilities and pursue opportunities to live the life they choose.

Please feel free to send any comments to [dds.co@ct.gov](mailto:dds.co@ct.gov) . DDS plans to finalize the Mission and Vision over the next couple of weeks. Once the agency has its new statement, a comprehensive strategy will be developed for the implementation. The new mission is expected to be a value statement that offers useful measures for determining how well the department is providing support.

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