

From: Larry Cassella [<mailto:lcassella@litchfieldarc.org>]
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To: ddsct.co
Subject: FIVE YEAR PLAN

LARC began supporting individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and their families in 1964. LARC began as a daycare and presently provides supports throughout the 19 NW CT towns in Litchfield County. We support approximately 250 individuals a day in employment, residential, advocacy and day program activities. In the summer we run Camp MOE which is the only inclusionary day camp structured where the 160 campers a day are made up of 65% children without disabilities and 35% children with disabilities. Camp MOE has been recognized by the National Inclusion Project for its commitment to creating a better quality of life for ALL children.

Community for All is our Vision and Inclusion is the 'heart' of our organization.

The DDS Five Year Plan is thoughtful and developed as a picture of the future. What it lacks is drawing on the partnership and resources of the private provider network. Currently the private providers support the majority of individuals in the 169 communities in Connecticut. It makes sense to use the private providers to decrease the numbers on the lists (emergency/planning/waiting lists) where families see little movement of their loved ones unless an emergency situation arises.

The quality and affordable supports should make the private providers more of a key part of the Five Year Plan.

Thank You.

Larry Cassella

Executive Director
Arc Litchfield County, Inc. (LARC)
314 Main St., Torrington, Ct.
06790
(860) 482-9364 X28
lcassella@litchfieldarc.org

www.litchfieldarc.org

www.facebook.com/LARC.CT