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To: [Carvalho, Joseph](#)
Subject: Submitted_testimony_for_DDS_5_Year_Plan_2022-2027
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January 11, 2022

Jordan A. Scheff, Commissioner
Department of Developmental Services
400 Capital Ave
Hartford, CT 06103

Re: Submitted_testimony_for_DDS_5_Year_Plan_2022-2027

Dear Commissioner Scheff,

You will recall, I am a proud parent of a now 35 year-old(!) man who is dually diagnosed with ID and psychiatric issues. Since 2007, he has been supported with both day and now residential services by qualified private providers, funded by DDS.

As a past member of the Council on Development Services, I read with interest the DRAFT 5 Year Plan for 2022-2027 with a retired banker's eye looking to quantify the Department's success (or not) in achieving the goals laid out in the 2017-2022 plan, and to look for whiffs of change in policy, focus, or direction that parents should be aware of in the years ahead.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->1. <!--[endif]-->The first third of the Plan document (Pgs 3-13) well describes the kinds of services provided by DDS and the number of individuals receiving them. That section fails, however, to quantify the many positive changes from the numbers contained in the 2017-2022 Plan.

For example, from my calculation of the Waiting List numbers contained in the two plans, 649 E's and U's in 2021 represented a reduction of 8 from 657 in 2016; 248 E's and U's receiving residential services but needing more services at 2021 represented a reduction 56 from 304 in 2016; and 950 on the residential planning list in 2021 represented a reduction of 188 from 1138 in 2016. Total waiting list reduction was 252 during the five-year period, a number to plan for/from.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->2. The age distribution chart on Pg 4 does not look right when compared with the same chart in the 2016 Plan. There appears to be a significant reduction in a certain age group. Where did they go?

<!--[if !supportLists]-->3. Similarly the Plan lacks charts for 2016 and 2021 showing the distribution of the 17,000 DDS clients by LON. There should be a paragraph on

LON as it certainly impacts appropriations.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->4. <!--[endif]-->Clearly the Plan document will serve as a guide to individuals and families as IPs are developed and revised annually. And fully incorporating the Charting the LifeCourse framework as the underlying operating and planning process in the Department will ensure consistency in approach to all internal matters.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->5. <!--[endif]-->Such a commitment to a new process will require much training of the individuals, families and providers in new concepts, esoteric language, relationship polygons, life domains, etc., (it's hard stuff) so that everyone using the process is on the same page and communicating at no disadvantage.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->6. <!--[endif]-->For individuals and families, the training should take place as a condition of graduation at twice during the Transition years so that the 300+ graduates and their parents know how the DDS system works when they get there. Include a copy of the 5 Year Plan.

Thanks for what you do.

Very truly yours,

John H. Frost
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