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Subject: Alex Wahler/ DDS
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My name is Nancy Wahler and I am from Westport. Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on the draft five-year plan developed by the Department of Developmental services. While I am pleased to know that the department has identified goals for the agency, it is more important than ever that DDS address the specific real-life needs of the individuals served by the department.

As a parent of this plan is critical to the future health and wellbeing of my child. Ensuring that our loved ones live in a supported and inclusive community environment is essential and the programs and services developed by the DDS must reflect this approach.

Our voices provide important feedback and highlight the need for additional resources. No longer do we live in a one-size fits all world. In fact, we can learn from the approach of other states and create new, supported living environments and options. Specifically, this plan should be revised to include: More individualized, supported living options, Resources to support person-centered planning, employment progression and affordable community-based housing options, Increased training for families and Support personnel, Improved medical and behavioral emergency support, and Increased collaboration opportunities with DDS for supported individuals and their families.

My son was at Alibis and desperately wanted to obtain job skills that were not being taught. He is eager to have a productive life. He complained everyday that he wanted to learn skills and apply them to a workplace. I believe more real job training needs to be incorporated into DDS adult day programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I look forward to your feedback, seeing the revised plan and the opportunity to work together in this process.