



## *Families for Families*

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### **WILL MEETING YOUR FAMILY'S NEEDS BE INCLUDED IN THE DDS PLAN FOR THE FUTURE?**

***DON'T MISS YOUR OPPORTUNITY  
TO GIVE INPUT ABOUT THE FUTURE OF DDS SERVICES!***

The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) is in the process of developing a Five Year Plan for submission to the Public Health and Appropriations Committees in January 2017.

DDS's Five Year Plan is a strategic statement of the department's direction over the next five years and an outline of priorities which will be used to guide the current and future service system. [Click here to read the DDS DRAFT Five Year Plan 2017-2022](#)

Although we are pleased to see that DDS intends to follow national trends by moving toward community-based residential supports and away from publicly-operated, institutional care, there are several critical things that DDS failed to include in their Draft Plan:

#### **1. DDS Waiting Lists.**

The DDS Draft Plan includes an item to redefine the categories of the residential Waiting List *but no plan to reduce the Waiting List*. There has been no significant progress on the Waiting List in the past five years. The plan also fails to address that there are now waiting lists for all DDS services including Day & Employment supports. *Moving forward DDS must have a plan to serve people on all DDS waiting lists!*

#### **2. Closing of DDS Institutions.**

Excessive costs at DDS institutions continue to skyrocket. Last year at Southbury Training School DDS spent \$82 million in staff costs alone, to serve less than 300 people! That \$82 million does not even include other cost such as heat, electricity, supplies, food, and unfunded pension liability. *DDS must have a plan to close institutions and reallocate those funds to serve people on the waiting list!*

#### **3. Reducing overtime and waste to serve more people.**

The DDS Draft plan fails to address the overtime issue! In fiscal year 2016, DDS still spent more than \$45 million on overtime. We have shown that DDS is overstaffed and that overtime can be reduced by much more. *DDS must have a plan to eliminate excessive*

*overtime, waste and inefficiencies and to reallocate those funds to serve people in the waiting list!*

***YOUR INPUT IS CRITICAL TO THE FUTURE OF SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH I/DD!***

The current plan is a draft only. It can be change changed with input from the public. There are two way for you to submit your comments:

**1. Submit oral testimony at the public hearing, next Tuesday, December 6, 2016.**

DDS has scheduled two public hearings the Draft Five Year Plan. The hearings will be held on Tuesday, December 6, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to noon and 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in Hearing Room 1A at the Legislative Office Building, 300 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT.

Persons who wish to speak on the draft plan may sign-up for the morning hearing beginning at 9:30 a.m. outside Hearing Room 1A and for the afternoon public hearing beginning at 3:30 p.m. outside of Hearing Room 1A. Speakers will have three minutes each for their testimony. Written comments and testimony also may be submitted at the public hearings

**2. Submit written comments by 5:00 pm December 22, 2016.**

Do not miss the chance to give your input because you don't have time to write. Brief comments expressing your opinion and outlining what you think needs to be included in the DDS plan are all that is needed.

Please be aware that all written comments and testimony will be posted on the DDS website. Written comments or testimony on the draft plan may be emailed to: [ddsct.co@ct.gov](mailto:ddsct.co@ct.gov) with the subject line: "Five Year Plan" or mailed to: Department of Developmental Services Attn: Five Year Plan 460 Capitol Avenue Hartford, CT 06106

[Click here for more details on submitting comments.](#)

For more information contact Shannon Jacovino  
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