

December 27, 2015

Morna A. Murray, JD, Commissioner

Department of Developmental Services

460 Capitol Avenue

Hartford, CT 06106

Re: Call for Public Recommendations

Dear Sir/Madam:

It is a great pleasure to be asked to provide feedback on this important matter. I wish to thank you for the opportunity.

I would like to add my support for the Southbury Training School (STS) remaining open and providing resident services. My sister, Susanne, was born with a severe developmental delay. She entered STS at age six and for over 4 decades, has been a resident there. The care she has received has been comprehensive and compassionate, with dedicated and caring staff looking after every need. She has complex medical, psychiatric and behavioural needs and having an Internist, Psychiatrist and Behaviorist on staff has been a great benefit to Susanne. The management and staff are responsive and work hard to resolve any problems which arise. She seems happy at STS and is very affectionate toward the staff. Having visited group homes, I do not believe Susanne would receive the same level of care and supervision in a group home setting. As she has complex medical and behavior needs, STS is ideally suited for her care.

I believe STS has an ongoing role to play in supporting high needs, complex residents in a residential setting. Part of the campus could be used to provide day program services. STS exists as an enduring example of quality care for the most vulnerable in our society, those incapable of caring for themselves.

I thank you very much for the work you are doing to assure the provision of quality care for my sister.

Sincerely yours,

Michael Bayer

Guardian