



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

Jordan A. Scheff
Commissioner

Peter Mason
Deputy Commissioner

DDS May 2018 Retreat

Call To Action: DDS is seeking input from individuals, families and providers to find new ways to help people with unmet emergent residential support needs due to mental illness, medical issues, family issues, lack of appropriate community mental health resources and affordable community housing with residential supports, which can lead to preventable use of emergency rooms and psychiatric inpatient units. Commissioner Jordan Scheff is asking for your help in proposing proactive mental health/residential support strategies, self-direction, assistive technology, supportive clustered housing, and step-up (diversion) and step-down supports to help individuals who are experiencing emergent and crisis level events to find access to effective and timely supports to maximize their ability to maintain their own and/or family homes and their quality of life. Resources may become available to support your recommendations in this initiative. Individuals, families and providers will be invited to one of two retreat sessions. The retreat sessions will take place on **Monday, May 21 and 23, 2018 from 5:30-7:30 pm at the Wallingford DDS Office, 35 Thorpe Avenue, Wallingford CT.**

RSVP Date: Friday, May 11, 2018.

Methodology: Each retreat group will be comprised of individuals and families supported by DDS and its providers, as well as representatives of qualified providers across the state. All hands are needed on deck in order to help propose effective solutions to these complex human problems faced by the individuals and families that we support every day.

Subgroups: Each retreat group will be divided into two sub-groups for discussions. These sub-groups are comprised of individuals, families and qualified provider representatives. Your proposal should include a plan of how every individual and family who has the opportunity to participate in this initiative going forward will have the opportunity to self-determine, self-direct, and define the services and supports they need and how they are provided.

Your task: Each subgroup will develop a plan to support individuals and families experiencing complex social, medical, psychiatric, and/or legal issues that has the best chance of success in preventing unnecessary emergency room usage, inpatient psychiatric admission and/or out of home emergency placement in a group home setting. Identify the resources (human and fiscal) necessary to operationalize your plan, as well as partnerships with other state or community based agencies that would be necessary. You will be asked to nominate a representative from your group to make a 5-10 minute presentation to Commissioner Scheff and his designees at a future date.

Overarching themes: 1) Prevent and alleviate emotional distress in the most timely way; 2) Prevent Abuse and Neglect; 3) Uphold Our Mission; 4) Meet our statutory and legal obligations to the almost 17, 000 individuals and families who we support; 5) Make a plan consistent with our policies, procedures and work rules; 6) Make a plan with a foundation in respect and dignity; 7) Understand the challenges that individuals and families face with complex mental health, medical and legal challenges; 8) Make a plan that recognizes the strengths and capacities of all people, and the opportunities that we sometimes miss with community based supports; 9) Recognize the opportunity that assistive technology, supporting housing, shared supports, family, friends and neighbors can present when they are asked to. 10) Think outside of DDS resources, and explore partnerships with existing stakeholders that might further our objectives.