

Southbury Training School Recommendations

Date: December 15, 2015

To: Commissioner Murray, DDS

From: Anne Ruwet

Position: CEO

Organization: CCARC, Inc.

Re: STS Recommendations

CCARC is a qualified provider for DDS Residential/ Day Services Provider. We have explored the opportunities to provide supports to the people residing at STS. We participated in the past in the Provider Fairs at STS to help educate the families and guardians about our services. Unfortunately, we did not pursue this any farther due to the funding commitment of DDS but would be willing to consider this again under the new administration.

Recommendation 1: Provide the adequate funding to support the person moving out of STS that will include start up costs/ rent subsidies and the actual cost of care so the provider can pay more than the minimum wages to their employees. DDS should make a commitment to the provider that the rates won't revert to the residential or day rate structure that uses the LON assessment for the individual.

Justification: Most providers are underfunded as indicated in the Governor's Cabinet on Nonprofit Health and Human Services recommendations submitted to the Governor in 2014, specifically the Nonprofit Employment Data Workgroup report. To continue to pay wages at these rates will further put at risk the fiscal viability of the private provider community.

Recommendation 2: DDS should assist in partnering with the providers to increase our community resources for clinical support (Psychiatrists/ Therapists/ Dentists/ Speech Therapists/ etc.) and if reasonable utilize the existing clinical resources at STS.

Justification: It is becoming more challenging to find clinicians within the community that accept Title 19 for payment of their services or have the experience in working with the people we support that have more challenging behavioral/medical needs.

Recommendation 3: DDS should continue to provide family education to the guardians and residents about community providers and partner with us to reduce the fears and anxiety of community living.

Justification: There continues to a myth that community providers would not be able to provide the quality services in the community and with more communication and education the barriers can be eliminated.

It is important to note again that CCARC is interested in providing Day and Residential Services for the STS residents in the future should the reimbursement for these services pay for the cost of care.