



MARC, INC. OF MANCHESTER
151 SHELDON ROAD
MANCHESTER, CONNECTICUT
06042

860-646-5718
FAX 860-645-9910

KEVIN ZINGLER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Southbury Training School Recommendations

December 29, 2015

To: Commissioner Murray, DDS

From: Dotti Cannon, President; MARC Board of Directors
Kevin Zingler, Executive Director, MARC, Inc. of Manchester

Re: STS Recommendations

Since 1952, MARC, Inc. of Manchester has been a partner with DDS to provide employment, residential, retirement, respite and advocacy services to individuals with developmental disabilities. In response to your memo on the future of Southbury Training School our board met and would like to make the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1:

Close Southbury Training School, transfer residents into integrated community based services.

Justification:

- Southbury Training School is the most expensive way to provide residential care to individuals.
- Redirection of funds from Southbury can reduce and/or eliminate the state waiting list of individuals needing residential services.
- Community providers can provide the level of care and support needed to residents of Southbury at a lower cost to live in the community – in group homes, apartments, their family homes, with services and supports tailored to their needs. When Mansfield Training School closed over 20 years ago, every resident moved to a community setting.
- Quality of life is vastly improved when individuals have the opportunity to live an integrated life according to individual choices and preferences.
- Aligns with *Olmstead v. L.C.*, 527 U.S. 581 (1999), a United States Supreme Court case regarding discrimination against people with mental disabilities. The

Supreme Court held that under the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with mental disabilities have the right to live in the community rather than in institutions.

- Aligns with federal initiatives via the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare to reduce and eliminate reimbursement for institutional based services.
- 15 states and the District of Columbia that have no state institutions; individuals with I/DD live safely in community based settings.

Recommendation 2:

Sell the remaining 600 acres of land used by Southbury Training School to benefit services provided to individuals with developmental disabilities.

Justification:

- Proceeds from the sale can be utilized to offset costs with services provided to individuals with developmental disabilities and reduce waiting lists.
- CT taxpayers have already donated and repurposed portions of the land for other needs including 900 acres to the State Department of Agriculture to preserve as farmland and 45 acres to the Town of Southbury for senior housing.
- The Town of Southbury would benefit from an increase in the grand list of taxable property.

Once again, thank you for this opportunity to provide the above recommendations. If you have further questions or concerns, please contact us at (860) 646-5718.

Sincerely,



Dotti Cannon
President
MARC, Inc. Board of Directors



Kevin Zingler
Executive Director



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

Morna A. Murray, J.D.
Commissioner

Jordan A. Scheff
Deputy Commissioner

Date: October 2, 2015
To: All DDS Stakeholders
From: Morna A. Murray, J.D.
Commissioner, Department of Developmental Services
Re: Call for Public Recommendations

The Department of Developmental Services is soliciting public written input from any individual or organization interested in providing recommendations regarding the future of Southbury Training School. In order to develop recommendations for the future of this facility, DDS will consider information submitted by all interested parties. This inclusive process will allow us to explore all options, and to provide public access to all stakeholder recommendations. Please note that this process will be unique and separate from the charge of the existing Governor's Task Force related to the use of the campus.

In the interest of gathering information that can be synthesized for preparation of recommendations, please utilize the attached formatting guidelines. Please direct questions and submit your recommendations to Katie Rock-Burns, Chief of Staff, at Kathryn.Rock-Burns@ct.gov **no later than December 31, 2015**. No submissions will be accepted after this date.

Note: All submissions will be posted on the DDS website.

Following the deadline, DDS staff will review and synthesize all submissions, with the goal of providing recommendations to Governor Malloy by April 30, 2016. It is critically important that we receive feedback from all interested stakeholders and as such, DDS is circulating this request through all communication channels at our disposal. As a recipient of this communication, please forward to any and all parties who may be interested.

Sincerely,

Morna A. Murray, J.D.
Commissioner

Department of Developmental Services

Phone: 860 418-6000 ♦ TDD 860 418-6079 ♦ Fax: 860 418-6001

460 Capitol Avenue ♦ Hartford, Connecticut 06106

www.ct.gov/dds ♦ e-mail: ddsct.co@ct.gov

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**Southbury Training School Recommendations
Formatting Guidelines**

Date:

To: Commissioner Murray, DDS

From: Name
Position (if applicable)
Organization (if applicable)

Re: STS Recommendations

[Please state your relationship to DDS and interest in this matter. To the greatest extent possible, please make your viewpoint and reasoning clear in an introduction to your recommendations.]

[For each recommendation provided below, please detail a justification or explanation.]

Recommendation 1:

Justification:

Recommendation 2:

Justification:

Recommendation ...:

Justification: