

To: Commissioner Murray, DDS

From: Heather LaTorra, President and CEO, Marrakech, Inc.

Date: December 31, 2015

Re: STS Recommendations

Thank you for soliciting feedback, I appreciate this opportunity. I have interned and worked at Marrakech for the past thirty years and partnered with DDS during this timeframe as well.

In the past, owning buildings with beds to fill seemed like the most efficient way to support people. Fast forward to today and know that owning buildings with beds to fill is not person centered, not cost effective, takes people out of their home towns, claims “responsibility” for peoples’ lives and moves them away from natural supports.

Using the STS campus to model another service delivery system for people would simply recreate isolation and segregation of a population.

Approximately 20 years ago the DMR New Haven Regional Center was sold to Job Corp and the money was reinvested into community services for the individuals we support.

Recommendation:

At this time Connecticut should use whatever resources we gain by parceling off and selling this property as it becomes vacant and available.

Connecticut should use resources gained to solve our most prevalent problems in our service delivery system and to address some immediate challenges.