

Kyrie O'Connor
Guardian for Craig O'Connor
84 Indian Harbor Drive
Greenwich, CT 06830
November 30, 2015
Commissioner Murray
Commissioner
Department of Developmental Services
460 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Commissioner Murray:

My brother Craig O'Connor has been a resident of Southbury training school since 1957. Our parents moved to Connecticut so Craig could be admitted to Southbury as they knew that he was not receiving satisfactory care at another State School in New York and wanted a better life for him.

Recommendation #1: Do not Close Southbury Training School. We credit Southbury Training School for keeping Craig happy, healthy and safe. We believe it is the continuity of the staff in cottage #17 who are caring and well trained that has contributed to with Craig's positive condition. Most of the team have known him for years and because Craig is primarily non-verbal they can determine if something is wrong with him due to their familiarity with his behavior and moods.

Recommendation #2: If Southbury is closed, keep the Southbury Training School staff as state employees and offer them positions at the group homes with no loss of compensation or benefits. This will continue the quality of staff for the residents.

Summary

Craig knows Southbury as his home and is very comfortable with the staff. To shut the facility and move him would be very upsetting to Craig. He would lose the staff that he has been with all of his life. We are concerned that an outsourced facility will not have the continuity of staff and the new setting would be very disruptive to Craig who thrives on no change. The health and happiness of my brother is very important to me and I hope that you will seriously consider the negative impact shutting down Southbury will have for my brother and others like him at the facility.

Sincerely,

Kyrie O'Connor
Guardian for Craig O'Connor