State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

Jordan A. Scheff
Acting Commissioner

February 23, 2017

To all DDS employees

Message from Acting Commissioner Jordan Scheff

Today I was afforded the opportunity to provide testimony before the legislative Appropriations Committee on behalf of the Governor Malloy's proposed budget for fiscal years 2018 and 2019 (July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2019). Included here is a link to my testimony.

This evening, as has been my custom for several years now, I will go and listen to various DDS stakeholders as they testify at the Appropriations Committee's public hearing. These evenings are always time very well spent because they afford me a unique opportunity to hear valuable testimony from all stakeholders including individuals and families who receive DDS services (both public and private) and those who are waiting for services or may need them in the future. I also hear from DDS staff and the staff of private community provider agencies. I find it both humbling and grounding to hear their testimony.

After today's public hearings, DDS will meet again with the Appropriations Committee's Health subcommittee in a couple weeks, at a date yet to be determined, to follow up on questions I was asked today by committee members as well as questions that stem from testimony legislators hear this evening. My response to any of those questions will be posted on the DDS website with our testimony. The Appropriations Committee will then produce a revised version of the proposed budget by April 27, 2017 and then additional discussions are likely between legislative leaders and the Governor's office until a budget agreement can be reached and voted on by the General Assembly. As always, you can find legislative updates on the DDS website.

Please also note that my testimony references and links to DDS's Five Year Plan (2017-2022).

I will continue to share information as it becomes available. I hope you find this communication helpful.

Thank you again for all you do!