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Sent: 1/12/2022 11:39:08 AM
Subject: DDS 5 year plan
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My name is Diane Selvaggi and I am from Stratford, CT. Thank you for this opportunity to submit comments on the draft 5 year plan developed by DDS. While I am pleased to know that the department has identified goals for the agency, it is more important than ever that DDS address the specific real life needs of the individual served by the department.

As a mother, this plan is critical to the future health and wellbeing of my adult 33 year old autistic son. I am still caring for him and I am the same age as our governor! Ensuring that our loved ones who cannot choose not to have autism live in a supported and inclusive community environment is essential and the programs and services developed by DDS need to be patient need driven. Just like no one diet fits all nor does any one program. My fear for my son is not having insufficient support so he can live safely and participate in employment opportunities. I actually found one that would work for him but was informed there is not enough staff to get him there and be his job coach. It is fair to ask me to settle for his regression after all this time I have tirelessly helped him to be happy?

Our voices provide important feedback and highlight the need for additional resources. I cannot overstate this. I would give my eye teeth for him not to be autistic but I can't change that but I would think I can help him live to his potential and speak for him because he can't. Please model what other states are doing to create new supported living environments and options. Specifically this plan should be revised to include 3 more individualized supported living options, personnel improved medical and emergency support and increase collaboration opportunities with DDS for supported individuals and their families.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I look forward to your feedback and seeing the revised plan and the opportunity to work together in this process.

Sincerely,

Diane

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