

**From:** [Carol Scully](#)  
**To:** [Carvalho, Joseph](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: DDS draft 5 year plan  
**Date:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 9:55:36 AM

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Written testimony for DDS Draft 5 year plan.

*Carol*

Carol Scully  
Director of Advocacy  
The Arc Connecticut  
(860) 989-1688  
[www.thearcct.org](http://www.thearcct.org)

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**From:** steven vanvoorhis <jillv1@att.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 13, 2022 8:46 AM  
**To:** Carol Scully <cscully@thearcct.org>  
**Subject:** DDS draft 5 year plan

My name is Jill VanVoorhis and I am from Simsbury. Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on the draft five-year plan developed by the Department of Developmental services. 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 individuals served by the department.

As a parent this plan is critical to the future health and wellbeing of my 21 year old son with Down syndrome. Ensuring that our loved ones live in a supported and inclusive community environment is essential and the programs and services developed by the DDS must reflect this approach. Our voices provide important feedback and highlight the need for additional resources. No longer do we live in a one-size fits all world. In fact, we can learn from the approach of other states and create new, supported living environments and options. Specifically, this plan should be revised to include: More individualized, supported living options, Resources to support person-centered planning, employment progression and affordable community-based housing options, Increased training for families and Support personnel, Improved medical and behavioral emergency support, and Increased collaboration opportunities with DDS for supported

individuals and their families.

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

Sincerely,

Jill VanVoorhis