

From: [John Hirschauer](#)
To: [Carvalho, Joseph](#)
Subject: Re: Submitted_testimony_for_DDS_5_Year_Plan_2022-2027
Date: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 1:15:34 AM

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

My goodness, I omitted the word "of the" in the first sentence of the second paragraph. I'm so sorry. Long day at work. Here, I promise, is the final, corrected version:

My name is John Hirschauer, and I am the Vice President of the Home and School Association of Southbury Training School. I have been a volunteer at Southbury Training School for almost five years and have testified in Hartford several times about my experience with the individuals at Southbury, who are very close to my heart and the heart of the town of Southbury where I grew up.

Southbury Training School serves some of the state's most severely disabled individuals. Each resident has different needs and desires, but almost all have profound challenges that require around-the-clock support. Some of our residents have serious, co-occurring mental illnesses like schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. Others are on feeding tubes 24 hours a day. One individual at Southbury, Jim, has schizoaffective disorder, hydrocephalus, a kidney condition, and a brain tumor, as well as severe intellectual disabilities.

Southbury's multidisciplinary on-campus support staff provides excellent care to the individuals at STS. Southbury's state-of-the-art dental clinic provides needed dental services to over 500 individuals with I/DD across the state of Connecticut.

Many of our individuals will never be able to testify in Hartford or communicate in words their appreciation for the loving staff and excellent care offered at STS. People who do not live, work, or receive services at STS often use DDS's comment period to call for the closure of the facility and the displacement of its remaining residents. I hope DDS will respect the free and informed choice of individuals and guardians to remain at Southbury, and recognize the potential of Southbury to serve as a safety net in DDS's continuum of care—now, and long into the future.

On Wed, Jan 12, 2022 at 12:45 AM John Hirschauer <hirschauer.john@gmail.com> wrote:
Mr. Carvalho,

I'm sorry; I just realized there are several typos in my previous email. I just noticed the errors. **If you're able, please enter this corrected version into the record instead:**

My name is John Hirschauer, and I am the Vice President of the Home and School Association of Southbury Training School. I have been a volunteer at Southbury Training School for almost five years and have testified in Hartford several times about my experience with the individuals at Southbury, who are very close to my heart and the heart of the town of Southbury where I grew up.

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John Hirschauer

On Tue, Jan 11, 2022 at 11:03 PM John Hirschauer <hirschauer.john@gmail.com> wrote:

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> Hello,

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> My name is John Hirschauer, and I am the Vice President of the Home and School Association of Southbury Training School. I have been a volunteer at Southbury Training School for close to five years and have come to Hartford several times to testify about my experience with the individuals at Southbury. Many of our individuals will never be able to testify here on their own behalf. I cannot fully relate the depth of their warmth and affection, their courage in the face of unspoken trials, or the joy they betray in a simple laugh and smile.

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> Southbury is home to some of the state's most severely disabled individuals. Some have co-occurring mental illnesses like schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. Others are on feeding tubes 24 hours a day. Our individuals' medical and behavioral challenges make the comprehensive, multidisciplinary, on-campus services offered at Southbury essential to their health and well-being. Those specialized services have proven beneficial to those in the community as well; Southbury's state-of-the-art dental clinic provides needed dental services to over 500 individuals with I/DD across the state of Connecticut.

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> People who do not live, work, or receive services at STS often use DDS's comment period to call for the closure of the facility and the forcible displacement of its remaining residents. I hope DDS will respect the free and informed choice of individuals and guardians to remain at Southbury, and recognize the potential of Southbury to serve as a safety net in DDS's continuum of care—now, and long into the future.

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> John Hirschauer

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John Hirschauer

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