

**From:** [Judy Osowiecki](#)  
**To:** [Carvalho, Joseph](#)  
**Cc:** [cscully@thearcct.org](mailto:cscully@thearcct.org)  
**Subject:** DDS five-year plan  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 1:10:24 PM

---

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 name is Judith Osowiecki and I am from Moosup. 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 son. 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.

My son participates in a vocational program run by Seabird Enterprises. Without this program, he would have no job at all and no social network outside of his immediate family. While we value this program, he would benefit more by having supported employment outside of this somewhat segregated program.

I would also like to see more funding to hire more Case Managers. We only see his Case Manager once a year, when it is time to review his program. She rarely has the time to follow up on the things we discuss. Some of the

things we would like for my son are not available due to funding and employment problems, such as someone to take him out into the community and have social interactions with peers. Also, his future is uncertain because there are not enough homes to go around. Since our family is able to handle having him with us without difficulty, we feel we shouldn't take a spot away from someone who needs it more. I am in my 60's, however, and I am unsure what will happen to him when I am gone.

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.

Judith Osowiecki  
77 Main St.  
Moosup, CT 06354