



State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

M. Jodi Rell
Governor

Peter H. O'Meara
Commissioner

Kathryn du Pree
Deputy Commissioner

July 31, 2009

Dear Legislator:

The Department of Developmental Services (DDS), along with other state agencies, is adjusting its operations to absorb the loss of many positions to the Retirement Incentive Program. In DDS, 395 individuals retired effective July 1, 2009. We anticipate refilling few of these vacancies because of the cost savings needed to help balance the budget.

As part of our efforts to streamline services adjusting to a reduced workforce, we plan to shift the operation of 17 public Community Living Arrangements (CLAs) to the private sector. This will happen over the next six to nine months. ***Although none of the conversion homes are in your district, we wanted to inform you of the intent of this project.***

Family members are all being personally contacted and will also receive a letter. All consumers will stay in their current CLA and not be required to move. Permanent DDS employees in these homes will be redeployed to another state-operated residence after the transition is completed.

Private providers will be selected through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process and family members and consumers will be part of the selection committees. In Connecticut, approximately 79% of the residential settings for people with mental retardation are operated by private agencies.

Please be advised that the Department of Developmental Services will handle the transition very carefully, with the best interests of the residents in mind. It will result in a savings of \$5 million annually starting in fiscal year 2011 because of the difference in cost between public and private services.

We are attaching a fact sheet on the conversion plan and other relevant documents that explain this project in greater detail. As always, my staff and I are available to talk or meet with you to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Peter H. O'Meara
Commissioner

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