M. Jodi Rell
Governor

State of Connecticut
Department of Developmental Services

Peter H. O'Meara
Commissioner

Kathryn du Pree
Deputy Commissioner

TESTIMONY OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES
REGARDING PROJECTED DEFICIENCIES
March 23, 2010

Senator Harp, Representative Geragosian, Members of the Appropriations Committee. I am Peter O'Meara, Commissioner of the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), and I am here today to discuss our projected deficiency as stated in the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management's letter to the Comptroller dated February 22, 2010.

After extensive review of the February 2010 expenditures, the Department of Developmental Services has determined that it will have $6.2 million in lapses to address the deficient accounts, leaving an additional $3.8 million deficiency in Early Intervention which is as a result of (1) teaching and therapy staff accepting the Retirement Incentive Program (RIP) and whose cost of services was shifted and is now funded by contracted services; (2) the addition of new children in 2010 to the Birth to Three System; (3) increases in the number of service hours paid at supplemental rates for children with autism spectrum disorders; and (4) the timelines required to implement changes needed to increase autism insurance recoveries, to implement increased parent fees, and to implement changes to insurance coverage applicable to these services are not anticipated to generate additional revenues that were included in the approved budget.

In an effort to mitigate the gross deficiency, we are requesting to FAC $6.2 million worth of lapses in the Personal Services, Autism Pilot and Rent Subsidy accounts to cover shortfalls in the Other Expenses, Workers' Compensation and Early Intervention accounts and to cover the remaining shortfall of $3.8 million in the Early Intervention account through an FAC from release of Personal Services holdback. It should be pointed out that we will not have a shortfall in the Voluntary Services Program (VSP) because the Department will be using existing resources to deal with prioritized cases on the VSP waiting list. The VSP application process remains open.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to testify today. We will be happy to answer any questions that you have for us at this time.

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