
From: Canty-Porter, Shantika N <CantyS@vinfen.org>
Sent: Thursday, February 14, 2013 11:35 AM
To: AppropriationTestimony
Cc: tyka772001@yahoo.com
Subject: Please save our safety net

Dear Legislators:

Please do what you can to maintain funding and or increase funding to the DDS budget. The staff members who work for the agency I work for are dedicated, hardworking and goes above and beyond to make sure the individuals served live quality and productive lives. By doing so they are maintaining the safety of the individuals as well as the community and enhancing the lives of the individuals. When budget cuts are made agencies are forced to decrease staffing and in some cases close there doors.

If people with intellectual disabilities are deprived of adequate services they will be institutionalized or left unattended in the community. In most cases people with intellectual disabilities must be appropriately supervised and how can this be done without adequate funding. The individuals served usually don't have family members that care or they don't have anyone in their corner except for staff. Please don't take staffing away from them. Agencies are trying their best to do more with less but the proposed budget cuts are going to make it impossible to do anything. The staff need their jobs they have families themselves and some work two to three jobs just to make ends meet. This is not how you treat people who care for others with disabilities. We need legislatures to take a stand and look out for people with intellectual disabilities and the staff who works with them because if you don't, who will?.

Thanks for listening and God bless you all!

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