

Appropriations Committee Testimony
March 6, 2015

I would like to thank you, Senator Bye and Rep. Walker, and members of the Appropriations Committee for the opportunity to speak **in opposition to Governor Malloy's proposed DDS budget**. My name is Collette Bement Langner and I live in Tolland with my husband, Ron, and our 28-year old son, Scott, who receives Supported Employment Services from DDS.

For the past year we have been part of a group lobbying the Governor and Legislature requesting that more money be added to the DDS budget to reduce the Waiting List (WL) for more than 2000 families requesting residential support.

We now know that the Governor has not added funding for the WL, and he has made even more cuts to the DDS budget!

But I believe there is already enough money in the current budget which, if used more efficiently, could reduce the WL. I would like to present some data to you about Southbury Training School (STS). STS has not accepted any new admissions since 1986 and has now closed 37 of its 59 buildings. There are currently **312 residents** living at STS. Please keep this number in mind as I present the data.

According to the CT Transparency website, the state spent \$91 million last year in Total Employee Compensation for STS, including more than \$48 million in Wages and Salaries and \$16 million in overtime. There are 1088 specific positions listed and basically everyone not in a management position earned overtime.

Number of Employees	Direct Care Staff	% of Base Salary Paid as Overtime
333 Full Time 86 Part Time	Developmental Services Worker 1	49%
117	Developmental Services Worker 2	53%
42	Lead Developmental Services Workers	54%
16	Supervising Developmental Services Workers 1	50%
2	Supervising Developmental Services Workers 2	54%
		0.4%

Again keep in mind that these 596 direct care staff support **312 residents**, a ratio of almost 2:1.

So who else works at Southbury? A partial list includes the following:

Number of Employees	Other
10	Behavior Modification Specialists
47	Developmental Services Adult Services Instructors
14	Developmental Services Residential Program Supervisor 1
1	Supervisor of Food Services
1	Asst Director of Food Services
1	Supervising Chef
1	Head Cook
7	Cooks
21	Cook Attendants
6	Dietitians
1	Principal Physician
2	Staff Physicians
1	Part time Physician
3	Physician Assistants
29	Head Nurses
5	Supervising Nurses
69	LPN
1	Clinical Nurse Coordinator
2	Nurse Clinician Instructors
4	Occupational Therapists
4	Physical Therapists
7	Rehabilitation Therapists
1	Communications Therapist
1	Institution Fire Chief
1	Institution Assistant Fire Chief
12	Firefighters
3	Institution Fire Personnel
22	Quality Control Workers (Auto & Mechanical Equipment, Carpentry, Electrical, HVAC, Plumbing, Painting, Tin and Welding)
13	Skilled Maintainers
7	Stationary Engineers
4	Boiler Tenders
4	Maintenance Supervisors
3	Material Storage Supervisors
4	Wastewater Treatment Plant workers

I personally think that a date should set for the gradual closure of STS, but I can also appreciate that the relatives of people living there want it to remain open. Regardless of your position on that, I would ask the Appropriations Committee to take a long hard look at the amount of money that is being spent at STS to care for **312 residents**; look at that \$91 million cost just for the employees. And remember, there are more than 2000 people waiting for residential supports, some waiting for more than 10 years.

The Governor has found money for busways, trains, tax incentives for billion dollar corporations, 12% raises for management, money for bike paths, boat houses, etc. DDS has not been a priority.

So I ask the Appropriations Committee members: “Are you willing to make DDS a priority?”

I hope that for the sake of the I/DD community in Connecticut, and my son Scott, you will.

Thank you.