



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
*DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES*  
*A Healthcare Service Agency*

Dannel P. Malloy  
Governor

Miriam Delphin-Rittmon, Ph.D.  
Acting Commissioner

## **Memorandum:**

TO: Planning and Development Committee

FROM: Acting Commissioner Miriam Delphin-Rittmon, Ph.D, DMHAS

DATE: March 10, 2015

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 203

There was testimony presented to this Committee last Friday regarding a home for persons living with psychiatric disabilities in New Milford. Based on allegations made at this hearing, we felt it was necessary to clarify some of the misrepresentations by sending you this fact sheet:

- 1) This is a home for 5 unrelated persons and the zoning laws in New Milford allow for 5 unrelated persons to live in a single family home.
- 2) This home is a four bedroom house with two full bathrooms. If this home had a family of 6 or 7 individuals living in it, they would use the same sewer/water. There was new septic tank installed by the previous owner before the property was purchased.
- 3) An individual's diagnosis is protected health information and is not for public record. To assume that all the individuals living in this home have schizophrenia is incorrect and discriminatory.
- 4) The private provider has met with neighbors and has had conversations with some of them on a regular basis. One gentleman, whose parents reside in the neighborhood, has raised his concerns on several occasions. The private provider has reached out to him multiple times to educate and alleviate any concerns he may have. These attempts have been unsuccessful to no fault of their own.
- 5) Every constituent no matter their disability (psychiatric, developmental, and medical) has the same protections under the Fair Housing Act and should be awarded every opportunity to a quality life.
- 6) The provider hired an attorney to speak with zoning department before purchasing home. A letter was sent by the town's zoning department confirming that the dwelling is conforming in terms of its use. In addition, the provider applied for and received all and every permit necessary to make this a home for the 5 individuals living at this address.
- 7) Concerns about parking congestion have been resolved, as meetings involving the parties involved in an individual's care who lives in the home have been moved to a different location.
- 8) DMHAS is committed to offering the individuals a full life with every opportunity to achieve recovery while striving to be a good neighbor.