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**Testimony before the Public Health Committee  
Public Hearing on HB 5163**

**Monday, March 5, 2018, 11:00am, Room 1D of the Legislative Office Building  
Submitted by: Stan Soby, Vice President, Public Policy and External Affairs**

- Good day Sen. Gerratana, Sen. Somers, Rep. Steinberg, Rep. Betts and distinguished members of the Public Health Committee.
- I am Stan Soby, Vice President, Public Policy and External Affairs, at Oak Hill. Oak Hill has been providing services for 125 years and is a leader in providing the highest quality community-based programs; through education, assistive technology, programs and advocacy, we support people at every stage of life. Oak Hill has over 20 distinct programs, with 152 program sites, classrooms, and homes located in 77 towns. Oak Hill employs over 1,700 professionals to successfully help meet the changing needs of close to 40,000 people with disabilities each year.
- I am here to testify in support of House Bill No. 5163 “An Act Concerning the Department of Public Health’s Recommendations Regarding Various Revisions to the Public Health Regulations”.
- Last year, the General Assembly passed Special Act 17-21, “An Act Establishing a Working Group to Review the Licensure and Certification Process for Certain Nonprofit Community Providers.” That statute called for the Office of Policy and Management to convene a working group of representatives from the Departments of Children and Families, Developmental Services, Mental Health and Addiction Services and Public Health and representatives of community providers to participate in a Lean process to streamline and standardize the State’s licensure and certification processes. I am honored to be one of the provider members of the Licensure and Certification Workgroup.
- I ask you vote to support the proposed language of House Bill 5163 to remove the requirement that licensure applications be notarized. One of the recommendations of the Licensure and Certification Workgroup was to completely eliminate paper in the licensure process, but regulations currently require applications to be notarized. This was one of the recommendations agreed upon and developed as part of, and essential to, a larger plan to lessen the administrative burden on community providers, reduce waste and direct available valuable resources to continue serving people in need.
- We appreciate your continuing support of our work and more of this kind of system change in the future. As directed by SA 17-21, community providers have been involved in this process every step of the way, and our state agency partners have been equally engaged and committed to making needed changes. There are now eight subcommittees of the Licensure and Certification Workgroup meeting regularly, with 42 members working on implementing recommendations, and community providers serving on each one. This use of the Lean process can be a model to address other redundant and inefficient systems within state government in the future.
- I hope you will have the opportunity to visit the Lean CT Showcase, on Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00 am – 1:00pm in the North Lobby of the Capitol. The Licensure and Certification Workgroup will have a display at the Showcase.
- Thank you.

***Our Mission: Oak Hill sets the standard, partnering with people with disabilities, to provide services and solutions promoting independence, education, health and dignity.***