



TESTIMONY

**Appropriations Committee Public Hearing
February 22, 2012**

**Hannah Jurewicz, Senior Director
Dungarvin CT, LLC**

**RAISED BILL NO. 5036: AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF
THE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE
CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF SELECTED SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH
INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY.**

Sec. 4. Section 17a-212 of the general statutes

C: The Commissioner of Developmental Services shall establish a centralized utilization review process for clients in twenty-four-hour residential care facilities whose residential or day program funding and services exceed the Department of developmental services' funding guidelines that are based on the department's assessment of the client.

Good Afternoon members of the Program Review and Investigations Committee. My name is Hannah Jurewicz and I am Senior Director with Dungarvin CT.

Like many of the other community agencies in CT, Dungarvin provides residential and day services for individuals with intellectual and related disabilities throughout the state. The adults we serve live in homes in Torrington and the Greater Waterbury area, Southington, Hartford, Canton, Windsor and Windsor Locks, Plymouth, Manchester, and Greater New Haven. We support them as they perform meaningful work in these communities; we assist them when they contribute to the commerce of their towns by shopping, dining, and enjoying various recreational interests.

Like the other organizations, Dungarvin is more than a community provider. We are an employer; we provide jobs for adults interested in serving their communities, filling the lives of those we serve with dignity and respect, and protecting them and advocating on their behalf. Our employees, like those with my sister and brother providers, are voting constituents within their communities. And of course, they work and support commerce as well.

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respecting and responding to the choices of people with developmental disabilities
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Agencies, individuals we serve, and their families and guardians, need a funding system that supports provider infrastructure and fiscal stability: One with consistent accountability standards and processes across the state agencies, across regions, across services.

Community providers continuously search for cost efficiencies while maintaining a high level of safe and quality services. I strongly agree with the Staff Findings and Recommendations Provision of Selected Services for Clients with Intellectual Disabilities report that stated, “*DDS will have to comprehensively revamp its rate structure in order to comply with CMS provisions requiring a rate methodology based on utilization and level of need*”. (Appendices, Key Points, p.iii) It also reads that, “*the percentages of clients that exceed the guidelines indicate that the new rate system when applied will have significant consequences for some private providers of both residential and day/work programs*”. (Appendices, Key Points, p.iii) We need to ensure that the rate re-vamping considers the need for uniform interpretation of the level of need tool and the re-evaluation of appropriate ranges of funding for those individuals whose needs exceed the set rate. Currently, LON assessments are completed using inconsistent methodologies; that is, whether or not to consider the individuals’ skills and needs with or without full staff support present. The interpretation of how to complete the LON will produce dramatically different results; and therefore, dramatically affect the funding support for the individual. This interpretation varies by region and by case manager. As you know, funding, even within ranges, also varies by regional committee. The LON ought to be considered without staff support so that each individual may be assessed for his or her accurate level of skill and need. I support the Bill to use a centralized utilization review process.

I appeal to you, members of the Program Review Committee, to consider that private providers and the individuals they serve are more than the agencies they represent, but citizens who have a right to live and work with dignity to support the economy of CT.

We thank you for your time and attention.

Hannah Jurewicz
Senior Director