

Stephen Hoffman

RECEIVED
IRRC

3160

From: Susan Pannepacker <sepanne48@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 19, 2016 10:03 AM 2016 DEC 19 AM 10:45
To: IRRC
Subject: Sheltered workshops

Dear IRRC,

My name is Susan Pannepacker my younger brother and sister are mentally physically handicapped they both work in sheltered workshops. My brother at APS in Warminster Pennsylvania and my sister at BARC in Warminster Pennsylvania. My concerns are about the governor's employment first plan and ODP as well pushing the mentally physically handicapped out to work in the community. Which in the end will result in the sheltered workshops closing. When my brother and sister graduated from high school I did try to put them in jobs in the community and it failed terribly. The sheltered workshops are a good thing it gives the clients a reason to get up in the morning. Feeling proud when they're working on a job and they finish it. The look on their faces when they get their paycheck. The checks might not be much but the look on the client's face is priceless. All this in a safe and secure environment. The mentally and physically handicapped don't have to worry about some boss getting upset with them because a job got messed up or some employee teasing them calling them stupid or a retard. And nobody can tell me that's not going to happen because it does happen. There's going to be a lot of companies out there that are not going to be happy being pushed in hiring the mentally and physically handicapped. Just like kids when their parents tell them to do something. Sooner or later they will do it but not without giving one excuse after another and dragging their feet on the subject. And it's a safe bet that sooner or later the client will be let go whether it's for some lame excuse or whether it's a legitimate reason that the client had a very hard time adjusting to the situation(like like my brother and sister). Question the people that want to force the mentally physically handicapped to go out to the community to work. They do realize that clients can only make so much money a month before taxes. if The client makes over the amount that they're allowed Social Security will start taking out of their SSD checks. What happens when the client loses their job or becomes ill and can't work for quite a while. It's not easy to get the money back that Social Security took out of their checks because they made too much money at their job in the community. And what about the clients that live in group homes. For instance the residence at BARC. Welfare decide how much the client's patient pay is going to be. It's a form of rent that the clients have to pay every month for their care. Not including medical supplies (if needed) and food. Welfare also determines how much money the clients are allowed to have of their own (pocket money) every month to spend on anything they want. If the client earns more then what welfare allows conveniently welfare raise the client patient pay. So it's not like the clients get to keep all the money they earn from their job in the community. So maybe they can put away for a rainy day or save up for when they can no longer work. We have to save the sheltered workshops. It's so wrong for people who have never dealt with the mentally and physically handicapped, never worked with them, never took care of them on a daily basis that are making decisions for these clients. Question has anybody even ask the mentally and physically handicapped or their families want. What they think is best. I can answer that NO. Nobody came to me, nobody came to my brother and sister and ask them what was best for them. I invited the governor to come out and visit my brothers sisters workshops to talk to them and see how they feel about losing their jobs. Got no response yet. I even asked ODP to come out and visit as well. I received an email back from me Julie Mochon she told me that representative from ODP did come out to visit APS. She didn't specify which one but I did specify my brother's APS Workshop. Julie also mentioned that ODP has extended the offer for additional meetings with individuals and families who work and receive services at APS. When I sent Julie's email to Debbie Roth at APS Debbie informed me that a Kristin Athens came to visit. At the time she was the policy director for Temple University not from ODP. She was supposed to be accompanied by two ODP Representatives Shelly zaslow and Lindsay shea, but Shelley and Lindsay never showed up. Question if the governor and ODP get what they want. When this blows up in their face and it will. Are they going to take real

responsibility. Are they going to fix what they destroyed or are they going to do the same thing that the people who made the final decision to close down the institutions did when that blew up in their faces. From what I know of not all the institutions got close down but what the government did destroyed they never fixed it and they never took real responsibility. You know the old saying deny and lie until you die. We don't have much time on January 17th all the emails are going to be read. We have to stop and seriously think about the damage that can be caused when it comes to the mentally and physically handicapped. Before anybody does something stupid. The domino's effect is endless. My brother and sister will not be able to get a job in the community my brother is spina bifida paraplegic hydrocephalic wheelchair-bound for life in his special wheelchair with a kyphosis his on his back. My sister is what the doctors call extremely slow with high anxiety that she takes medication for with basil nevus cell syndrome. If their sheltered workshops close they're going to wind up being at home which means I will be at home. I will have to go to welfare to get whatever I can to help us. I'm not about to let some teenybopper who doesn't know anything about the mentally and physically handicapped watch over my brother and sister just so I can go to work. There are so many safe places out there for everybody else why is the government trying to get rid of the one safe place other than home that the mentally and physically handicapped have. If you have any questions please don't hesitate call me 267-276-2740. or you can email Debbie Roth at aps@apspackage.com also call Kathy at APS at 215-672-9505 extension 221.

Sincerely

Susan Pannepacker