

**Kathy Cooper**

# 3209

**From:** Laurel Nichisti <gooda2u@me.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 25, 2018 8:28 AM  
**To:** IRRC; mcronin@thearcpa.org; kahrens@pa.gov; David Sumner; kahrens@dhs.pa.gov; jmochon@pa.gov  
**Subject:** An appeal to common sense



To whom it may concern:

Please consider this a parent comment on the proposed rules for IDD

This is about choice (real choice - not just throwing around the word to sound good) and being open minded to all ideas and solutions. I am a mother of an IDD waiver participant son. Tax payer money is provided to the IDD population and they and their parents should have much more say in how it is spent on them. Seems to me the goal is to optimize happiness for IDD and minimize risk. My personal opinion is that small residential groups of IDD (if properly run with lots of federal, state and county oversight- oversight being key!) are a safer bet than Lifesharing (foster care) (much less oversight). Lifesharing has the real possibility of being much more "isolating" than any grouping of IDD. Cluster housing groups for IDD should be an available CHOICE!

Institutions were way too large to begin with and then totally ruined by bad management. Of course the model failed and failed miserably! NO ONE wants to go back to the old horrors of institutions!

But you all have gone so far the other way that IDD are being forced into foster care (lifesharing) because there will be no place else allowed! There should be a wide array of residential and day programming choices available to the IDD and they should be able to decide! Please stop talking about all the choices you are giving the IDD when you are taking away so many choices!

Success depends on lots of oversight( As there is today) and making sure it is open and free living. Freedom and choice in how we all choose to live and assemble, isn't that a constitutional right?

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