



Associated Production Services, Inc.

The Packaging Performance People™
Empowering Disabled Workers

December 5, 2016

TO: Parents, Guardians, Clients, professional acquaintances and friends of APS:

I write to you this urgent and critical note for I need your help and time is of the essence.

On Saturday, December 3 we received an email correspondence from ODP (The Office of Developmental Programs) of The State Department of Human Services, with information regarding their plan to incept for developmentally disabled adults, a community based, integrated model verses participation in a segregated work setting such as ours.

Please review the enclosed literature we have prepared for you. Please also go to our website and review a power point presentation we received from ODP. You can access it on www.apspackage.com under "Transition Plan". **I believe you will agree with me that if this plan comes to fruition there is no provision for a productive model pre-vocational training facility like ours to remain as an option for your family.** We are dedicated to providing wage earning, work learning tasks 100% of the day. This type of setting does not meet their mandate for 75% community inclusion by January 1, 2019. We will not be able to transform and therefore we will have to close.

If we are to remain as a viable program we need the State to modify the plan or make exceptions where appropriate. I will be sharing with ODP that we are committed to work placement. Our Board of Directors supports me in incepting a Department of Job Placement here at APS. Historically we have partnered with agencies such as AHEDD and O.V.R. but our success has not been significant enough. We plan to operate a program that is creative and strives to build long lasting partnerships, and thus opportunities. I will also share with ODP other plans we have been working on that will provide our clients with work experiences outside of the shop.

Please join with me in advocating for the continuance of work training centers like ours to remain a choice should one desire a supported work environment.

There are two initiatives we need you to do please:

1. **Please contact your local State representative in the district that you live in.** Please explain to them that if the Department of Human Services (DHS), Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) carries out their current plan to transform pre-vocational day programs like our work centers (sheltered workshops) into a 75% community integration model, APS would have to close (see enclosed proposed model of the standards of community phase in). **Share with them how this will affect your loved one and family.** We want work sites to be an option for those who choose to be here.

To find your district legislature, log onto:

<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/findyourlegislator/>

You may also contact our office at (215) 364-0211 and we will be happy to inform you of the person you need to contact in your district, we have enclosed legislatures that represent the districts APS is located.

2. Please contact ODP (The Office of Developmental Programs) at RA-odpcomment@pa.gov, and tell them the importance of what we do and the value of our shop to your loved one.

We only have 45 days to respond and voice our opinions.

During the formal public comment period, ODP will hold three webinars to provide an opportunity to learn more about the planned changes, ask questions and provide comments to ODP. Please join one or all of these webinars as you are able.

January 12, 2017 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

January 13, 2017 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

January 17, 2017 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.


The following link must be used to register for any of the public comment webinars:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/9193340354940671748>.

At any time, you may also ask questions or provide feedback to ODP directly at RA-odpcomment@pa.gov or 1-888-565-9435.

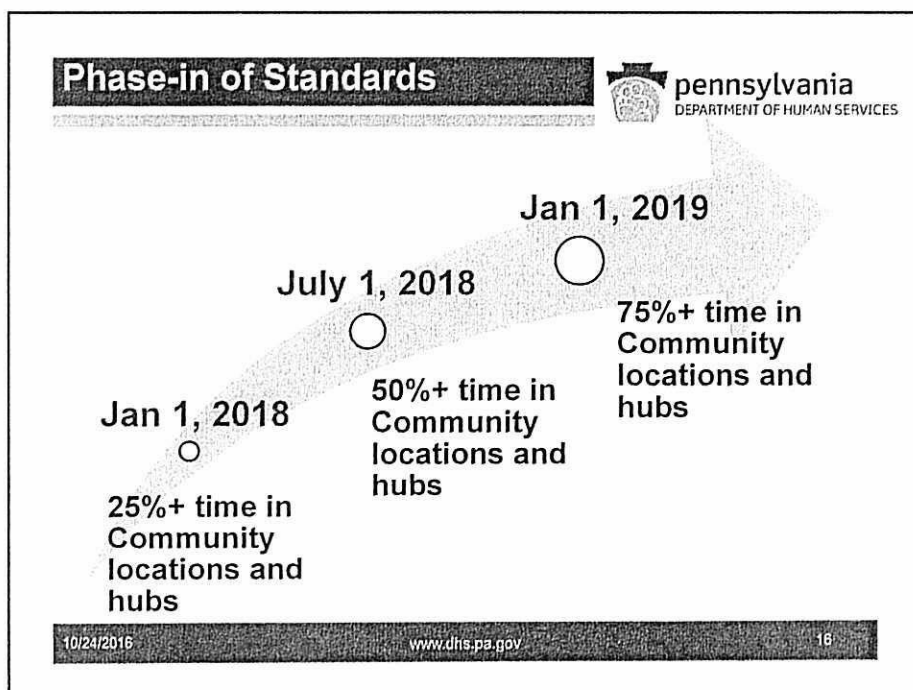
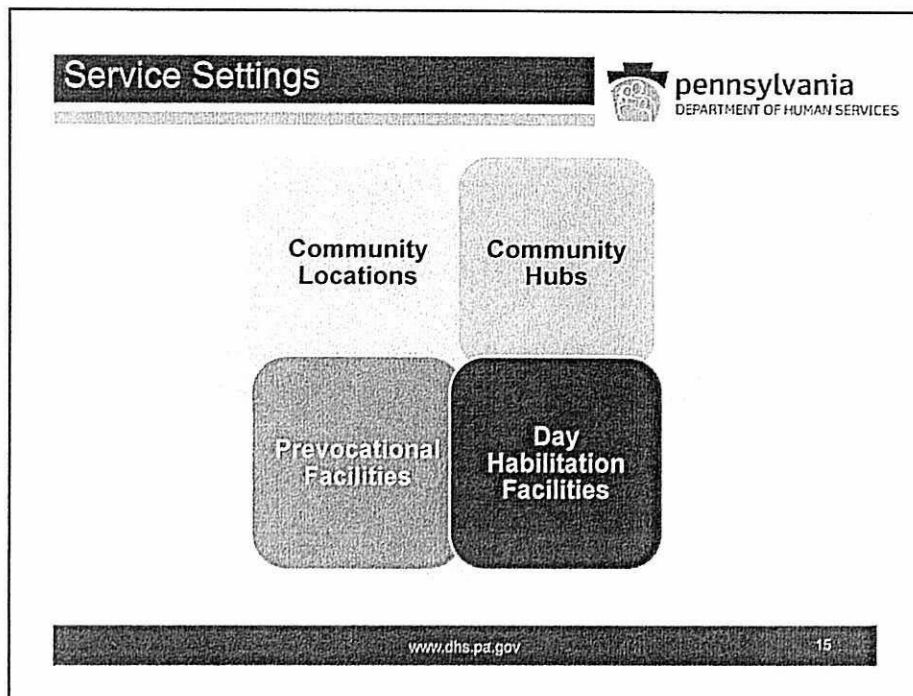
We would be grateful that if you correspond with anyone about this in writing that you would please send us a copy at aps@apspackage.com. Please also copy us if you write in favor of the move to community inclusion. We need to hear all opinions

Be assured that we will keep you apprised of any significant developments. Any new information will be posted on our website www.apspackage.com under "Transition Plan". Feel free to contact me, Debbie Roth and/or our Habilitation Directors if you have ideas or information that we could benefit from.

Thank you for your support.



J. Jay Belding
Executive Director



ODP Mission

The mission of the Office of Developmental Programs is to support Pennsylvanians with developmental disabilities to achieve greater independence, ***choice*** and opportunity in their lives.

ODP should not be able to dictate an individual's ***CHOICE***.

If their mission is to have the a developmentally disabled individual to have a ***CHOICE***, then why is ODP setting mandates on what the individual chooses

ODP believes that Pre-Vocational and Adult Training Facilities isolates or segregates the developmentally disabled from the community.

Draft Exceptions and Limitations

- **Exception process when medical, mental health or behavioral needs or condition affects their ability to participate in the community at the standards specified.**
 - 1. What entity determines if the individual meets any of the exceptions?**
 - 2. Does the individual have a CHOICE in determining if they want to participate?**
 - 3. If the individual is not capable of becoming employed within the community, are they permitted to remain in Pre-Vocational or Adult Training Facility settings?**

325 Andrews Rd, Trevoose, PA, 19053
BUCKS COUNTY, LOWER SOUTHAMPTON TWP
is represented by

PA House	<u>Rep. FARRY</u>	District 142	<u>(215) 752-6750</u>
PA Senate	<u>Sen. TOMLINSON</u>	District 6	<u>(215) 638-1784</u>
US House	Rep. FITZPATRICK	District 8	<u>(215) 579-8109</u>

100 Louise Drive, Warminster, PA, 18974
BUCKS COUNTY, NORTHAMPTON TWP
is represented by

PA House	<u>Rep. PETRI</u>	District 178	<u>(215) 364-3414</u>
PA Senate	<u>Sen. TOMLINSON</u>	District 6	<u>(215) 942-5157</u>
US House	Rep. FITZPATRICK	District 8	<u>(215) 579-8109</u>

950 Pembroke, Bethlehem, PA, 18017
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY, BETHLEHEM CITY
is represented by

PA House	<u>Rep. SAMUELSON</u>	District 135	<u>(610) 867-3890</u>
PA Senate	<u>Sen. BOSCOLA</u>	District 18	<u>(610) 868-8667</u>
US House	Rep. DENT	District 15	<u>(610) 770-3490</u>

12285 McNulty Rd, Philadelphia, PA, 19154
PHILADELPHIA COUNTY, PHILADELPHIA CITY
is represented by

PA House	<u>Rep. WHITE</u>	District 170	<u>(215) 330-3711</u>
PA Senate	<u>Sen. SABATINA</u>	District 5	<u>(215) 281-2539</u>
US House	Rep. BOYLE	District 13	<u>(215) 335-3355</u>