



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/>

