



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
Executive Department
**GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON
DISABILITIES**

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Tuesday, September 29, 2020

**Testimony on the
Eleanor Slater Hospital Budget Issues Update and Redesign Proposal
RI House of Representatives Committee on Finance**

Via cobrien@rilegislature.gov

For the concept of most inclusive "Self-Directed" Services
Against the lack of Consumer Driven / Finance Driven Placement

Chairman Abney
Finance Committee
RI House of Representatives
State House

Chairman Abney

The Governor's Commission on Disabilities supports providing the individual residents of the Eleanor Slater Hospital, the option to transfer to the most inclusive setting that provides the levels of services and supports each individual's needs.

The current community providers of services to individuals with significant intellectual, medical, physical, psychological, and/or substance use disorders are already struggling to meet the needs of their current consumers, retain staff and remain solvent due to very low reimbursement from the State. There is a lack of clinical resources in the community as well (community resources teams – working with the community, police, hospitals, providers, etc..) – and those resources currently committed to the hospital should follow people to the community – no time to save money letting clinicians go.

For some residents, Eleanor Slater Hospital has been their home, for years if not decades. Consumer choice, not short time financial gains, must remain at the center of any transition taking place at Eleanor Slater Hospital. If their only choices are the institution or the street – its' not a choice.

The state needs to commit to fully funding appropriate resources to get the outcomes the residents want and need. Appropriate community-based services must be designed, adequately funded, and ready to receive, before **any resident moves**.

The General Assembly need to understand this will cost as much, if not more than the existing hospital, until community services are established.

Sincerely,

Bob Cooper
Bob Cooper
Executive Secretary

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