

February 27, 2017

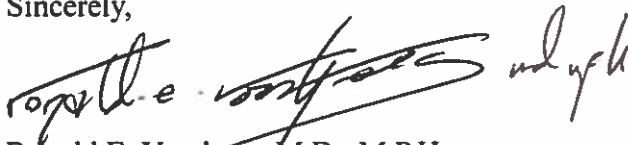
Dear Waiver Providers, Vendors, Case Managers, and Consultants:

On February 1, 2017, the Developmental Disabilities Supports Division (DDSD) in partnership with the Know Your Rights Campaign Steering Committee began conducting statewide town halls for waiver participants, advocates, family members and guardians. The purpose of the Know Your Rights Town Halls are intended to engage people with disabilities and advocates to strengthen advocacy, raise awareness, and educate communities across the state that people with disabilities are entitled to rights like everyone else. Additionally, the town halls are a forum to inform waiver participants, families and guardians about the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Settings Final Rule.

We encourage all providers, vendors, case managers and consultants to support individuals with disabilities, their families and guardians to participate in the town halls to receive information and to share their stories. It is critical that the town halls offer a safe place for individuals to exercise their right to freely express themselves without fear of retaliation from anyone within the waiver service system. It is their opportunity to share their stories and experiences using waiver services and is invaluable to our collective efforts to improve waiver services.

DDSD and the Know Your Rights Campaign Steering Committee look forward to our continued partnership and to renew our commitment to support individuals to make informed choices, are treated with respect, are able to participate in all aspects of the community they choose, and are viewed as valued and equal citizens.

Sincerely,



Ronald E. Voorhees, M.D., M.P.H.  
Co-Acting Director