

From: [Richard J Wallace](#)
To: chris.sykes@state.co.us
Subject: Testimony for the Medical Services Board Meeting on 12 April 2019
Date: Wednesday, April 10, 2019 4:23:30 PM

Hello Chris:

I am the dad of a 19 year old son who is on the spectrum with a SIS level of 6. He needs 24/7 supervision, as his impulse control is very low and his executive decision making ability is nascent. We visited some group homes, but do not think he would be a good fit with the existing residents. We floated the possibility of starting a new group home and populating it with young adults like our son.

Our PASA was interested in this idea, initially. Then we met with the director of housing services, who told us that they would not be interested. It seems that they lose money on every one of the group homes they operate in the state. Rather than starting new group homes, they are looking to close them if they can.

Our PASA says that they cannot provide all of the mandated services to group home residents at the rate of reimbursement they receive from the State.

We are in our mid 60s, and we would like our son to begin living on his own (with the 24/7 supervision he needs) sooner rather than later. A typical PCA's staffing level is not adequate for him, as when he has a meltdown the other residents would be on their own while the lone staff member is taking care of him.

If group homes are closing, and PCAs do not offer the level of staffing needed, where can our son live?

Thanks

Ric Wallace