

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

PUBLIC HEARING: December 14, 2008  
TESTIMONY OF LINDA HOLDEN - HARTFORD

Dear Committee Co-Chairs Sen. Edward Meyer, Rep. Faith McMahon,  
and Honorable Committee Members:

My name is Linda Holden, mother of four adoptive children identified as special needs. I am writing because of the unjustified and inconsistent investigative process that occurred with my case. I am here today to also address major concerns about the present treatment plans outlined for my daughter "Chelsea" age 11 with cognitive delays. When I have visited her, I have pictures of her sleeping arrangements on the floor and her meals were served on the tray on the floor. As a result of her treatment and over medicated state, I am asking state legislators to investigate placement procedures because my daughter has been placed several times within two months.

The mission of the Department of Children and Families is to protect children, improve child and family well-being and support and preserve families. These efforts are accomplished by respecting and working within individual cultures and communities in Connecticut, and in partnership with others and respecting children with disabilities.

I recommend the following:

1. DCF should be restructured with less management at the top and more supervision of field/case/social workers at the bottom with consistent Investigative Process and training to work effectively with families of children with disabilities.
2. Accountability over the Juan F Decree lawsuit concerning "when DCF Social Workers should be on their own with Case Files. i.e. Juan F states workers should be trained 9+ months, if I am correct, before they are on their own, yet past DCF investigative hearing speakers state workers are sent out as early as 4 months. State legislators need to hold the DCF court monitor and the DCF commissioner MORE accountable.
3. There should be clear supportive services for parents with Disabilities & on going cultural sensitivity training.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter affecting the safety and well being of my child and other Connecticut children and their families.



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Signature

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