



May 10, 2023

Commissioner Vanessa Dorantes  
State of Connecticut Department of Children and Families  
505 Hudson Street  
Hartford, CT 06106

Commissioner Dorantes,

Please accept this letter of grave concern for the status of the Bridge Family Center's STAR home located at [REDACTED] in the town of Harwinton.

As noted by our Connecticut State Police Resident Trooper, over the past year, the STAR Home has had numerous incidents including assaults, sexual assault and misconduct involving residents and staff, and juveniles going out into Harwinton's community and committing numerous crimes of larceny and burglary.

There has been a noticeable change in the violence that takes place within this home, without any recourse to the juveniles that are present, and without any oversight by the staff on site. It has truly become a proverbial "free for all" in regards to the actions of those that are temporarily placed. In the most recent case, the residents assaulted Connecticut State Police troopers coming to de-escalate a situation. None of which, we feel would occur if there was proper oversight, or protocols in place to assure juveniles of this extreme are placed in programs and centers with higher level of care.

Our providers, through their statutory obligation, have made several DCF referrals for intervention. We are truly concerned, and see this home as a place of severe risk and safety hazard to our providers that respond to the home, and to the residents of our community that reside near the home.

Before someone becomes seriously injured, whether it is one of the juveniles placed there, staff, nearby residents, or first responders, we implore you to act to improve the conditions within this home.

I welcome the opportunity to speak with you further to discuss positive alternatives.

Thank you for your time and attention to this serious matter.

Sincerely,

*Kevin Ferrarotti*

Kevin Ferrarotti  
Chief of Service

Cc: Michael Criss, First Selectman  
Evan Brunetti, Selectman  
Paul Honig, Selectman  
Honorable Henri Martin, State of Connecticut Senator  
Honorable Lisa Seminara, State of Connecticut Senator  
Honorable John Piscopo, State of Connecticut Representative

Patrick J. Wall, Esq, Board of Director  
Donald Cromwell, Board of Director  
Jason Emery, Board of Director  
Aaron Franzi, Administrative Deputy Chief  
Tyler Reginatto, Operations Deputy Chief