

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Dawn Roberson](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Friday, June 06, 2014 12:00:58 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Friday, June 06, 2014 8:43 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Friday, June 6, 2014 - 08:43

Agency: DEPARTMENT AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DADS

First Name: Ben

Last Name: Rogers

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with:

City: Austin

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed:
Greetings,

I am opposed to the closing of any of the State Supported Living Centers. We have an obligation to provide facilities and services to those who are mentally challenged. While it is a laudable goal to have them integrated into their local community, this is not always a realistic possibility. As a case in point, my uncle is housed at the Austin State Supported Living Center. He has been there for the better part of a decade, and he has been well cared for. While I sympathize with those that have had bad experiences with their loved ones housed there, it remains imperative that we improve the centers and keep them open for the residents that it does work for.

The report itself, while well written, contains spurious reasoning. If facilities are "crumbling", why can they not be maintained? Why does the whole of the Austin facility need to be closed, when the campus could be reduced in size, and land sold off to fund the institute for at least a little while? If staff is not properly trained, why are contractors relied upon so heavily, when they were billed as a long term "solution" (instead of paying state employee salaries)?

Our society will be judged many years from now by how it treated those with less. The lack of will to find a solution to keeping facilities available to those in need is a shameful coda to what was once a great program.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Improved oversight and less reliance on contractors would go a long way towards alleviating many of the problems cited in the report.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree