

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Dawn Roberson](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Tuesday, May 27, 2014 3:54:15 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 27, 2014 3:42 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Tuesday, May 27, 2014 - 15:41

Agency: DEPARTMENT AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DADS

First Name: Beavers

Last Name: Carleen

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with:

City: Deer Park

State: Texas

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

STAFF REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS BELOW:

- “Require DADS to close the Austin SSLC by August 31, 2017,
- Establish the State Supported Living Center Closure Commission to evaluate the SSLCs and determine an additional five centers to close.
- Require DADS to close the five SSLCs determined by the SSLC Closure Commission no later than August 31, 2022.

I strongly oppose the above recommendations.

I am Deborah Beavers' mother; Debbie is my wonderful fifty-year-old daughter who was severely injured in a car accident when she six. Since August of 1974, she has been a resident of Richmond State Supported Living (an SSLC).

Staff members describe her as sweet and highly likeable; our family loves her and visits her frequently, but we are unable to meet her physical and medical needs. She is unable to dress or wash herself; she must be turned every 2-3 hours to prevent sores; her hip sockets were removed about 20 years ago so that she would not be frozen in a permanent position; she has no short term memory and is unable to make decisions; she has limited speech ability; she must be constantly monitored to prevent aspiration and/or choking, and she is on numerous medications, some of which are to prevent and/or minimize seizures.

Debbie is one of the 3,650 people who currently reside in a Texas SSLC; she is more than a number. She is so much more than one of a number in a declining population.

As a mother who struggles to make ends meet, and as a citizen of the Republic of Texas, I understand the need for budgets and cost-cutting, but it hurts me deeply to think that people such as my daughter are reduced to line items on a budget. The Staff Report on the Department of Aging and Disability is fundamentally flawed in two key ways:

First, it assumes that many, if not all, of the individuals – the daughters, sons, mothers, and fathers such as Debbie – will benefit if they are moved to a community-based setting. This is simply untrue. If you were to visit Leon and talk to the patients and their families, it would quickly become apparent that the needs of these people are exceptional, and that is the reason that they reside in a SSLC where they can receive medical supervision and exceptional levels of support to meet their needs.

Secondly, the report identifies a high-cost budget item and attempts to deal with it by washing its hands of it and moving SSLC patients to private care centers. Many of the people who reside in SSLCs have done so for years (Debbie has been at Richmond for nearly 40 years); the proposed changes to uproot these people with special needs would be brutal and emotionally devastating. As well, family have often moved to live near the centers so that they can visit their loved ones; any moves of patients to privatized care centers would likely also uproot families, causing economic as well as emotional devastation.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: I ask that everyone concerned with determining the future of Texas SSLCs consider alternative ways of addressing Texas budgetary concerns that do NOT involve closing SSLCs, which care for some of Texas's most vulnerable citizens.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree