

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Dawn Roberson](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Thursday, June 05, 2014 5:21:35 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Thursday, June 05, 2014 5:21 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Thursday, June 5, 2014 - 17:21

Agency: DEPARTMENT AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DADS

First Name: Dennis

Last Name: Borel

Title: Executive Director

Organization you are affiliated with: Coalition of Texans with Disabilities

Email: dborel@txdisabilities.org

City: Austin

State: Texas

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

The Coalition of Texans with Disabilities (CTD) is a statewide cross-disability organization. CTD makes the following comments on the Sunset Commission report on DADS:

Issue 1:

CTD supports the closure of the Austin SSLC and five others to be identified.

CTD supports the establishment of SSLC Closure Commission.

CTD opposes the dissolution of the SSLC Closure Commission on 9-1-17. We feel this is an arbitrary date and does not take into consideration trends that may accelerate (declining populations, increasing costs, DOJ or other quality of care issues) and/or new issues that may emerge. The Closure Commission should continue its mission. We feel the Commission should not be limited to five closures, rather the closures should be not less than five closures. Again, unpredictable and potentially accelerating trends may merit the further attention of the Closure Commission to consider more than five closures.

CTD supports that all monies saved from closure and consolidation of SSLCs should be reinvested to cost-effective community services.

Alleged offenders should be considered for placement into Outpatient Community Restoration programs rather than SSLCs, similar to alleged offenders with mental health competency issues.

Compliance with DOJ standards should be a primary measure of identifying which SSLCs to close/consolidate.

DADS should relocate all individuals to the community that (a) want to go and (b) when primary medical providers agree it is appropriate.

People, and families, who prefer an institutional level of care, should be able to remain in an institutional setting, though maybe moved to a different SSLC.

DADS should consider creating a travel stipends fund to assist families in visiting a member moved to a different, more distant, institution. This would be means-based and only for families who otherwise would not be able to visit.

Employees at closing SSLCs should receive preferential consideration for transfer to other state jobs, with portability of benefits. They should also have preferential consideration for community jobs. We believe the one-time retention bonus of \$2,000 to continue to work until closure is not adequate.

CTD supports a moratorium on admissions to all facilities scheduled to close.

CTD questions whether SSLCs can serve community residents cost effectively. A cost comparison should be done, if SSLC services to community placements are higher than community based resources, the SSLC should not be used. The costs attached to an SSLC service must be comprehensive, including facility maintenance etc.

A full report of all times an SSLC has been placed into immediate jeopardy of losing federal Medicaid funding should be provided.

Issue 2:

CTD supports a higher reimbursement rate for community providers of services to people with high needs, whether relocating from an SSLC or already in the community, including vent-assisted individuals.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: no

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree