

**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 5:26:10 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]  
Sent: Thursday, June 05, 2014 3:51 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 - 15:50

Agency: DEPARTMENT AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DADS

First Name: Dorothy

Last Name: Elsey

Title: Parent/Guardian of SSLC Resident

Organization you are affiliated with:

City: Southlake

State: Texas

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

Regarding Sunset Staff Report on DADS submitted in May-2014 --

1 of 3 Notable Exceptions: The one-size-fits-all comparison of the State's cost for supporting an individual resident of an SSLC vs. the estimated cost to the State for supporting that same individual receiving the (supposedly) SAME level of care and services in a community placement home, cannot possibly be considered as a viable source sufficient for recommending the increased use of community placement homes in lieu of the SSLC program, as if that single-case scenario is applicable to ALL the current residents of the SSLC's, whose individual needs for specialized care cover a full spectrum on any chart.

2 of 3 Notable Exceptions: The Report's estimated gain to the State's

Treasury fund upon the closure of certain SSLC's does not appear to include a vast array of ADDITIONAL costs inherent to the closure process itself and the inevitable long-term residual costs. e.g. just to mention a few...(a.)

Having firsthand experience with this, I have to ask.....Where is the estimate for the additional and potentially long-term cost that will likely result from the increase in medical and psychological services required for many residents whose already stressful lives will be negatively affected by

their mandatory relocation to a strange environment? (b.) Where is the

estimate for the cost of an increased potential for negative impacts on the care of residents in the SSLC's tagged for closure, attributable to the disgruntled nature of overly stressed employees that is inherent to any such

change? (c.) Where is the estimate for the additional funds that will be

required just to maintain a reasonable level of EXPERIENCED staff throughout the full transition periods of every SSLC tagged for closure, and certainly a crucial factor for mitigating further calamity and thereby potentially more judicial involvement? My oh My.

3 of 3 Notable Exceptions: Citing statistics regarding quality-of-care infractions that have occurred in the SSLC home, the Report implies that fewer such infractions occur in community placement homes. The scale measuring

the data on that topic is inherently more heavily weighted on the SSLC side of the equation, but NOT due to the number of actual occurrences.

Instead, it is primarily due to infractions being reported more often in the SSLC's than elsewhere, which is obviously attributable to the more controlled environments of the SSLC's having an increased level of surveillance, more stringent staff accountability for care as well as reporting of incidents, and the judicial mandates causing more scrutiny to ensure the SSLC's attainment of higher standards of care, not to mention the higher level of media attention that any government operation experiences in the judicial realm.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

If the State of Texas was mindful and savvy enough decades ago to develop such a beneficial SSLC program in the first place, SURELY the State of Texas can figure out how to continue managing it in a more cost-efficient manner without causing an enormous amount of devastation in the very lives it was designed to protect and benefit, which the magnitude of the closures as they are recommended in the Report would likely cause. And, surely the State of Texas can determine the (apparent) secrets held by the private businesses who claim to be able to manage community placement programs, providing the SAME type services in a profitable manner. REALLY? The SAME type? Where are the comparative (service-by-service) details for their numbers and values?

GENERAL COMMENT: I am VERY confident that throughout the entire legislative process of this review, any decisions made by the Sunset Commission Members, and subsequently by the Texas Legislature to determine the ultimate fate of the SSLC program will be based primarily on its all-encompassing REAL VALUE (i.e. as a crucial benefit to TEXANS), which has endured the test of such scrutiny many times before, and has been deemed worthy of continuing with a significance presence for decades, always emerging with exponential improvements after every storm of judicial and legislative controversy, such that it has become even more beneficial to those served today than when it began, because THAT'S JUST THE WAY THINGS ARE DONE IN TEXAS

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree