

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 8:14:59 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Friday, June 06, 2014 1:58 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 - 01:57

Agency: DEPARTMENT AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DADS

First Name: Jon

Last Name: Luckstead

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with:

City: Austin

State: Texas

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

My brother lives at the Austin State Supported Living Center. My mother and I visit him regularly. This is manageable because of the ASSLC's proximity to where we live. In the event that the Austin State Supported Living Center is closed, a similar center should be opened in the vicinity of Austin for two reasons.

First, community homes are not up to the task of caring for most of the residents currently at the Austin SSLC.

People like my brother need to be in an institution that has a secure campus with facilities to accommodate their special needs. In general, the residents at the Austin State Supported

Living Center are far less capable than those at community homes. Community homes can not provide an appropriate level of security for people with my brother's level of development without locking them inside the community home. At the ASSLC, residents can be outdoors. They can be safely walked to different activities in a variety of facilities appropriate for them.

This is not the case at community homes. If my brother were moved to a community home, he would have less freedom than now, not more. If he had the same freedom of movement at a community home that he currently has at the ASSLC, he would be exposed to an extremely high risk of being hit by a motor vehicle. The speed limit for motor vehicles at the ASSLC is 10 miles per hour, which contributes to the safety there. Furthermore, people driving at the ASSLC understand that they need to be especially vigilant there.

Facilities for exercise, recreation, training, and medical care are all needed on a secure campus. A community home would have inadequate facilities and supervision to allow people who are as mentally retarded and physically challenged as my brother the safety, security, supervision, developmental activities, and freedom that a large, specialized center such as the Austin State Supported Living Center provides.

The second reason a center like the Austin State Supported Living Center should be opened in the vicinity of Austin is geographic. As the Austin metropolitan area continues to grow rapidly in population, more and more people will need a state supported living center nearby to provide for the needs of their special needs family members.

Proximity is especially important because family members are often older than the residents and have difficulty traveling long distances. Long distances would prevent many family members from visiting frequently enough to provide the continuity that the developmentally challenged often need. Finally, close proximity to Austin would allow the center to draw upon the many specialists available in Austin, such as social workers, psychologists, and therapists.

Community homes simply can not responsibly support the very different population for which the ASSLC cares. As the Austin grows, its need for specialized care grows. If the Austin State Supported Living Center is closed, Texas would be best served by opening a state supported living center in the Austin area.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: If the Austin State Supported Living Center is closed, a similar center should be opened in the Austin area.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree