

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Dawn Roberson](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Wednesday, June 04, 2014 7:55:37 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Tuesday, June 03, 2014 8:21 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Tuesday, June 3, 2014 - 20:21

Agency: DEPARTMENT AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DADS

First Name: Kathy

Last Name: Hackett

Title: Volunteer

Organization you are affiliated with:

City: Austin

State: Texas

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

I oppose closing the state supported living centers, in particular the Austin facility. The facilities provide a needed service for individuals who are not ready or able to live in a community setting. Because the staff have known the residents for years, they recognize the beginnings of behaviors and are able to prevent them from escalating. Moving people from Austin SSLC is taking someone who learns slowly and lived one place for up to 50 years and asking them to make a transition to a new environment. This is not kind.

Before agreeing to close any facilities, please investigate:

- who is monitoring group homes for the same issues that crop up at living centers. If this is not studied, any problems that exist (and why wouldn't they) will surface later and be much harder and more expensive to fix.
- what percentage of individuals moved into group homes end up in jail (I have heard that people in the prison system are seeing a sharp increase of individuals with developmental disabilities). Housing people in jail is much more expensive than housing them at a living center.
- how many people who have been moved into group homes have died. I cannot tell you my source, but I know of at least two within the last two years who have moved from the Austin living center to their death.

This is not just about money, it is about people's life and welfare.
thank you for your consideration.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

If the point is to move people out, put the group homes back under the control of DADS so the residents can be placed in the most appropriate setting for their needs.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree