

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Dawn Roberson](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Monday, June 02, 2014 4:24:37 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Monday, June 02, 2014 1:44 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Monday, June 2, 2014 - 13:43

Agency: DEPARTMENT AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DADS

First Name: Linda

Last Name: Benskin

Title: Dr.

Organization you are affiliated with:

Email: lindabenskin@utexas.edu

City: Austin

State: Texas

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

Several years ago, the state forced the SSLCs to move every resident who could possibly be integrated into a community home. Now your commission wants to close the SSLCs, citing "declining enrollment" as a foundational reason?

Please!

Due to the strong push towards (mostly for-profit) community homes, the ASSLC currently houses only residents who are either extremely medically fragile or who have serious behavior issues. I testified before the Texas Senate that the ASSLC is the least restrictive environment available for my 6' 5" 200# fully mobile impulsive brother who occasionally loses his temper. He had been neglected in the only community facility that would accept him.

Think about this: It is relatively inexpensive treat sick people at walk-in clinics, and few patients ever die in such health care facilities. In contrast, ICUs are extremely expensive, and a high percentage of the patients in ICUs die. Think of all the money and lives we could save if we just shut down all the ICUs and transferred those patients to walk-in clinics!

Clearly, shuttering the ASSLC will not "improve outcomes and save money."

When the individuals who require more intensive care are moved into the community, costs will escalate accordingly, and there will be no way to return to the previous system. Further, physically powerful individuals like my brother will lose their freedom of movement because the public must be protected from them, and they must be protected from streets, bullies, and other dangers. This is ALL about diverting tax dollars into the hands of the community home investors, and our loved ones are the collateral damage.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Build a new smaller facility which includes an infirmary and workshop, as well as residences, on less valuable land in the Austin area so that this special population of Texas citizens (the intellectually disabled who are medically fragile or have serious behavior issues) can be kept safe and can continue to receive visits from their families

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree