

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Dawn Roberson](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Tuesday, June 03, 2014 8:08:20 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Monday, June 02, 2014 7:05 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 - 19:04

Agency: DEPARTMENT AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DADS

First Name: Lara

Last Name: Ogden

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with:

City: Bellaire

State: Texas

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

I am opposed to the plans to close State Supported Living Centers because it will surely increase the devaluation of the lives of vulnerable humans. I believe that Texas needs to lead the nation in caring for humans. This nation is increasingly killing unwanted children in the womb - especially those who are not perfectly formed or are minority - and leaving our veterans to die. I understand how this is the easy thing to do. Out of sight or dead, out of mind. But, I hope Texas will lead the change that must happen. From experience, I would like to describe the difference in care facilities. In one group home, members from my church went several times to sing carols and the home was rancid, dirty and one worker continuously gave the elderly invalid little swats in the face and head to keep her awake for our singing.

I was ill by time I left. I have been to the well-run Richmond State School and I see cleanliness, efficiently run programs for these precious disabled adults. I also have spent time at Brookwood Community in Brookshire, Texas, a private facility, where disabled adults prosper and work and live in happiness. If home care (or group home care) was possible or reasonable or a good idea, families would not need to send their loved ones to the State Supported Living Centers where worthy care is made financially possible and well monitored. Please listen to those who have loved ones in these homes and know first hand what a blessing it is to know and see that the state cares for those who cannot care for themselves. I have always taught my children that I can learn someone's character by how they treat the elderly, small animals, or younger siblings. Likewise, the way we care for the weak or sick speaks to the character of our nation and our state. It would be unspeakable to close these facilities but rather our duty is to improve them and keep a very close watch that disabled Texans are treated with love and honor and respect.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: I had heard there was a possibility of selling high value

property in the Austin area and others areas and building a brand new facility in a rural location between San Antonio and Austin or north of Austin. What a fantastic idea to care for "the least of these" in a clean, efficient building with affordable housing near by for care takers and workers.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree