

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Dawn Roberson](#)
Subject: FW: Ken Levine - comment from stakeholder
Date: Monday, June 02, 2014 8:26:52 AM

From: Michele Arnold
Sent: Sunday, June 01, 2014 6:50 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Ken Levine - comment from stakeholder

Your position in support or opposition for each recommendation in the staff report;

A clear, brief statement of suggested changes, if any, to these recommendations; and

- Require DADS to close the Austin SSLC by August 31, 2017. **No. Hire a superintendent who can increase the census and bring operations up to excellent standards.**
- Establish the State Supported Living Center Closure Commission to evaluate the SSLCs and determine an additional five centers to close. **No. Hire new superintendents at every SSLC and task them with increasing the census and bringing operations up to excellent standards.**
- Require DADS to close the five SSLCs determined by the SSLC Closure Commission no later than August 31, 2022. **No. Birth defects will continue to add people with profound developmental disabilities to our population and their families need a superior community close to home so their loved ones can flourish.**
- Require DADS to expand crisis intervention teams to provide increased supports to people with IDD in the community. **Establishing the teams is fine but the people on the teams need to utilize SSLCs for people who would be abused and neglected in group homes. "In the community" is a misleading expression. Group home living with day-hab Monday through Friday is a restricted, locked-down life with neighbors who are justifiably angry that a business is being run in their neighborhood. The SSLCs are communities.**
- Require DADS and HHSC, in rule, to add a reimbursement level that incentivizes providers to open small specialized group homes for people with high medical needs. **More money to providers means bigger luxury cars for themselves.**

There is no way DADS can monitor extra medical care. Most doctors and dentists “in the community” do not want to work on people with IDD. Caring doctors who understand this population have always gravitated to the SSLCs.

- Amend statute to require DADS to establish, in rule, the array of services an SSLC can provide to community clients and the fees for those services. This is not possible because there are too many group homes and oversight of services is impossible. In addition to superior medical services, the SSLCs offer something group homes cannot – a social life.

- Require DADS to develop, in rule, requirements for contract provisions regarding basic safety and service requirements that its community-based IDD waiver and intermediate care facility providers should include in their contracts with day habilitation facilities. The fact that DADS has allowed day-habs to operate without basic safety and service requirements, proves how abysmal DADS has been at managing the care of people with IDD in group homes.

- Require DADS to compile basic information and data on day habilitation facilities providing services to persons in DADS programs, including data on violations and deficiencies found during inspections. Excellent idea. Also list which group homes have killed customers from negligence,

Require DADS to develop, in rule, progressive sanctions for serious or repeated violations. Excellent idea.

Require DADS to maintain a consumer information site on the quality of long-term care providers in Texas. Excellent idea.

- Direct DADS to improve the quality and consistency of information available on the Quality Reporting System for all providers. Excellent idea.

Postpone decisions on continuation of DADS’ functions and structure until completion of the Sunset review of the health and human services system. Excellent idea.

- a clear, concise summary of any new issues or recommendations not included in the report that you would like the Sunset Commission to consider.

1. Execute (HB2276) from the 83rd session that compels authorities to tell families about the SSLCs.

2. Where is George Bithos’ input? (SSLC ombudsman)

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 8:06:17 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Monday, June 02, 2014 8:02 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 - 20:01

Agency: DEPARTMENT AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DADS

First Name: Michele

Last Name: Arnold

Title: Volunteer legal guardian

Organization you are affiliated with: Richmond State Supported Living Center

City: Bellaire

State: Texas

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

- Require DADS to close the Austin SSLC by August 31, 2017. No. Hire a superintendent who can increase the census and bring operations up to excellent standards.
 - Establish the State Supported Living Center Closure Commission to evaluate the SSLCs and determine an additional five centers to close. No. Hire new superintendents at every SSLC and task them with increasing the census and bringing operations up to excellent standards.
 - Require DADS to close the five SSLCs determined by the SSLC Closure Commission no later than August 31, 2022. No. Birth defects will continue to add people with profound developmental disabilities to our population and their families need a superior community close to home so their loved ones can flourish.
- Require DADS to expand crisis intervention teams to provide increased supports to people with IDD in the community. Establishing the teams is fine but the people on the teams need to utilize SSLCs for people who would be abused and neglected in group homes. "In the community" is a misleading expression. Group home living with day-hab Monday through Friday is a restricted, locked-down life with neighbors who are justifiably angry that a business is being run in their neighborhood. The SSLCs are communities.

- Require DADS and HHSC, in rule, to add a reimbursement level that incentivizes providers to open small specialized group homes for people with high medical needs. More money to providers means bigger luxury cars for themselves. There is no way DADS can monitor extra medical care. Most doctors and dentists “in the community” do not want to work on people with IDD. Caring doctors who understand this population have always gravitated to the SSLCs.

- Amend statute to require DADS to establish, in rule, the array of services an SSLC can provide to community clients and the fees for those services. This is not possible because there are too many group homes and oversight of services is impossible. In addition to superior medical services, the SSLCs offer something group homes cannot – a social life.

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- Require DADS to compile basic information and data on day habilitation facilities providing services to persons in DADS programs, including data on violations and deficiencies found during inspections. Excellent idea. Also list which group homes have killed customers from negligence,

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- Direct DADS to improve the quality and consistency of information available on the Quality Reporting System for all providers. Excellent idea.

Postpone decisions on continuation of DADS’ functions and structure until completion of the Sunset review of the health and human services system. Excellent idea.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:
Execute (HB2276) from the 83rd session that compels authorities to tell families about the SSLCs.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree