

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 11:50:10 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2014 11:06 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Wednesday, June 4, 2014 - 11:06

Agency: DEPARTMENT AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DADS

First Name: Marie

Last Name: Chandler

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with:

City: Austin

State: Texas

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

I would like to speak to the issue of group home placement. My daughter has been a resident of the Austin State Supported Living center for almost 42 years. I don't know how to explain the devastation this move would make in her life. I can speak to community placement because I have been blind all of my life, and learned how sad it is that sighted children would not play with me. I attended the Texas School for the Blind, and graduated from there. We were a close knit community, and I still have friends I made the first day I moved on to the campus.

My daughter is adopted. she was surrendered at birth and was placed with another couple. When she was three months old her blindness was discovered.

They returned her to the agency and then placed in a group home. For the next sixteen months she lived in a crib. When we took her at approximately 20 months old she had never been spoon fed. She couldn't sit up, and only drank from her bottle and then played with it. She was dirty, and had a diaper rash that you would not believe. She was under weight.

We just started her over as an infant, and for a while she made progress.

When we discovered her other disabilities, we tried to find solutions for them. At ten years old she was evaluated and state school placement was the only alternative. She was deemed uneducable, and much too young for vocational education. We placed her there, not because we didn't love her, but because we knew that one day we would get old and could not care for her, and we loved her enough to try and see that she was cared for.

Group homes may be good for those who choose to live in them, or the guardian wants that service, but I do not believe that the community is the place for my daughter. She has moderate retardation, autism, blindness, and has behavior problems. Her life would be torn apart by moving her. I am 78 years old, and if she were to go to another

facility, how would I get to her for a visit, or in an emergency.

I am not saying that there are no good group homes in the community, but there are some bad ones, and bad things happen to residents or other disabled people living in the community. In one instance a group home resident left his home, entered another home and destroyed things. The police had to be called. Another instance a mentally challenged person who lived in the community was outside a place where young people were having a party when some boys found him, wrote foul things on his upper body, beat him up, and then urinated on him. Nice community.

People that live in this facility are here because they NEED to be there. The police in the community are not trained or aware of the proper way to deal with a behavior which happens regularly. A group home does not have a nurse on staff. The people in the community will not treat someone with the devastating handicaps that my daughter has with anything but contempt. It would be unsafe for her and others for her to be ripped from her home and placed in a new environment.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: All I can say is please keep this center open. Again, if a resident or guardian wants community placement, then I wish them well, but it is not for everyone. Why should they be in effect evicted from their home when they have one thing to deserve such treatment?

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree