

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 7:54:33 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2014 12:32 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 - 00:32

Agency: DEPARTMENT AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DADS

First Name: Melany

Last Name: Shearrer

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with:

City: Jourdanton

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: I was recently informed of the plan to close the Austin State Supported Living Center and relocate residents. As a former volunteer working with the ASSLC I believe this would be a huge mistake and a detriment for the residents. The facilities aren't the fanciest or the newest, but the people there make all the difference. There is a true sense of community that permeates. Relocation would rip apart friendships and strip residents of the sense of belonging. These are members of society that are so often marginalized and I feel that moving them would further victimize them. At the ASSLC, residents are engaged and empowered through various programs. They are able to earn their own money through crafts, make paintings and collages to decorate their rooms, and win medals at choir competitions. The Austin community has not forgotten them. I was introduced to the ASSLC through a ministry program at the University Catholic Church located on the University of Texas campus. If I could go back, not only would I do it all over again but I would have started even sooner. They are doing incredible work at the ASSLC and it should not be interrupted.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: I feel that the best action would be to support the program already in place. Empowering the staff and letting them know that their efforts have been recognized would reinforce the good work already being done. They are part of the community and should be respected as such. I implore you not to close ASSLC or relocate its residents.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree