

**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 4:54:30 PM

---

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]  
Sent: Tuesday, June 03, 2014 3:21 PM  
To: Sunset Advisory Commission  
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Tuesday, June 3, 2014 - 15:20

Agency: DEPARTMENT AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DADS

First Name: Nancy

Last Name: Kircher

Title: Guardian and volunteer

Organization you are affiliated with: Richmond state supported living center

City: Richmond

State: Texas

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

I am opposed to the recommendation to close the state supported living centers. For the following reasons.

1. No accountability how do we know absolutely for sure, if staff are present at the group homes.
2. What type of training is the staff getting to care for individuals with disabilities.
- 3 I am requesting that all direct care at the living centers and state run homes and facilities, receive some training in how to handle stress. I feel if we would teach our Direct Care, and give them a tool box of things to do in times of stress we would cut our rate of abuse.

Where is the documentation on how group homes are monitored , what is the rate of abuse in a group home?

My husband and I have been guardians for 10 years for an individual at Richmond State Supported Living Center.

My loved one is a happy person and enjoys life at the living center. He has multiple disabilities both mental and physical. His days are full, he is independent. He does need help with his personal needs as he only has 1/2 of an arm and no legs. This requires some assistance from the staff as far as personal hygiene, preparing his food changing of clothes. However this man goes to work every day, participates in handbells, choir, rhythm band. He is also in special Olympics for soft ball toss, wheelchair race, and bowling. This man has been in the state system all of his life, without the state supported living center this man and his life would have ceased to exist.

Please reconsider your thoughts on closure of the living center. My love one has lived in state group homes twice in the past years, both times he was moved back to Richmond, in a depressive agitated state, physically not functioning to his full abilities.

Also I have been a volunteer at the Richmond State Supported Living Center for 18 years. In 2008 I received the Dads Vision award in Wellness. For 18 years I have organized and managed the Catholic Prayer Service at the RSSLCL.

I am on the HRC committee and Give welcoming talks to new employees on dignity and respect. I find Richmond to be the least restricted place with the opportunity to live a life with some freedoms and activities for personal growth

in a safe clean environment. Thank you Nancy Kircher

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: None at this time

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree