

JUN 02 2014

May 26, 2014

Ms. Amy Trost
Sunset Commission
P O Box 13066
Austin, TX 78711

Re Sunset Advisory Report, May 2014, State Supported Living Centers (SSLCs)

Dear Ms. Trost:

I am the parent and legal guardian of Lance Davenport. Lance is 35 year-old severely disabled man who has spastic cerebral palsy, a seizure disorder, legal blindness and mental retardation. He requires assistance for all of his personal needs and has been unable to be left alone his entire life.

I read, and heard, with great interest the recommendation to close a total of six SSLCs by August 31, 2022 and sense that it's largely based on the money. The numbers shown in the Advisory Report, outlining the costs between the various choices of care, are not an exact comparison in my opinion. The Provider Fairs we have recently attended with representatives of group homes available in the community do not provide all of the services under one facility; therefore, the services are spread from differing buckets of money, to different entities. The group home provides meals, a room, and residents are transported to a daycare facility every day. There is no plan to provide service for a resident who cannot go offsite to this other facility on a daily basis. There is no choice. There are no medical personnel on site at the group home. More often, the direct care staff members are not offered a fair wage and benefit package; there is high turnover. There is no monitoring in place for these facilities who care for some of our most vulnerable population. Since Lance is severely disabled, requires consistent medication management for seizures, must be repositioned, checked and changed often, we are told that any service needed for him would be requested. Most home representatives do not encourage Lance because he is "high maintenance" and would not generate revenue for their facility.

Lance does not want to move. Lance and our family made the choice for him to transition to Brenham SSLC, and we could not be more proud or more grateful. There are paid advocacy groups who strongly believe, and preach to others, that if an SSLC is closed, these dollars will automatically provide openings for waiver programs. It is my understanding that thought process is not correct.

I sincerely urge you to rethink your recommendation for total closure of six SSLCs, and I hope and pray that above all my fear for my son's life and death is heard. And, I feel a responsibility to voice my opinion for the friends of my son whose parents are no longer living who also wanted their loved ones to remain at Brenham SSLC.

With sincere respect,


Nancy Beth McKinney,
Legal Guardian and Registered Voter

xc: Scott Schalchlin, Assistant Commissioner for SSLCs

“No more moves - my choice!”



My name is Lance, and I live, work and play at Brenham State Supported Living Center.

Do not shut down my home, my community and take away my job.

Where will I go and what will I do?

What will happen to my friends who live here?

What will happen to the people who care for me?

What will happen to the families of my caregivers?

What will happen to the town that will lose all these jobs?

My momma, my family and my friends care -- and vote.