

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Dawn Roberson](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Friday, May 23, 2014 4:34:54 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Friday, May 23, 2014 3:44 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Friday, May 23, 2014 - 15:44

Agency: DEPARTMENT AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DADS

First Name: Rainbow

Last Name: Di Benedetto

Title: Ms.

Organization you are affiliated with:

City: Austin

State: Texas

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

I am extremely concerned about the recommendation to close to Austin State Supported Living Center, and that it is motivated more by a desire to reclaim what is termed 'prime real estate' than by concern for the welfare of its residents. Some of the bases for the argument to close have been created by policies up to this point:

- Number of individuals served is declining because parents and guardians of persons who could utilize these services and not being informed of the option, and/or are discouraged from using it;
- Parents and guardians of persons currently living at the living centers are being pressured to move them to community based facilities;
- Staff turnover is caused in large part by low pay and abusive policies, such as requiring people to work two consecutive eight-hour shifts without prior notice.

Comparing the number of such facilities in Texas to those in other states is somewhat disingenuous, because Texas has a more geographically dispersed population than any other state. It is burdensome for residents and families for them to be housed in a distant location.

Living in a SSLC allows residents more freedom of movement and quality of life than they would enjoy in the community. It is important for them to have community contact and outings; however, an environment where they feel safe and comfortable is also necessary. When asked, the woman for who I am guardian will state immediately and unequivocally that AuSSLC is where she wants to stay. She becomes very upset when any other possibilities are brought up.

I also do not see in the Sunset recommendation anywhere that states that parents and guardians were spoken to in the

course or their investigation.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Parents and guardians would not be opposed to alternatives if those alternatives were of equal or better quality. That is not the case. Care should be provided by the state and not by for-profit entities. Saving money is a worthy goal, but not when it is done by negatively impacting the quality of life for these most vulnerable citizens.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree