

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Dawn Roberson](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Wednesday, May 28, 2014 8:03:34 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Wednesday, May 28, 2014 6:08 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Wednesday, May 28, 2014 - 06:08

Agency: DEPARTMENT AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DADS

First Name: Toni

Last Name: Gabriel

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with:

City: Lexington

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: I am opposed to the Sunset Commission recommendation to closing of State Supported Living Centers. I have a brother that lives in one of these centers. He has been in the center since the age of 10 and he is happy there. He comes home for visits but is always anxious to get back. The centers offer so much for him that I do not believe a group home could offer.

There are many individuals in the centers that could not flourish in group homes as they do in the centers. It would be difficult for them to understand why they are being removed from the home they are happy in to a strange new place. Group homes are not the way to go. Most communities do not want the group homes, and individuals are subject to abuse in and out of the homes. Group homes actually segregate these individuals from society. They are often regimated and isolated. John Talbot, the former president of the American Psychiatric Assoc., observed that " the chronic mentally ill patient [has] his locus of living and care transferred from a single lousy institution to multiple wretched ones." Unfortunately, despite the growing public awareness of the deplorable conditions in adult group homes, states have been reluctant to reallocate funding to invest in housing alternatives. If the individual understands and wishes to live in a group that is one thing, but it should not be mandated by the state that the individual should be in a group home. There are assisted living centers for the elderly why should there not be assisted living centers for the mentally disabled.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Let the individual, their families, and the staff of the facilities determine the care and path forward.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree