

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Dawn Roberson](#)
Subject: FW: Abilene State Supported Living Center
Date: Wednesday, June 25, 2014 4:32:04 PM

From: Alpha Anthamatten
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2014 4:25 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Abilene State Supported Living Center

I read an article in our local paper regarding the closure of 6 of the State Supported Living Centers. Here are my thoughts

It wasn't made clear what the intentions are or where plans are made to house the individuals that are currently living at any of the centers.

Most have been there for a long enough period that they don't want to move, won't function as well in other facilities which will cost more money.

I worked at Abilene State School for a period of time. Many of the high level residents said they DID NOT want to leave, because they were comfortable and living elsewhere scared them a lot.

I have been involved with mentally disadvantaged people ALL my life in one facet or another. As an employee, a volunteer, or family member or otherwise. I will say unless you have a CLOSE relative who resides in such a center, you can not possibly have a hint of an idea what it means for these individuals to live in these centers where they are comfortable and well cared for.

Have you considered – I mean REALLY considered are there other places to send these people? Are they going to go to groups homes? Will they fit in? Will the transition cost more money because of adjustment than to leave well enough alone? Are there enough group homes? If not how much will that cost the taxpayers? Are they candidates for Adult Foster Homes? Are there Adult Foster Homes available?

I can answer that last question. Because of the implementation of the Star Plus program; NO, there aren't enough Adult Foster Homes. Many are opting out of AFC because of the unknown of Star Plus. And, is Star Plus really saving the taxpayers money? Probably not, It sounded good at the time it was presented to Legislature so why not? Let's vote yes!

Until someone has field tested something or has a very PERSONAL experience with something, this person is not qualified to make such decisions on matters of which they are inexperienced." If it's not broke, it don't need fixin!"

Right actions are preceded by right thinking.