

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Dawn Roberson](#); [Cecelia Hartley](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Monday, June 30, 2014 8:21:51 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]

Sent: Saturday, June 28, 2014 4:09 PM

To: Sunset Advisory Commission

Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Saturday, June 28, 2014 - 16:09

Agency: DEPARTMENT AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DADS

First Name: Charity

Last Name: Bartell

Title: J.D.

Organization you are affiliated with:

City: Austin

State: Texas

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

I am opposed to any budget cuts to DADS, period.

I am opposed to closing any of the State Supported Living Centers unless an equivalent number of group homes are not set up to replace them. The people living in the the SSLCs are, for the most part, severely or profoundly intellectually repaired (very low IQs), and the majority also have other medical problems that require regular nursing or other skilled medical care.

If those in the SSLCs are relocated to facilities in other towns, they might never see family and be more vulnerable to abuse. Regular family visits are the greatest deterrent to abuse. From what I've read, the declining enrollment in the SSLCs is attributable to lack of funding rather than lack of interest.

On the other hand, the length of the CLASS interest list is an embarrassment.

I am in the Autism Society and have two children and a nephew with autism.

My older son might eventually need CLASS services, and I want them to be available to him. I willingly quit my job to start a small business and work from home in order to spend more time with him.

However, most members of the general public cannot and will not bend over backwards to help a child, even their own, with a disability, without respite. The parents of adults on the spectrum who are on waiting lists, and the adults themselves are placed in perilous situations--often left unattended for hours on end in front of the television or subjected to abuse or neglect by worn out family.

DADS is not perfect, but it's what we've got. Of course it's not always efficient, but DADS is doing the best it can with the available resources.

Cutting the budget will just harm those that it serves. The only thing that will happen is that adults with disabilities will be displaced and desperate people will have longer to wait for help.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Do not cut the DADS budget and strongly

consider any recommendations by the agency for increasing the budget.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree