

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Dawn Roberson](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Monday, June 30, 2014 4:40:22 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Monday, June 30, 2014 2:16 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Monday, June 30, 2014 - 14:15

Agency: DEPARTMENT AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DADS

First Name: Ellen

Last Name: Bauman

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with:

City: Burleson

State: Texas

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

I would like to personally thank members of the Sunset Commission for their hours of attentive listening to testimony as well as the days spent in reviewing the report. I appreciate the opportunity to speak on this issue. I am stunned by the thinking of those opposing the closure of these facilities. Proof again that personal gain supersedes all else. It is appalling that the local governments and chambers of commerce are more concerned about the economy of their municipalities than they are about human suffering. The perpetuation of this type of treatment/mistreatment of our most vulnerable citizens is not only inhumane but illegal. Continuing to pour millions of dollars into these money pits trying to sustain these old structures is a gross misuse of taxpayer dollars. One would think that the leadership in these cities that are determined to fight to keep things as they are would be proactive towards a solution. It is disappointing that they are bound by such limited thinking. Governor Perry has set a pretty successful example of how to boost the economy in an area by bringing in new jobs. Clearly, the transition from State Support Living Center to living in the community will facilitate the need for more group homes. Why are these local leaders not out courting providers to establish more of these in their cities? Warehousing people does not provide them with the dignity and respect that they deserve as human beings. Smaller, private facilities are much easier to maintain and to monitor. The cost savings outlined in the Staff Report Summary is obvious. I am totally in support of the recommendation to close these facilities as stated in the report. The logic used by the Sunset Review Committee in reaching their decision is some of the best "common sense" thinking I have seen at the State level since becoming involved with the IDD community as an advocate. This action reduces the expense to the State of Texas, minimizes risks, reduces the burden on DADS and most importantly, greatly improves the quality of life for these individuals. Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Bauman

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Medicaid Waivers need to be amended to increase the amount of Dental Care to cover major work for IDD people with issues that prevent regular dental hygiene up to and including prosthetic dental work.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree