

**From:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Dawn Roberson](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 25, 2014 4:35:40 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]  
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2014 1:38 PM  
To: Sunset Advisory Commission  
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Wednesday, June 25, 2014 - 13:37

Agency: DEPARTMENT AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DADS

First Name: Sandra

Last Name: Carson

Title: Dentist

Organization you are affiliated with: Corpus Christi State Supported Living Center

Email: Sandra.Carson@dads.state.tx.us

City: Corpus Christi

State: Texas

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

Access to adequate dental care for the individuals that I serve has failed to be addressed. Most of the individuals will have a need for invasive gum tissue procedures (deep scaling/full mouth debridement), extractions, and fillings. These are considered surgical procedures that can inflict pain and discomfort. Our facility has a full dental clinic (similar to a hospital with its own surgical suites) with all of the necessary equipment to perform this treatment. We enlist the aid of a Dental Anesthesiologist to sedate the individuals to aid their treatment. This type of service is not available for our individuals at the offices of private practice dentists ( I was in private practice for 28 years prior to taking a position at CCSSLC so I know what is available).

That dental care in outside facilities is not available on this level in group homes and any other type of facility that could care for our individuals. This has become more evident to me as I see individuals who come to us from other facilities and have unaddressed dental needs when they are admitted to our facility. These individuals may have been in a group home setting for up to 10 years or more. Their needs are simply not being met in private practice dental offices, because they are not equipped to handle the needs of our individuals. Our individuals are "labeled" special needs, because they have special needs and all of their needs cannot be met out in the community as many of you on this committee seem to believe.

In order to make a decision that is in the best interest of these individuals, ALL of their needs must be considered. I hope that I have given you information that will help you make a better informed decision for these people I currently serve. Their NEEDS must come first. They cannot speak for themselves. To suggest that everything is available to them in another venue is to be misinformed. There are currently no private practice dentists who are willing or able to perform the care for our special needs population.

Closing of facilities and moving people into community settings sounds good in practice, but the reality is that these individuals will have their dental health and needs suffer. Their dental health is very important. Infections and dental disease is just that...a disease that can affect the individuals general

health. Heart disease has been linked to poor dental health in many journal articles. Many individuals already suffer from a variety of maladies related to their existing diagnoses. It would be simple neglect to put these individuals in harm's way knowing that their dental needs will suffer if they are moved into a community setting that is ill-equipped to address their needs. Thank you for your time.

I am opposed to moving individuals into community settings (group homes) that cannot provide for these individuals needs. To do so would be blatant planned neglect. I cannot, in good conscience, remain silent on this issue.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: If some closings are necessary, it would be preferred to move them into other state supported living centers that are already equipped to handle the ongoing dental needs that are not evident to the casual observer, including the members of your committee. The community of group homes does not currently have access to the ability to receive deep sedation dentistry for all of their individuals.

Most special needs individuals are unable to have their dental needs met without this service.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree