

06/25/14

Good Morning Respected Members of the
Committee,

My name is Farhat Chishty, I am the mother of Haseeb Chishty. He's my developmentally challenged son who was systematically abused and nearly killed by a couple of drug-induced caretakers in a racially motivated attack at one of the state run "torture warehouses" in Denton, Texas for persons with developmental disabilities. I am also a staunch advocate for the disabled and the elderly population. I have spent the last 12 years of my life lobbying and fighting for the rights of persons with disabilities. Let's put an end to state sponsored terrorism in our own backyards. Today, I have been granted only 3 minutes, as a consumer, stakeholder and taxpayer, to share some of my insight, findings and recommendations.

After reading the SUNSET COMMISSION REPORT, in my opinion, which is directly based on my personal day-to-day experiences and via different families and their complaints, issue1,(page 15), Issue #3, (page 37) issue #4,(43) are fundamental problems of a system which is essentially a failure in all aspects. I spent 95% of my time in DSSLC for six years after my son was systemically abused and left to die at the Denton

State School in September of 2002. Exactly one year after 9/11 transpired.

I have analyzed and studied the fallacies of this system very closely and intricately. Keenly observing of all parties involved, including their techniques and tactics to suppress the welfare of the consumers. My son's suffering is a living testimony of institutionalized corruption. My findings are based on empirical data and tangible data. One major issue that needs to be addressed is the so called "UTILIZATION REVIEW PROCESS". This report failed to address this issue. It's very important that we as honest human beings address all fundamental issues. Let's not cherry pick folks. The utilization review team members must be fully aware, up-to-date and maintain a solid understanding of the consumer needs and wants on a routine basis. More often than not, the utilization review team members are completely aloof, unaware and disconnected with the needs and wants of the consumers. All the decisions are made on assumptions and at a whim. Issue # 3 also affected me and my son in the beginning of the current year, when i did my inquiry for my option then i found the fact that DAY REHABILITATIONS FACILITIES are being paid by DADS from taxpayer's money with no serious regulations and licensing protocol. There are no checks and balances in place to protect the rights of consumers.

As far as the recommendations go, the only sound and best recommendation I have for you all today, is to allow the commission to move towards the core OF SSLCS with utmost caution and have an effective plan of action beforehand, without further inflicting anymore harm to the consumers. Human rights mustn't be violated and taxpayer money shouldn't be wasted. The best solution would be for consumers to choose their own fate. The consumer or their legal guardians should be allowed to choose SSLC or Community Choices as alternatives.

SSLC needs honesty, transparency and time to evolve as a credible system. This will require new leadership and accountability. SSLC should NOT be run as a corporate business at the expense of taxpayer dollars. The focus should be on the consumers and safeguarding humanity.

Thank you for hearing me speak.