

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Dawn Roberson](#)
Subject: FW: DADS and State Supported living Centers
Date: Wednesday, May 28, 2014 8:03:40 AM

From: Louise Abt Clay
Sent: Wednesday, May 28, 2014 12:14 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission; Louise Abt Clay
Subject: DADS and State Supported living Centers

Louise Abt Clay

May 27, 2014

Ken Levine, Director
Sunset Advisory Commission
sunset@sunset.state.tx.us
P O Box 13066
Austin, TX 78711

Dear Mr. Levine:

Re: DADS and State Supported Living Centers

As a parent of a severely handicapped, medically fragile man living at Richmond State Supported Living Center, I adamantly oppose closure of any of the State Supported Living Centers. There are simply no acceptable alternatives for the care of people like my son, Walt Wingo, who became a quadriplegic because of a botched surgery in 2008 at UTMB in Galveston. He became blind as well in 2012. Although intellectually challenged, he has an active mind and emotions and needs, which he expresses verbally. He also goes to numerous activities at Richmond. There are doctors there to attend to his needs promptly. No group home operator could afford to give him comparable care, so he would be neglected or sent to a sorry nursing home. If that happened he would cry all day long because he has been used to attention and going and doing things. He has so many needs.

Putting all the necessary supports in the community for those with intellectual disability is NOT GOING TO HAPPEN, just as it didn't happen for the mentally ill. So jail or death will be the mostly likely outcome for these people – which is going back to the 15th century.

If anything, we should be expanding the SSLC's that we already have, so that more people could use them and economies of scale would kick in. Residents of group homes are essentially prisoners in their neighborhood because nobody wants them and because most

can't fend for themselves. Most of the SSLC residents lack the judgment to be "free" and unsupervised. Example: a former RSSLC resident named Dallas, who went to a group home in San Antonio, would wander to a local store and pilfer things. He couldn't seem to learn not to. One day the store owner shot Dallas dead. This was a REAL event. Is that what the Sunset Commission and the State of Texas want? I remember seeing Dallas frequently – outside enjoying the freedom and the safety of the RSSLC campus!

All the SSLC's need to remain open so that no one is too far from family. I see my son three times a week. I have a special van to transport him. It would be disastrous for him if he wasn't close to me. The Austin facility needs to be rebuilt on another property in that area for those families.

My son IS in the "community" – HIS community, which is Richmond SSLC!

I am the current president of the RSSLC family association, and we all feel that way.

Thank you for your attention.

Louise Abt Clay, RSSLC parent

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Dawn Roberson](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Thursday, May 29, 2014 8:01:54 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Wednesday, May 28, 2014 10:03 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Wednesday, May 28, 2014 - 22:03

Agency: DEPARTMENT AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DADS

First Name: Louise

Last Name: Clay

Title: parent/guardian

Organization you are affiliated with: Richmond State Supported Living Center

City: Weston Lakes

State: Texas

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

1. I oppose closure of any of the state supported living centers because all SSLC residents should be reasonably close to their families in this huge state. I specifically oppose the closure of Richmond SSLC.
2. The community and private providers can never have the infrastructure that the SSLC's have (on-site 24/7 medical care, dental, wheelchair repair shop, recreation staff, volunteer services, infirmary, pharmacy, nice SAFE grounds for residents to enjoy freely, additional facilities that were built with private money raised by Volunteer Services, etc.)
3. The costs comparisons of SSLC's vs. private providers are incorrect. There was failure to include Medicaid-paid medical costs for residents of group homes. Also, the cost of DADS central office in Austin is included in the SSLC care cost!
4. Most group homes are terrible and can get by with anything. Residents are like prisoners and are unwanted in mostly unsafe, trashy neighborhoods. There is little interaction in the "community".
5. There is no effective oversight regarding group homes. They should be held to the same impossible standards as the SSLC's and inspected FREQUENTLY.
6. Only the SSLC's have individualized care plans for the residents.
7. Because of the unusual complex needs of nearly all the SSLC residents, the costs will always be higher, no matter where they reside -- if they are cared for properly.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

1. Disregard the recommendation to close the SSLC's since it is impossible to implement with a positive outcome -- for the type of people living at the SSLC's.
2. Make the MH/MR Authorities inform new clients about the SSLC's as a choice, as they are supposed to do.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree

Louise Abt Clay

June 25, 2014

Re: DADS and the State Supported Living Centers (SSLC's)

To the Sunset Commission:

My son, Walt Wingo, has been a resident of Richmond State Supported Living Center since 1977. Although intellectually challenged, he is verbal and very alert, like an enthusiastic 5 year-old. Walt had the misfortune of becoming a quadriplegic in 2008 as the result of a disastrous spinal surgery at UTMB in Galveston. He can move one arm a little bit, and that is it. His special wheelchair, which weighs about 85 pounds, tilts backward and forward as needed and has a support for his head plus supports on the sides and front. Without that particular chair he is bed-bound, which he absolute hates.

Walt goes to numerous daily activities at Richmond. There are doctors there to attend to his many and frequent needs. He goes to off-campus events. There is a wheelchair shop on campus to fix his chair promptly. No group home operator could afford to give him comparable care, so he would get substandard care or be sent to a sorry nursing home. That would be horrible for him because he has always been in the thick of things, and going and doing things. Because of his medical fragility and many other problems, he needs the infrastructure that exists only in a State Supported Living Center. There is no way he could be properly cared for in a less comprehensive setting.

The Sunset Commission recognizes that many supports need to be provided in the community for those with intellectual disability. **But this is NEVER GOING TO HAPPEN IN TEXAS, just as it didn't happen for the mentally ill.** So, for these people who will be forced to leave the SSLC's, the mostly likely outcome will be jail or exploitation or abuse or neglect or homelessness or death – which is like going back to the 15th century!

If anything, we should be expanding the SSLC's that we already have, so that more people could use them and economies of scale would kick in. Residents of group homes are essentially prisoners in their neighborhood because nobody wants them and because most can't fend for themselves. Most of the SSLC residents lack the judgment to be "free" and unsupervised. Example: a former Richmond SSLC resident named "Dallas", who went to a group home in San Antonio, would wander to a local store and pilfer things. He couldn't seem to learn not to. **One day the store owner shot Dallas dead.** This was a REAL event. Is that what the Sunset Commission and the State of Texas want? I remember seeing Dallas frequently – outside enjoying the freedom and the safety of the Richmond SSLC campus!

Over →

Here's another real-life event, having to do with daily life at Richmond SSLC: On Wednesday one week ago my son's wheelchair developed a problem about 1:00 pm, after we had been out and about in Richmond for a couple of hours in our handicap van. The wheelchair could not be used, so Walt was put into bed, which of course he hated. I went to a meeting elsewhere on the Richmond campus and when I returned to Walt's home two hours later at 3:00, the chair had already been fixed! The chair had been fixed for one and only one reason – because **Richmond State Supported Living Center has an on-site wheelchair shop to take care of problems like this.**

I ask you, if Walt had been in the “community”, just how many days or weeks or months would he have had to lie in bed waiting for his wheelchair to be fixed?

By the way, my son IS in the “community” – HIS community, which is Richmond State Supported Living Center!

All the State Supported Living Centers need to remain open so that no one is too far from family. I see my son three or more times a week. I have a special van to transport him. It would be terrible for him if he wasn't close to me. The Austin facility needs to be rebuilt on another less expensive property in that area for those families. Texas is too large geographically to have fewer State Supported Living Centers.

I am the current president of the family association at Richmond State Supported Living Center, and we all feel that way.

There are residents at Richmond SSLC who have been kicked out of group homes, including some who have been evicted from many homes -- and sometimes on the spur of the moment.

No commission should be making decisions for people like my son. Any decisions about the State Supported Living Centers should be made by our elected representatives and senators.

Thank you for your attention.

Louise Abt Clay
Richmond State Supported Living Center parent & guardian

