

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Dawn Roberson](#)
Subject: FW: comments on Sunset Report May 2014 regarding DADS/SSLC
Date: Thursday, June 19, 2014 5:06:51 PM

From: Cowan
Sent: Thursday, June 19, 2014 4:47 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: comments on Sunset Report May 2014 regarding DADS/SSLC

Stanley E. Cowan

CCOMMENTS ON MAY 2014 SUNSET STAFF REPORT

Introduction: We have two sons, Michael age 50 and David age 47, today living together at the Brenham SSLC since 1984 and have an overall good impression of the services, facilities and staff in meeting their needs. With our experiences over the years with other type facilities, we find the Brenham SSLC to be the safest environment for our sons. With our advancing age, we are more concerned that they would remain there in better safety than being exposed to the isolation and less monitored care environment of Community small group homes.

General: Community homes for profit will never be able to equally meet the needs of our most vulnerable population living in SSLC. The incentive for lowering cost for profit is focused primarily on reducing services to their residents. If plans are to really meet these needs at the Community homes, the costs will be about the same as for a SSLC, except with much less coordination and oversight.

Comments on Sunset Staff Report (SSR) on DADS of May 2014:

SSR ref: Issue 2, p.2: all 3 recommendations point back to a SSLC setting as being the most effective solution. Crisis intervention teams are not on site like at a SSLC and disaster could occur before they could arrive at spread out Community group homes. It is costly to provide a nurse for 4 people in a small specialized group home; whereas in a SSLC a nurse can provide services to 20 or more residents. To help improve health, behavior and learning, it requires the teamwork of professionals working together such as exists at SSLCs. Independent professionals working alone will most probably not solve the complex problems facing our most challenged individuals now living in SSLCs. For successful results, it requires a coordinated effort with a

team consisting of parents/guardians, direct care staff, home leaders, nurses, doctors, psychiatrists, dieticians, dentists, psychologists, physical therapist, speech therapist and occupational therapists.