

Karen Danks Testimony

My name is Karen Danks and my daughter, Sarah, has lived at the Denton State Supported Living Center for just over one year. Prior to DSSLC, she lived at Cimarron in Lewisville, TX, which is a private provider facility. She is very happy now at Denton State Supported Living Center where she doesn't have to live with what she calls the "noisy people". My husband and I were eventually called by Cimarron and given a deadline to move her out because they could not take care of her. We briefly brought her back into our home but could not totally meet her needs. So I contacted someone from Denton County MHMR and said that I wanted to place Sarah into Denton State Supported Living Center. A month and a half later, we finally got her in.

As a mother, I am so happy and at peace because I know I can trust her direct care staff and I know there are many safeguards in place to protect her and her belongings. The staff is very attentive to Sarah's needs and they listen to me about my concerns. Sarah is very happy that she is in a campus setting, just like her cousins in college.

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Dawn Roberson](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Thursday, June 05, 2014 5:30:41 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Thursday, June 05, 2014 2:33 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Thursday, June 5, 2014 - 14:33

Agency: DEPARTMENT AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DADS

First Name: Karen

Last Name: Danks

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with:

City: Corinth

State: Texas

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

First of all, SSLC's are NOT institutions. They are truly campuses. Second, the cost comparisons of SSLC's to group/residential homes are flawed. The SSLC's include just about everything in their cost figures. Other homes show staff, housing and food expenditures and virtually nothing else. They are also not required to meet DOJ requirements, like SSLC's. Because of this, they REPORT a lower ANE rate AND don't have to include this incremental cost.

Having had a child at a group home, I became aware that MANY THINGS go undocumented.

Also sending aggressive individuals into group homes and then having them come to the SSLC for therapy is ludicrous. The SSLC's are there for a reason.

To help those that need more help! They are not infringing upon their rights.

They are protecting those that need it. Plus they are giving them opportunities to grow. My daughter is so much happier at the DSSLC. She feels safe.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

After reading all these "suggestions", it seems to me we are wasting money on creating more bureaucracy with additional committees instead of using the SSLC resources we have.

In addition, there are money making abilities that haven't been explored. We own land in Denton that could be used as a park for the public (for instance) that can charge entrance fees, just like Hickory Creek does with its parks.

There are so many things that can be done to help our most needy section of the population, but we need to quit having tunnel vision and trying to close our SSLC's. They're truly a treasure.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree

I come to you with both community and State Supported Living Center experience and, by far, for Sarah, both my husband and I prefer DSSLC. We both read the Sunset Commission staff report and our main concern is the inaccuracies in the comparison between SSLC's and HCS or ICF/MR Group Homes. It's like an apples to tables comparison. There is so much provided on campus at DSSLC like her psychiatrist and dentist. At Cimarron, she would get in a van with "noisy people" and go across town to the dentist and wait, again, with those same "noisy people". Yet, when you read this report, it gives misinformation that tries to make the community options look like they provide the same exact services on premise just like the SSLC's and they DO NOT.

I urge you to go to DADS and have them give you correct INCREMENTAL figures as to what exactly the HCS Group Homes and private run ICF/MR's like Cimarron provide both on and off their premises. I know you will find the State Supported Living Center to be a better deal for the State of Texas for those with high needs. We are very thankful Texas provided Sarah with the direct one-on-one care that she needed and that her doctors, dentists and even the infirmary are on her campus.