

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Dawn Roberson](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Tuesday, June 03, 2014 1:46:44 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Tuesday, June 03, 2014 1:02 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Tuesday, June 3, 2014 - 13:02

Agency: DEPARTMENT AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DADS

First Name: Thomas

Last Name: Diaz

Title: M.D., FAAFP

Organization you are affiliated with: Texans for State Supported Living Centers

City: Katy

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: I vehemently oppose the Sunset Commission's recommendations regarding the existing state supported living centers as presented to the Department of Aging and Disability Services this year of 2014. I am a family doctor in private practice in the Houston area and I have been in practice for 30 years and work with patients in my office over the years with developmental disabilities and I have found that certain patients with developmental and behavioral disorders are best served by the type of comprehensive mental health and behavioral programs that are presently provided by the state supported living centers. I have found that the programs similar to what presently exists at the Richmond SSLC are unique in being able to provide a safe, rehabilitatively orientated, effective medically managed, and resident and family focused environment that a private independent system cannot duplicate. I have personally experienced the failure of the private homes in the care of my family member. The member of my family ultimately was placed at Richmond SSLC where she has become a productive resident and has been provided with the best environment she can ever hope to receive. There is no substitute for the care and quality of services the SSLC are providing at this time.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: We need the same individualized care plans provided by the SSLC's that are in existence. There are serious safety issues which I have personally experienced with my family member and wonder why the Commission has not addressed these. We would need inspections and a system severe penalties for safety violations within the private centers. These do not match what presently exists within the SSLC now! The training and checks and balances in the quality of care at the privates are poorly organized, there are few vocational development programs, and few allow residents the freedom of movement and variety of programs that are the SSLCs. We need a more comprehensive cost analysis by independent agencies selected by family representatives to review the cost data comparisons made in the past.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree