

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Dawn Roberson](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Tuesday, May 27, 2014 8:04:40 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Monday, May 26, 2014 6:51 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Monday, May 26, 2014 - 18:50

Agency: DEPARTMENT AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DADS

First Name: Harold and Abbie

Last Name: Gottlieb, MD, MBA, ACPE

Title: Chief Medical Officer

Organization you are affiliated with: Memorial Hermann

City: Houston

State: Texas

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

We oppose your decision to close any of the State Supported Living Centers.

Our daughter has lived at the RSSLC for the past 9 years. She is medically fragile and mentally retarded. The SSLCs have a doctor on call 24/7 and a nurse on the premises at all times. RSSLC has provided her a sheltered environment where she can earn her own money at the workshop and participate in an equestrian program, special Olympic bowling and swimming and the music festival.

We have thoroughly investigated community alternatives. We found a group home with a treacherous staircase, no central AC, and a closet that collapsed when it was touched. Another group home had an empty refrigerator and freezer as well as a broken smoke detector that was sounding an alarm. At another group home a staff threatened a resident that if they didn't keep quiet they would not get any dinner that night. There is no governmental oversight at the group homes if they have fewer than 6 residents which leave all the residents vulnerable to abuse and neglect.

We have also visited several day-habilitations. We have yet to find one that offers a workshop or activities to keep the clients busy.

Consolidating the SSLCs is not a good option since it would separate the residents from their families and make visitation a hardship for the families. Although the SSLCs do have problems, the group homes have as many or more and lack any oversight to correct them.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

Keep the SSLCs open and bring in new management to correct any of the problems found by the DOJ. Reduce the

number of administrators which will lower costs and use the savings to hire more direct care staff and pay them better wages.

Provide better oral hygiene and preventive medical care to reduce medical cost spending per resident.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree