

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Dawn Roberson](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Friday, June 27, 2014 4:41:57 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 4:06 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Friday, June 27, 2014 - 16:05

Agency: DEPARTMENT AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DADS

First Name: Troy

Last Name: Greisen

Title: President & CEO

Organization you are affiliated with: Special Abilities of North Texas

Email: troy@specialabilities.net

City: Lewisville

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: I and we as an organization that operates as a non profit Community Based Center for persons with IDD support the need to fully close the remaining SSLC's across the state. Texas' poor rating in the US in providing care and support for this population is directly related to the lack of funding effectively utilized by the state by trying to manage these centers that are outdated and ill prepared to truly train, support and improve the lives of these individuals in a community based and inclusive manner. As proven in other states, (see US Senator Tom Harkin's Presentation to the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee "Separate and Unequal: States Fail to Fulfill the Community Living Promise of the Americans with Disabilities Act.") Medicaid and other funding can be used much more efficiently and at a reduced cost by placing funding more toward Community based programs. Programs such as ours are ready to accept the many with IDD that are on the state's waiting list for services, but need the funding support.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

Are any changes needed to DADS' mission or functions?

The DADS mission is to provide a comprehensive array of aging and disability services, supports, and opportunities that are easily accessed in local communities." COMMENTS: Not comprehensive. We don't receive services, support and opportunities other than outdated evaluations and reviews of things we are already doing. Our key responsibilities to the citizens of Texas include:

- Working in partnership with consumers, caregivers, service providers, and other stakeholders •
- Developing and improving service options that are responsive to individual needs and preferences •
- Ensuring and protecting self-determination, consumer rights, and safety

COMMENTS: We don't feel like we are "Partners." Only interaction we get is when a review is coming and they need information from us or we are trying repeatedly to get information from them. This is not a "service" we really need. We welcome reviews, but the reviews are based on things that aren't necessarily the best methods and what are most important. Providers of

direct care that are evaluated should receive incentives and recognition based on state standards and improving on those standards, and should have input into what those standards are and how they are increased annually.

Not sure what the "Service part of the mission is.

Page 2

Should the Legislature continue DADS in its current structure?

If the goal is to ultimately close down the state supported living centers, then that should be the structure and focus. Put the priorities into where the greatest needs are.

Please add any other comments about DADS or the health and human services system overall. If you suggest any changes, please provide: background information on how the current system works and a description of what you would like to see changed; benefits of your recommendation; and any potential difficulties that may arise from implementing your recommendation.

COMMENTS: DADS is nearly 10 years old and is due for a reorganization.

1) Become more grass roots focused, and engaged with proactive change, support and services to those delivering on a daily basis. DADS staff need to be better in tune and in touch with issues, needs, goals and operations of what goes on in the field and on a daily basis. Structure needs to be based more decentralized. Size of this state is too big and diverse to be fully managed from Austin. The primary mission should be as previously mentioned, the "SERVICE" portion of the mission. Services in the form of resources, reducing the waiting list, providing more funding, training, and partnering in the community.

2) Close the State Supported Living Centers or at least put major effort into putting state funding and support into REDUCING the number of persons with disabilities that are in these, given the absolute dismal performance of these centers based on ongoing and continuing poor performance and services provided.

3) Medicaid system is broke and needs to be fixed or supplemented significantly with other support funding, structure, and organization.

Requirements are significant and very costly to manage yet funding reimbursed does not at all come close to matching the cost of the required services we must provide.

4) Related to above, Cost Reports system is broke. Methodology, Type of service delivery, Geography, location, cost of living, quality of services etc all need to be factored in to how reimbursement rate is determined. A single statewide reimbursement rate is simply ineffective and detrimental.

For example, our typical daily costs for a traditional Medicaid client as a licensed DADs agency and based on the requirements as such, are approximately

\$72 per client, per day. Our "reimbursement rate" from the state through Medicaid is on average, around \$30 a day. That is absolutely dismal, and is

discriminatory against an often forgotten and silent portion of our general society and population.

5) Reduce the massive waiting list for services, particularly for adults as they age out of special ed programs in public schools.

6) Address the many causes of why Texas ranks near the bottom of all states of America in providing support to persons with developmental disabilities.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree