

**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 20, 2014 4:47:41 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]  
Sent: Friday, June 20, 2014 3:48 PM  
To: Sunset Advisory Commission  
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Friday, June 20, 2014 - 15:47

Agency: DEPARTMENT AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DADS

First Name: Maryland

Last Name: Hendrix

Title: Parent and guardian of adult daughter residing at Brenham State Supported Living Center

Organization you are affiliated with: Retired school administrator

City: Crosby

State: Texas

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

I am in support of keeping the number of State Supported Living Centers in place to care for the disabled adults like my daughter who has a mental age of one, requires 24 hour care, close medical supervision and is unable to vocally advocate or care for herself. She is 50 years old and Brenham SSLC is her home where she has received excellent care.

There is a need for both SSLCs and group homes. However, the best candidates for group homes are those individuals who are able to care for some of their basic needs, can advocate for themselves and benefit from social and work activities.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

A recommendation for the DAD's Agency is to review the action that I have experienced at my daughter's annual review where the DAD's representative insisted that all the staff agree that my daughter could be served as well in a community setting as the SSLC. As the guardian of my daughter I have the right to disagree, but those residents with no guardians do not. There are those staff in attendance of the meetings who believe there are residents who are best served in the SSLC, and should not be required to agree with the DAD's representative.

Each year there is a new group of hundreds of 22 year old disabled students graduating from high schools, who upon leaving school have very few options for group homes and sheltered work centers or care for the more profoundly disabled.. The focus now appears to be on reducing the number in SSLCs which is already substantial at almost 10,000. There needs to be a connection between high schools and DAD"s..I am a retired special education director of over 30 years and have seen little change in the

opportunities for those disabled students leaving high school.+

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree

**Maryland Hendrix**

**I am the mother and guardian of ~~Adrienne~~ Holmes, age 50, who lives at the Brenham State Supported Living Center. I am writing in support of maintaining the State Supported Living Centers on behalf of my daughter who like many others can best be served in this living environment.**

**~~Adrienne~~ functions at a one year old level and needs 24 hour care. She has lived at Brenham since it opened. As her mother and guardian, I have been close to those who have cared for her over the years, and know she has always received quality medical and 24 hour care that she has required.**

**There are certain individuals that include my daughter, who do not have the mental capacity to advocate or care for themselves that need the care provided by State Supported Living Centers. These are not the individuals who could best be served in small community group homes. For many like my daughter, the SSLP is their home and they should not be forced to move into community group homes when their parents/guardians know they need the care they are receiving in their current environment.**

**MOST of the individuals who are the appropriate candidates for group homes are not currently residing in SSLCs. There may be individuals who have some level of independence that are in the same age range of my daughter still living in State Supported Living Centers because there were no group homes or public education programs until HB 94-142 was passed in 1975 that mandated that special education programs be implemented in public schools for all children with developmental disabilities. There are cottages at Brenham that are like group homes where higher functioning individuals live that could, because of their age and years of this being their home, have a difficult time adjusting to a new home.**

**There is a need for both types of living centers for our developmentally disabled adults. Those who have a higher level of independence and the ability to advocate for themselves, are able to care for some of their basic needs and benefit from social and work activities are great candidates for group homes. Individuals not physically or mentally able to care or advocate for themselves, need constant medical care and require closely supervised 24 hour care need to remain in their SSLC homes.**