

**From:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Dawn Roberson](#); [Cecelia Hartley](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)  
**Date:** Monday, June 30, 2014 8:24:34 AM

---

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]

Sent: Saturday, June 28, 2014 10:27 PM

To: Sunset Advisory Commission

Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Saturday, June 28, 2014 - 22:27

Agency: DEPARTMENT AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DADS

First Name: Rebecca

Last Name: Japko

Title: Citizen, Guardian, Advocate

Organization you are affiliated with:

City: Brenham

State: Texas

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

I am writing this letter to protest the possible closing of Brenham SSLC. My sister became a resident there in October of 2012 and for the first time in her life she has a chance to have her own life. Linda has multiple medical diagnoses; including: mental retardation, wheelchair bound and has behavior issues due to her bipolar diagnosis. Linda has had lifelong issue of psychiatric behaviors that include becoming angry for no reason at all, screaming all night, tearing at her clothes, injuring herself, refusing medications and oppositional behavior to the point it endangers her life.

My mother (Hortense Jimenez) cared for my sister at home for 38 years and then I had her move closer to my home so I could help care for both of them.

For three years, I provided for their needs. The fourth year after their move, my brother had to move in and help supervise their care. During this fourth year it became apparent that it was no longer safe for them to remain at home by themselves for any length of time.

In the summer of 2010 I arranged for my mother and sister (Hortense and Linda Jimenez) to be taken to a personal care home for their own safety due to my mother's dementia (Alzheimer's disease) and sister's extensive medical needs.

September 9, 2010- My sister (Linda C. Jimenez) is admitted to Marbridge Villa, a nursing home for developing disabled adults.

September 22, 2010 (13 days later)- I received a phone call on Wednesday September 22 that my sister's living facility (Marbridge) was discharging her immediately and that the family needed to take her to emergency room. The nursing supervisor stated that she is a danger to herself and others. My sister (Linda C. Jimenez) was admitted to ER and order of protective custody was issued.

September 23, 2010- My sister was admitted to Austin State Hospital for two years.

October 5, 2010- Travis County Probate Court appointed me as my sister's legal guardian. I oversaw my sister's medical care at Austin State Hospital for those two years.

August 10, 2011-Our mother passed away from complications of Alzheimer's disease. Linda continued to remain at Austin State Hospital with weekly visits by my brother and myself. After our mother's death,

Linda's weight dropped to 95 lbs and a DNR was instituted due to her failure to thrive. My brother and I brought food and encouragement to try to help Linda regain her normal weight. ASH also changed her diet and routine to help Linda finally regain a healthy weight.

September and October of 2012-Despite Integral Care (Travis County MRA) efforts no group home in Austin would admit her with her behavior and medical issues. At that time, I was given the choice of my sister going to San Angelo SSLC or Brenham SSLC. Since family involvement is critical to my sister's well-being, I visited Brenham SSLC due to its proximity to Austin. My husband and I visited the Living Center and were very pleased with the facilities. I chose Brenham SSLC to be her new and permanent home.

Despite the fact all our family and friends are living in Austin and being lifelong Austinites ourselves, my husband and I decided to make the difficult decision to move to Brenham to allow me to be involved in her life and to be an effective advocate as well as her guardian and sister.

#### Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

I do not believe my sister would receive the same excellent care at a group home that she has obtained at Brenham SSLC. My sister needs round the clock care to ensure her medical and physical needs are met. The lack of training and low pay makes group homes unable to safely care for someone like my sister. As a former employee of BSSLC, I know the extensive training they are mandated to provide and group homes are not required to provide the three weeks of orientation BSSLC employees receive before they even care for residents on the homes.

Please consider all these statements as you make your decisions that affect real people and real families who only seek that their loved ones have a stable home and excellent care. I believe my sister is receiving that now at Brenham SSLC. Thank you for your understanding as you and your fellow legislators make decisions affecting the "least of these".

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree