

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Dawn Roberson](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Monday, June 30, 2014 8:40:31 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Sunday, June 29, 2014 8:41 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Sunday, June 29, 2014 - 20:41

Agency: DEPARTMENT AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DADS

First Name: Marcia

Last Name: Jennings

Title: Mrs.

Organization you are affiliated with:

City: Arlington

State: Texas

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

I strongly support closing the SSLCs.

I am the parent of a 20 year old son with IDD. He lives at home and attends a day hab part time and receives Supported Home Living, SHL, services. I am fortunate to have put my son on the Home and Community Services, HCS, waiting list at a very young age since it is a program with a very long waiting list.

Through the HCS program he receives sixteen hours of direct one on one goal based training per week. My son has made tremendous progress since receiving Supported Home Living services. He has learned to do many thing that I thought he would never be able to do. This program cost the state very little in comparison to what is spent at SSLCs. I utilize the consumer directed services option in which I hire the provider and decide what goals they work on. It has worked out very well for my son.

My son has had some very significant behavior challenges. Before I learned the skills to address his behavior I ended up in the hospital for two days and quit my job to try and address his behavioral challenges. He has benefited tremendously from Applied Behavioral Analysis, ABA therapy that I paid for. It was expensive, but worth every penny. I learned how to deal with him when he has behavior that is out of control and how to keep his behavior in line on a day to day basis. I mention this because the behavior teams that you mentioned in the report needs to have an ABA therapist as a part of the team. I would like to recommend Dui Lee, the Director of Behavioral Services at the Child Study Center in Fort Worth as an expert to contact regarding management of serious behavior problems in the IDD population. In my opinion ABA is a far more effective treatment than any treatment a Psychologist could provide. My SHL provider implements specific behavior programs with my son that were drawn up by his ABA

therapist. I also implement the behavior programs. It has worked very well for my son, his behavior is well controlled now. I tell you this to point out how effective the use of a small amount of state funding coupled with expert ABA treatment has been in keeping my son happily in his home. I cringe to think what would happen if my son was in a SSLC with his behavioral issues.

Please consider paying ABA therapists and using fewer Psychologists to treat behavior issues.

I think that the closure of the SSLCs should be occur more quickly due to:

the excessively high cost, lack of DOJ compliance, and the number of staff that exceeds the number of residents!

Why waste money prolonging this? All of the residents could be moved into the community. From reading some of the Sunset Commission's comments I see that there is a vocal group that wants to keep the SSLCs open. Please give weight to all the IDD individuals in Texas not receiving any services. Is not fair to continue funding the SSLC system at great expense and leave all thousands, far less vocal parents on a waiting list, receiving nothing. You won't hear from parents still on the HCS waiting list because they are not in the loop of services enough to know about this report. Many parents I meet don't even know about the waiting lists for the programs.

I agree with the recommendations in Issue 3 regarding day habs. I recommend reviewing and tracking day habs. I recommend posting a rating of A, B, C in the facility, as is used in restaurants to give consumers on the spot information. Of course tracking abuse and neglect is critical.

I strongly agree with the recommendations in Issue 4 that providers should face enforcement action for violations, doing away with penalty caps, progressive sanctions for repeat offenders, and terminating low performing providers.

I read the report, the recommendations were good, well thought out. Please ensure they are implemented! Please stop bleeding money on the SSLCs and move these people into the community. Monitor group homes and day habs on a regional basis and be serious about abuse and neglect. Criminally prosecute providers who abuse and neglect persons with IDD in their care and enforce fines. Insist on a standard of care.

Thank you for your work on this report.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

I recommend the uses of Applied Behavioral Analysis, ABA treatment for individuals who have IDD and serious behavior issues. See comments above.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree