

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Dawn Roberson](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
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-----Original Message-----

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Monday, June 30, 2014 3:10 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Monday, June 30, 2014 - 15:10

Agency: DEPARTMENT AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DADS

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State: Texas

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

Comments - DADS Sunset Staff Report
Submitted by the Texas Council of Community Centers

Issue 1

Despite Declining Enrollment, Skyrocketing Costs, and Questionable Quality of Care, Texas Continues to Operate 13 SSLCs.

Change in Statute

1.1 Require DADS to close the Austin SSLC by August 31, 2017

The Texas Council has not taken a position on State Supported Living Facility closure but agrees that DADS must work closely with Local Authorities to ensure all SSLC staff involved in decisions regarding services are properly informed about community options.

1.2 Establish the State Supported Living Center Closure Commission to evaluate the SSLCs and determine an additional five centers to close.

The Texas Council generally agrees with the recommendation to establish a commission; additionally, the criteria for determining which centers to close encompass the issues that would have greatest impact on individuals and families that currently rely on these services and the communities in which the facilities exist.

The Texas Council has long supported people with intellectual and developmental disabilities having the option to

choose where to live and determine their own services. To that end, we have supported legislative appropriations for reducing the waiting list for community-based services and authorizing use of diversion slots for people at risk of institutional care. These actions have been instrumental in reducing the number of people living in SSLCs.

Issue 2

To Transition From SSLCs to the Community, People With Higher Behavioral and Medical Needs Require Extra Support.

Change in Statute

2.1 Require DADS to expand crisis intervention teams to provide increased supports to people with IDD in the community.

The Texas Council supports this recommendation and agrees that the 1115 demonstration waiver provides an opportunity to select models that provide the most comprehensive, cost-effective support.

2.2 Require DADS and HHSC, in rule, to add a reimbursement level that incentivizes providers to open small specialized group homes for people with high medical needs.

The Texas Council supports this recommendation and believes that without a rate structure that adequately covers the cost of supporting people with high medical needs in community the community system will not have capacity to support people who would otherwise rely on institutional care.

2.3 Amend statute to require DADS to establish, in rule, the array of services an SSLC can provide to community clients and the fees for those services.

The Texas Council supports this recommendation as another mechanism to build capacity for supporting people in community-based services.

Management Action

2.5 DADS should leverage expertise at SSLCs to support provider in the community.

The Texas Council supports this recommendation.

2.6 DADS should strengthen partnerships with local authorities statewide to improve the number and speed of transitions to the community.

The Texas Council supports this recommendation.

Issue 3

DADS Lacks Effective Means for Ensuring Its Clients Receive Adequate Care in Day Habilitation Facilities.

Change in Statute

3.1 Require DADS to develop, in rule, requirements for contract provisions regarding basic safety and service requirements that its community-based IDD waiver and intermediate care facility providers should include in their contracts with day habilitation facilities.

The Texas Council supports this recommendation.

3.2 Require DFPS to track data on abuse, neglect, and exploitation in day habilitation facilities and report the finding to DADS on at least an annual basis.

The Texas Council supports this recommendation and adds this data should also be shared with Local Authorities for purpose of improving local oversight and case management services.

3.3 Require DADS to compile basic information and data on day habilitation facilities providing services to persons

in DADS programs, including data on violations and deficiencies found during inspections.

The Texas Council supports this recommendation and adds this data should also be shared with Local Authorities for purpose of improving local oversight and case management services.

Issue 6

DADS Consumer Information Website Lacks Clear and Consistent Information For Helping the Public Select Long-Term Care Providers.

Change in Statute

6.1 Require DADS to maintain a consumer information site on the quality of long-term care providers in Texas.

The Texas Council supports this recommendation.

Management Action

6.2 Direct DADS to improve the quality and consistency of information available on QRS for all providers.

The Texas Council supports this recommendation.

6.3 Direct QRS staff to coordinate with the Communications Office and other divisions as needed to ensure QRS more effectively meets consumer needs and is more visible on the internet.

The Texas Council supports this recommendation.

6.4 Direct DADS to ensure compliance with person-first, respectful language requirements on the QRS website.

The Texas Council supports this recommendation.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: See comments.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree