

Public Testimony on Sunset Advisory Commission Staff Report
Department of Aging and Disability Services

Submitted To: SUNSET ADVISORY COMMISSION, Convened Public Hearing, June 24 and 25, 2014.

Submitted By: Tom Kidd Kinship to an Individual with IDD, Citizen.

Austin TX

June 25, 2014

Chairman Nelson, Vice Chairman Price and members of the Sunset Advisory Commission. This testimony is given from a Native Texan, both from birthright and a duet of families with multi-generational histories. Recognizing the Committee's time constraints, existing anecdotal evidence will not be put across. New issues, not addressed in the Staff Review, and their recommendations will be offered. The explanations for each will be as brief as possible. General feedback for various items in the Staff Report will complete this submittal.

New Issues

ISSUE:

Guardians or Legally Authorized Representatives will necessarily expend efforts in planning their options after any Living Center closures. The resulting decisions will certainly depend, in part, on identifying the locations which offer the most comprehensive range of quality services. During the transition period, the stakeholder's duty will compel an effort to assure the most positive outcomes. Personal presence at the new living setting will be a consideration in order to monitor the progress of an individual with IDD, as they adapt.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Curtail any rule, policy, statute or initiative which effectively prohibits any community service location which offers the range of services that a stakeholder prefers. Disallow the creation by the Commission of any instrument with said prohibitions.
- Request to the appropriate authorizing bodies to identify provisions and the duration to be applied for equitable travel reimbursements to the Guardians or Legally Authorized Representatives, during the transition and adaptation period.

ISSUE:

An unanswered question remains salient: whether protections for the most vulnerable will dilute toward the existing social protections prescribed to the public at large in any diverse modern community. Marked indignities will occur just as the public's benevolent prejudices will occur toward individuals with

IDD. However, the public's moral sentiment regarding unmitigated crime can be addressed in this instance. The statewide scope of the Staff Report merits the Commission's acceptance of the issue on the same government level and within the recommended SSLC closure timeframes from the Report.

RECOMMENDATION:

- Initiate requests to the appropriate state government bodies in order to deliberate and form warranted decisions regarding perpetrators of an individual with IDD. Apply the decisions within the various criminal codes. Enhance the penalties and enter into statute to help deter criminal intent to IDD individuals.

General Feedback

Recommendation 1.1 Oppose

Recommendation 1.2 Oppose

Recommendation 1.3 Oppose

Recommendation 1.4 Support

Recommendation 2.1 Support

Recommendation 2.2 Oppose

Recommendation 2.3 Oppose

Recommendation 2.4 Support

Recommendation 2.5 Oppose

Recommendation 2.6 Oppose

Recommendation 3.1 Support

Recommendation 3.2 Support

Recommendation 3.3 Support

Recommendation 4.1 Support

Recommendation 4.2 Oppose

Recommendation 4.3 Support

Recommendation 4.4 Support

Recommendation 4.5 Support

Recommendation 5.1 Support

Recommendation 5.2 Support

Recommendation 5.3 Support

Recommendation 6.1 Support

Recommendation 6.2 Support

Recommendation 6.3 Support

Recommendation 6.4 Support

Recommendation 8.1 Support