

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 8:17:02 AM

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

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

Sent: Saturday, June 28, 2014 11:35 AM

To: Sunset Advisory Commission

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

Submitted on Saturday, June 28, 2014 - 11:35

Agency: DEPARTMENT AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DADS

First Name: Betty

Last Name: LeMaster

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with:

City: Austin

State: Texas

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

I am an advocate for the continued support of all State Supported Living Centers in Texas. I oppose the closure of any SSLC as recommended by the Sunset Advisory Commission.

I am also advocating that only elected officials be allowed to make decisions about the life and future of our own vulnerable citizens and their families.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Increase funding for all SSLCs to ensure their success in achieving all performance standards by all regulation entities.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree

Betty LeMaster, LMSW

June 28, 2014

**Sunset Advisory Commission
P. O. BOX 13066
Austin, Texas 78711**

Regarding: Sustaining Texas State Supported Living Centers (SSLC)

Greetings;

I am an advocate for the continued support of all SSLCs in Texas. I oppose the closure of any SSLC as recommended by the Sunset Advisory Commission.

I am also advocating that only elected officials be allowed to make decisions about the life and future of our own vulnerable citizens and their families.

I am a Native Texan and a registered Texas voter residing in Austin, Texas. I am the legal guardian of my older brother, Earl, who is a resident of Brenham State Supported Living Center.

Our parents were Native Texans and active voters. My grandparents and their families migrated to Texas from other Southern states after the Civil War. Each generation of our of family has contributed to the growth and development of our great state and believed every citizen and tax payer was/is responsible for ensuring the health and welfare needs of all vulnerable people are met.

BSSLC has been my brother's home since it opened in 1975. He is 60 years old and was originally placed in the early 1960's at Mexia State School and transferred to Brenham when it was built. He was born with Down's syndrome, at a time when this was known as "mongoloid" and the standard of care was institutionalization at birth. He lived at home with his family until he as 9 years old and placed at Mexia when his safety risk became more than could be ensured at home. He is rated as profoundly retarded. He is integrated into the community to the greatest extent possible in Brenham. He requires 24 hour care and supervision.

Can you imagine what it would be like for you, as a vulnerable person, to have your way of life for over 50 years be taken away; your home, your community, your friends all gone? The church family that knows and accepts you, the health care providers that know how to communicate with you, observe you and ensure your wellbeing all taken away? For your family-of-origin to be overwhelmed with concern about your future and potential risk for such a major change?

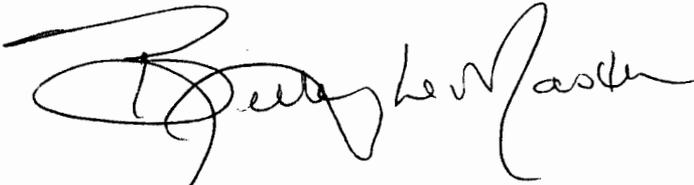
It is important to me that, as a concerned citizen and family member of someone living with developmental challenges, our state not only continue the current level of funding services for this population, but also increase supporting revenue to ensure their success in meeting all performance requires of all regulating entities.

It is important to me that my brother will be allowed to continue residing in his home, his community and have the standard of care that meets his needs. The care and support he has received throughout his life from the community of Brenham and BSSLC is exceptional. As his guardian I trust that is he cared for and is living in the least restrictive environment for his personal needs.

Please continue the funding of all SSLC in Texas.

Please only allow elected officials and concerned citizens make decisions about our most vulnerable citizens of Texas.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Betty LeMaster". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and "L".

Betty LeMaster, LMSW