

**From:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Dawn Roberson](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 24, 2014 3:45:49 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]  
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 1:39 PM  
To: Sunset Advisory Commission  
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Tuesday, June 24, 2014 - 13:39

Agency: DEPARTMENT AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DADS

First Name: Leda

Last Name: Lee

Title: Guardian of Teffany Lovell

Organization you are affiliated with: AuSSLC

City: La Marque

State: Texas

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

OPPOSE THE CLOSING OF AUSTIN STATE SUPPORTED LIVING CENTER

OPPOSE THE CLOSING OF 5 ADDITIONAL STATE SUPPORTED LIVING CENTERS

Dear Senator Nelson, Representatives Price and Members of the Sunset Advisory Committee:

My ward, Teffany Lovell age 40, has been at the Austin State Supported Living Center since 1995. She has ALWAYS received the best medical care possible as well as personal treatment. She is very happy at AuSSL and any move of any type would be devastating for her.

I am giving you some of the background placements Teffany has been to prior to moving to AuSSLC. She was at a placement facility in Tomball, Texas until they could not meet her needs. Her next placement was at an adult nursing home in Mt. Pleasant, TX until other arrangements could be made. She was then placed at Truman Children Center, Gladewater until they mistreated her to the point that she was always covered in bruises. I went and brought her home from there and with the help of Galveston County MHMR she was placed in a community residential living arrangements in Houston. Her behavior became so bad that she was sent to Rusk State Hospital for behavior evaluation.

From Rusk she was then placed in another community residential home setting in Galveston County until once again her behavior became very violent where she was a threat to herself and others. MHMR placed her in Devereaux in League City and the court admitted her to Austin State Hospital. She was in Austin State Hospital for several months until a vacancy came available at Austin State School.

Since she has been at AuSSLC she has NOT had the behavior issues that she had at any other facility,

especially the community residential home setting.  
AuSSL is better equipped to follow Teffany's needs at all times.

Teffany cannot communicate verbally her desires, but does understand what you are saying. Whenever I am with her she is always ready to "Go Home" within a short period and HOME to Teffany is AuSSL. She is always happy to see staff and gives all hugs and tells me "bye", which makes leaving her a lot easier on everyone..

Every year MHMR wants me to move her to a community residential setting, which is what the Sunset Commission would also recommend. But as you can see this has been tried twice and failed both times.

Closing any of these facilities would be a major mistake by the Legislature and I feel your recommendation to do so is not supported by any of the wards and their guardians in ANY state facility. I also feel that if the individual is a ward of the State that the State would be bias and not always do what is best for the individual solely because of the guardianship status. I would hope that I am wrong in my feeling as to the State Wards, but I have not seen any indication that the State Guardianships have sent an opposition letters.

I also oppose giving DADS the power to close any facility and not need to go before the Legislature for this decision. This would give DADS more power than is required. They need to remain an overseer of the facilities.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

Get a actual cost of upgrading sections that needs repair. If the state does not allocate money for improvements it is hard to correct any problems they may have.

Possibly take the section of AuSSLC that is not presently being used and see if there is another use for this section, possibly through the public section. Of course, the main campus would need to be fenced off from any public entity.

Also,I feel, the number of community homes and staff needed to operate such an overtaking if the SSLCs were to be closed would actually cost more than putting the money back into the SSLC.

Increase pay of all staff and this inturn would reduce turnover in staff.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree