

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Dawn Roberson](#)
Subject: FW: Sunset Review of Texas' Health and Human Services Agencies
Date: Wednesday, June 25, 2014 8:04:28 AM

From: Sharon Ley
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 6:35 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Fwd: Sunset Review of Texas' Health and Human Services Agencies

Begin forwarded message:

From: Sharon Ley
Subject: Fwd: Sunset Review of Texas' Health and Human Services Agencies
Date: June 24, 2014 at 6:32:39 PM CDT
To: Sunset@sunset.state.tx.us

Sunset Commission Members,

It has come to my attention that your commission is considering closing the state supported schools such as Richmond State Supported Living Center in favor of group homes or day hab centers. This is of concern to me because I cannot think those residents could have any better care than they receive there and I think it could be a very confined and possibly debilitating daily existence for them if you accept this proposal.

I am a classical pianist who gave the first "piano recital" at Richmond State School and have returned other times, along with many other volunteers from the arts community. It was memorable to me because they connected with the music in ways that made me know that it was communicating with them on many levels. The art department helped the residents to make a huge banner. It was an "event". In this day and age when compassion is sometimes in short order, it made me realize that these very special people who are not the first priority nor ever will be the frontrunner of a "cure" still need to feel, to touch, to listen, to learn what they can and be acknowledged for their hearts and souls and above all, not dismissed or separated because of their mental disabilities just because of an attitude "what does it matter" they don't need much. I liked the idea of a "school" rather than an "institution" with the interaction and activities for man residents. I liked that it seemed to me important and much easier for the state to supervise their care rather than monitor dozens of group homes and rehabs some of which will be excellent to okay but many can be very bad with unfortunately the capabilities of being just mercenary to fraudulent. Yes, they may be found out but the residents will be the victims. As for health care, I should think that properly providing these services would be much more expensive in the long run than that of the state school ...with also the question of whether they will truly see to it that the resident is served.

My hope is that you will truly consider the long term unintended consequences of your recommendation and that you are not being persuaded by lobbyists or special interest groups

that stand to benefit from your actions. I respect that your recommendations should be delivered and considered. However, again with all due respect, I feel that the final decision should be in the hands of our elected officials—the Texas State Legislature and Senate. Thank you for accepting my personal viewpoint as one proud resident of this great state of Texas.

Yours truly,
Sharon Ley Lietzow

Houston, Texas, 77024