

Stacey Mayfield's SAC Testimony

My name is Stacey Mayfield. My son, Andrew, is exceptionally well cared for in Denton State Supported Living Center. I want to briefly address here the Sunset staff report regarding issues 1 & 2 and costs. As Sen. Nelson pointed out, you do need the correct incremental costs of the SSLCs and the HCS Group Homes to be able to have a true apples to apples comparison. Not an average cost analysis. But in looking at this you also have to ask, what are the SSLCs' standards as opposed to the HCS Group Home standards?

First, regarding **inspections**, the DOJ and DADS inspects every SSLC. DADS does not inspect every single HCS Group Home. They take a sample of group homes from every private provider. So their standard level of inspection would need to be raised to that of the SSLCs. Second, I am very thankful for the **video monitoring surveillance system** in DSSLC. HCS Group Homes do not have this. They would need this to be raised to the SSLC standard. Third, if an SSLC resident needs to go to a **hospital**, there is a contracted individual there with the resident to continue to provide the same standard of care. The HCS Group Homes do not have this. When a group home resident goes to a hospital, they are handed off to the hospital which is ill prepared to take care of someone with IDD. HCS Group Homes need to have staff on call ready for this. Fourth, the SSLCs have an **independent** ombudsman. The HCS Group Homes do not and would need to have this as well for their standard of accountability to be raised to the SSLC level.

These standards can only be implemented through legislation because legislation brings about what DADS oversight fails to do. So, unless you are prepared to move legislatively, to ensure the same high standards my son enjoys at DSSLC for those in HCS Group Homes, it would not be a smart decision to tear down and rebuild what you already have now. This is not brick & mortar. This is a high standard of care accountable to you, our legislature.

More information legislation is needed to get to those on waiting lists that the SSLCs are a positive viable option for them. Utilize all services that the State of Texas offers, including the SSLCs, at it's optimum capacity.