

**From:** [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)  
**To:** [Dawn Roberson](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 04, 2014 5:19:40 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]  
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2014 3:57 PM  
To: Sunset Advisory Commission  
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Wednesday, June 4, 2014 - 15:56

Agency: DEPARTMENT AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DADS

First Name: Darlene

Last Name: Moore

Title: Legal Guardian and Half-Sister

Organization you are affiliated with: Family Member and Guardian of an individual who lives at teh Austin State Supported Living Center

City: Georgetown

State: Texas

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

I do not want the Austin State Supported Living Center closed. My brother is very well cared for at the AuSSLC. He lives at Castner Estates (Falcon Unit). He is profoundly mentally disabled and medically fragile with extensive needs that cannot be addressed in a community facility setting.

His name is Charles "Bubba" Kaough. He has been a resident of the "state schools" through this agency since he was age 6. He is now 65 years of age.

He has resided at the Austin State School, Travis State School, Richmond State School and now (after his parents passed away), he moved back to the Austin State Supported Living Center, to be close to his family who live in Georgetown, Texas.

The staff at the AuSSLC literally saved his life (from a choking episode).

You don't read about that in the newspaper, do you? He is in a wheelchair, has a history of seizures (which have been well-controlled at the AuSSLC), has a feeding tube which needs continual medical monitoring. He requires the services of PT and OT for monitoring his custom wheelchair. He has behavioral issues for which he has a behavior program. The staff at Falcon are very professional, dedicated and caring.

My brother has flourished in his home setting at Castner because of the customized services and outstanding care he receives. As a retired special education teacher and a former state employee as a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor for the Texas Commission for the Blind, and a Qualified Mental Retardation Professional at Travis State School, I saw first hand the failure of the community based services and group homes, which time and time again let soooo may clients "slip through the cracks" and end up lacking services, neglected and literally "on the streets"!!! As a family member of PART (the Parent Association for the Retarded of Texas) I have heard horror story after horror story of former state supported living center clients, both here and across the state, who ended up DEAD as a direct result of being put in a less than satisfactory living situation without adequate care and

supervision!!!

I do not want this for my brother. I take my role as sister and guardian very seriously and urge you to NOT CLOSE the AuSSLC!! It would be a tragedy and a grave dis-service to the most needy and vulnerable of our society!!!

This is a population of folks who are unable to speak for themselves and rely on family and friends to speak for them. And I would submit that whomever is trying to gain FINANCIALLY from any potential sale of this prime state property should be ashamed of themselves for trying to do so at the expense of the defenseless residents at the AuSSLC, whose parents and family members placed them in the care of this agency in good faith and with the knowledge that they would be well cared for in this well-monitored and protected environment.

Again, I urge you to NOT CLOSE the AuSSLC. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Darlene Moore

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: I would submit that positive statements and input from family members be sought out as a REQUIREMENT for any newspaper articles, Sunset review processes, and surveys by any related federal agencies. This would ensure a more balanced review with positive as well as negative comments. As it exists today, it is a "Gotcha" system set up to ensure failure.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree