

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Dawn Roberson](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Friday, June 27, 2014 9:06:31 AM

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

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

Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2014 3:10 PM

To: Sunset Advisory Commission

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

Submitted on Thursday, June 26, 2014 - 15:10

Agency: DEPARTMENT AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DADS

First Name: Mary

Last Name: Nelson

Title: Concerned Mother

Organization you are affiliated with:

City: Denton

State: Texas

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

My daughter, Donna Cox, has been in the State Supporting Living Centers for over 40 years and now resides in the Denton SSLC. Before coming to Denton SSLC, she was one of the last people moved out of the Ft. Worth SS when it closed in 1994. Donna is a total care person and on multiple medications needed to survive. In the 20 years that she has been at Denton SSLC, she has the care that we feel that she needs and that we want for her.

I feel that the recommendation to close state supported living centers is horribly misguided. Many residents, like Donna, should never be put in a group home. Because of her severely limited ability to communicate, there is a huge risk of being abused or neglected in a group home where only one or two workers are at any given time Donna has lived at the Denton State Supported Living Center in Denton for twenty years. During that time, she has received excellent care, been involved in daytime programs that she would not receive in a group home, has had excellent health care, and in what we felt was a very safe environment.

We do not want to see her living in a chair all day long, mindlessly watching a tv all day long. We have always felt that the staff has always had the best interest of Donna's care and safety. With every visit we make we have never found an issue and if we had questions, the staff always was able to answer them. We have never seen anything that made us suspicious that she was not receiving the best of care and treatment.

We have been part of her yearly planning meeting every year and our input has been acted upon when there have been any suggestions for change. At every meeting we are asked if we would consider moving Donna to a group home and the answer has always been "no". As a total care person, Donna is totally dependent on others to care for all of her needs. Donna can't walk, talk or feed herself. She can communicate when she is not happy about something.

Donna requires lifts, special bathing accommodations, and one-on-one. She has to be in a wheel chair. We have been so pleased with the care Donna receives at DSSLC and we that her safety and care would be greatly compromised in a group home setting. This is a very serious concern for our whole

family. We have heard horror stories about group homes in Texas and know that that would never be a suitable placement for Donna.

We believe that the opinions of people who have dealt with these situations personally over many years should have a major stake in how the recommendations are reviewed and implemented. We feel that closing the state supported living centers is NOT in the best interest of the majority of citizens living in the state supported living centers and would be a huge injustice to the most needful and fragile human beings that are being served in this program.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

DO not continue with this recommendation to close the state supported living centers. This is NOT the right thing to consider for the fragile and innocent citizens. Family members know what is best for their loved ones and those who have their loved ones in the state supported living centers have them there for a reason and that is that they are receiving the best care available. An "independent commission" is the WRONG way to determine what is best for this population.

Loving family members are and they are choosing the state supported living centers over group homes.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree