

**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 25, 2014 4:40:17 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]  
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2014 11:21 AM  
To: Sunset Advisory Commission  
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Wednesday, June 25, 2014 - 11:20

Agency: DEPARTMENT AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DADS

First Name: Rex

Last Name: Nutt

Title: Rex L. Nutt, PT, MS, D.Sc.(Hon)

Organization you are affiliated with: self

City: Abilene

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: I strongly support keeping open the Abilene State Supported Living Center. This facility serves a population that contains a large number of Texans with severe medical issues along with their intellectual and developmental issues. These Texans cannot be appropriately served in the private sector. They need the specialized care that Abilene State Supported Living Center can provide.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Increase the support for the medical care. Local hospitals simply cannot provide to their needs as well as Abilene State Supported Living Center.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree

**Rex L. Nutt, PT, MS, D.Sc. (Hon)**

Abilene, Texas

June 25, 2014

To the members of the Sunset Commission:

Greetings and thank you for your service to Texas,

My name is Dr. Rex L. Nutt and I have been a practicing Physical Therapist for over 59 years. All but two of those years (USAF) have been in Texas and 11 of them with Abilene State School, now Abilene State Supported Living Center. I was the Habilitation Therapy Director there for those 11 years. I have seen the fine work done by this facility to provide a home and surroundings of independence through service to our Texas citizens who live there and to their families who need the service Abilene State Supported Living Center provides. I encourage you to recommend that the State leave this facility intact as this round of closure consideration and recommendation moves forward. Here are my thoughts that I encourage you to consider:

- ASSLC (Abilene State Supported Living Center) serves 363 people that lack mental and physical capability to care for themselves.
- This local facility has medical care that the other 12 facilities lack; therefore, a large number of the residents are in living areas that provide special medical attention. Their cases are so demanding and severe that even our local hospitals have difficulty in providing the on-going care needed. Our facility does this better than any other.
- Residents are provided with the freedom to live a productive life with opportunities that private facilities have difficulty or cannot do. The goal with this population is to set and atmosphere of as much independence as possible; consist with their diagnosis and ability and Abilene does that.
- From the business side of this issue, as stated in the Reporter News, the Center is one of Abilene's largest employers with a payroll involving 1,340 workers. I have observed these workers to be a highly dedicated and professional staff, performing work duties that most people in the work force cannot or will not be able to perform. To do an 8 hour per day shift, day after day, with these fine residents takes special talents and psychological ability to perform well day after day...and some staff members have been doing this for 25 years or more. They are to be thanked and praised for their service to fellow Texans.
- The alternatives of private care are not the answer for this population served in Abilene plus the costs are such that most families cannot provide this by themselves. I believe those with medical problems seen here simply cannot find a suitable place in the private sector where they can live with appropriate care at a cost they can afford to pay.

- I encourage you to keep the Abilene State Supported Living Center in place as an place where these residents can live and be served in a way that meets the special needs of each and every one.
- Finances in the State of Texas are an important issue and care of those who cannot speak for themselves speaks loud as one of our necessary ways to spend our tax dollars. Please consider that those with intellectual and developmental problems depend on your decisions and recommendations to be able to live out their lives with dignity and proper medical and physical care.

Thank you for receiving my comments,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rex L. Nutt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "R" and "N".

Rex L. Nutt, PT, MS, D.Sc.(Hon)