

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Dawn Roberson](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Monday, June 02, 2014 8:30:29 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Saturday, May 31, 2014 11:52 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Saturday, May 31, 2014 - 11:51

Agency: DEPARTMENT AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DADS

First Name: Tammie

Last Name: Parker

Title: Sister and Guardian

Organization you are affiliated with:

City: Austin

State: Texas

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

Dear Sunset Review Members,

I oppose The Sunset Review Recommendation to close the Austin State Supported Living Center. I also oppose the closure of any of the State Supported Living Center's in Texas.

My sister has been a long-time resident here in Austin. She has received excellent care consistently and compassionately for the entirety of her life here. As a lady with Down Syndrome, her sixty-one years age is a testament to the fine quality of nurturing supervision she has been afforded. As some of you may be aware of, that is a very long life for an individual with Down Syndrome.

The staff, many of whom have known her for twenty, even thirty years plus all treat her with respect and kindness. They know her personality and can get the best results when there are less than fun-filled tasks to be accomplished.

I feel it would be an injustice and a stripping of my sister's personal freedom to uproot her from the home most familiar to her. A strike against her ability to grow old gracefully, with the dignity of staying in the community she has known her most of her life (about 55 years.) I do not want to believe that The Sunset Committee would take that freedom of choice away from my sister and me as her guardian after our father stepped down and let me take over. I feel incredibly disheartened that she may be robbed of her lovely home. That her world would be made much smaller by placement in a community home. Those community homes that are an appropriate choice for many, are certainly not for my sister.

Sincerely Tammie Parker

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Open the facilities and resources there to Austin, and to the community while maintaining the crucial (every single home) residences as there are currently being used.

Creatively use the lovely grounds and buildings for our neighbors and children's sporting and music venues.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree

June 25, 2014
Tammie Parker

Dear Chairwoman Nelson and Sunset Advisory Commission Members.

My name is Tammie Parker and I oppose the Commission's recommendation to close any of the State Supported Living Centers.

My sister has been a well, cared for resident at the Austin State Supported Living Center for fifty plus years and as a 61 year old lady, with Down Syndrome as well as multiple medical needs and overall health fragility, she is the picture of joy and wholesome happiness. I give credit to the ever watchful, professional and caring medical care she has received. The direct care staff, are always respectful of her dignity while at the same time using gentle redirecting methods to get the necessary personal health issues accomplished with little fuss. This can pose challenges due to her strong personality. While she does go the toilet herself and walks, dances and work, she has medical needs. She requires tube feeding, chest vibrating treatments, nebulizing as well catheterizing in order to fully empty her bladder. I am naming just a few of the issues that surround her 24/7 care.

The compassionate, caring direct care staff, some of whom we have had in the "family" for 20 to 30 years know her personality and work as a team to guide through her day. Some of her friends and roommates have known her for almost as many years. She proudly introduced visitors to her roommate and shows her home off with obvious pride. We can stroll around the campus without fear of being mowed down and some of the residents enjoy bicycling. She is profoundly intellectually disabled, and cannot read or write, but the things she can do are encouraged and she is always given tasks to that challenge her. She works on site and sits with her room-mates during meal time with her own activities to be a part of. She is not excluded due to her inability to take food by mouth.

As Jackie's little sister and guardian I am strongly opposed any forced change to her life. It would be emotionally, spiritually and physically abusive. My sister has an intellectual disability, and the right to the least restrictive environment. The needs that she is already dealing with will not be lessening as she and her peers, age. The issues will become more difficult and imposing. Community based care is the right thing to do for many but not my sister who has the benefit of a warm, loving, well-rounded community exactly where she is. I am within 10 minutes of her home and visit her regularly. Please do not take away her peace, security and well-earned golden years.

Respectfully

Tammie Parker

Guardian to Jackie Parker