

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Dawn Roberson](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Wednesday, May 28, 2014 8:04:07 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 27, 2014 4:38 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Tuesday, May 27, 2014 - 16:37

Agency: DEPARTMENT AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DADS

First Name: Nona

Last Name: Rogers

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with:

City: Austin

State: Texas

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

Dear Sunset Commission staff,

I oppose the Sunset Advisory Staff Report on the Department of Aging and Disability Services, dated May 2014, recommendation to close Austin State Supported Living Center

I oppose the Sunset Advisory Staff Report on the Department of Aging and Disability Services, dated May 2014, recommendation to close five additional State Supported Living Centers.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

I would like to suggest that Austin State Supported Living Center be allowed to remain open and be allowed to continue providing a 24 hour campus living option with all of the professional services continuing to care for persons with Intellectual Disabilities. The Austin State Supported Living Center should continue to have an infirmary with physicians, dental services, food preparations site, swimming pool, computer room, library, workshop, chapel, retirement activities, nursing services, audiology services, therapist, psychiatrist, psychologist, pharmacist, nutritionist, on site wheelchair design and repair, recreation/gathering rooms, and staff that provide 24 hour care for the residents living at Austin State Supported Living Center.

Right now, if a resident from Austin State Supported Living Center has to be hospitalized, a staff member is always at the hospital with the resident during the entire hospitalization. This policy should continue to remain in effect.

My brother has Down Syndrome, and Alzheimer's dementia. He lived at home until the passing of the last parent.

In 2007 I requested that my brother be allowed to live at Austin State Supported Living center so that he could receive all of the services in a campus location. My brother has received excellent care from the Austin State Supported Living Center and as his guardian, I believe that he needs the campus setting with the team approach of care. I am very grateful that my brother can live at Austin State Supported Living Center.

I would like the Sunset Commission to know that there are many family members who have loved ones living at Austin State Supported Living Center who are very distressed and upset with the proposal to close the Austin State Supported Living Center. A move away from their home would be very harmful to a person who is happy living at Austin State Supported Living Center. My brother needs all of the special equipment such as a mechanical lift, a trolley bath, a large bathing area that accommodates several staff to help with bathing, specially trained staff who can feed my brother, change and position him on a very strict schedule. There is a great deal of love, compassion and knowledge exhibited by the staff who care for my brother, and there are staff who are helping me to handle my brother's affairs.

There are committees that make recommendations about the care being given to the resident and there are cameras in facility areas that help with security.

I would like the Sunset Commission to consider the fact that the recommendation to close Austin State Supported Living Center would mean that in the future, there would no longer be an option to have a campus setting where all of the services for a disabled person are provided in one location.

I would like the Sunset Commission to know that research is being conducted to try to find out why a person with Down Syndrome also is prone to Alzheimer's Dementia. A person, such as my brother who has Down Syndrome and Alzheimer's will need many years of very intense care. Right now, Austin State Supported Living Center is doing a wonderful job of providing care to my brother. His needs change on a daily basis and Austin State Supported Living Center has all of the services right on campus to address his issues each day. In the future, there may be more Down Syndrome people who are in need of the intense care an Alzheimer person needs. In the future, the aging population in Texas of people with an Intellectual Disability may also need a campus setting where all of the services are provided in one location. It would be wise to keep all of the State Supported Living Centers open.

To summarize:

I am opposed to the Sunset Advisory Staff Report (May 2014) recommendation to close Austin State Supported Living Center.

I am opposed to the Sunset Advisory Staff Report (May 2014) recommendation to close five additional State Supported Living Centers.

Thank you very much for your attention to my letter.

You may contact me if you need more information from me.

Sincerely,

Nona Rogers

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Dawn Roberson](#)
Subject: FW: from Nona Rogers-Austin State Supported Living Center
Date: Thursday, May 29, 2014 5:01:23 PM

From: Richard Rogers
Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2014 3:02 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: from Nona Rogers-Austin State Supported Living Center

Dear Sunset Commission,

My name is Nona Rogers and my brother lives at Austin State Supported Living Center. He has Down Syndrome and Alzheimer's Dementia and is well cared for at Austin State Supported Living Center. I am his guardian.

I am opposed to the recommendation to close the Austin State Supported Living Center.

I am also opposed to the recommendation to close five other State Supported Living Centers.

The plan for Austin State Supported Living Center to reduce their census by permanently closing homes right now, along with the recommendation to close the Austin State Supported Living Center by August 31, 2017 is causing extreme anxiety among the families and guardians of Austin State Supported Living Center.

I would like for you to realize how difficult it is for families to try to choose another location where their loved one can be cared for. If one chooses a different State Supported Living Center right now, then there is the possibility of having to move the loved one once again, when other State Supported Living Centers are closed. The state of Texas is very large geographically, and the families want to be very near their loved ones. The possibility of having to move a loved one twice causes even more anxiety.

I would like to request that you try to provide a constructive way to keep Austin State Supported Living Center open, and all of the State Supported Living Centers open. One method would be to perhaps allow community members to avail themselves of some of the services that are provided at a State Supported Living Centers.

Thank you very much for your attention to my concerns.

Sincerely,

Nona Rogers

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 06, 2014 2:38:41 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Friday, June 06, 2014 1:41 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Friday, June 6, 2014 - 13:40

Agency: DEPARTMENT AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DADS

First Name: Nona

Last Name: Rogers

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with:

City: Austin

State: Texas

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

I AM OPPOSED TO THE RECOMMENDATION TO CLOSE AUSTIN STATE SUPPORTED LIVING
CENTER.

I AM OPPOSED TO THE RECOMMENDATION TO CLOSE FIVE OTHER STATE SUPPORTED LIVING
CENTERS.

My brother who has Down Syndrome and Alzheimer's Dementia has been living at the Austin State Supported Living Center since 2007. He is receiving excellent care on the campus where all of the services he needs are provided right there on the campus. The services include, doctors, dentist, nurses, chaplain, therapists, audiologist, and wheelchair adaptations, a pool, a chapel, and a computer lab. The therapists can map pressure points to make sure that a wheelchair is not causing problems. The staff are well trained, knowledgeable and many of them have years of experience working with people who have multiple, severe disabilities.

The Austin State Supported Living Center is in very close proximity to Seton Medical Center where care can be obtained in an emergency.

The State Supported Living Centers work together in times of disaster, natural or otherwise. Evacuation plans are in place.

Circumstances in life can change, and change very quickly. At the death of our last parent, my siblings and I took over care of our Down Syndrome brother who was living at home. We had private care helping us, but when my brother developed Alzheimer's Dementia, which is common in many people who have Down's Syndrome, the

private care could no longer take care of our brother, and we requested that our brother be allowed to live at Austin State Supported Living Center. Austin State Supported Living Center has been equipped to meet all of our brother's needs as he ages and the dementia continues to progress.

In addition to caring for the individual with a disability, the staff at Austin State Supported Living Center has been able to help me with my responsibilities as a guardian.

The families need the State Supported Living Centers to remain open so that all of the services can be accessed right on campus.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

I am recommending that the Sunset Commission read the Self Evaluation Report (September 2013) pages 272-276, Sunset Review Documents for 2014-2015 Review Cycle, 84th Legislative Session Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS).

The pages that I have referenced in the Self Evaluation Report, have many constructive ideas about how the State Supported Living Centers can continue to stay open and be of service to many Texans who are in need of the services on one campus.

Thank you very much for your attention to my letter.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree

NONA ROGERS

June 25, 2014

Dear Chairwoman Nelson, and Sunset Advisory Commission Members,

I want to thank you for letting me speak with you today. I want to discuss the State Supported Living Centers.

In 2007, I requested that my Down Syndrome brother who has Alzheimer's be allowed to live at Austin State Supported Living Center. Previous to this, my brother lived at home, and my siblings and I had some private help when the last parent passed away. His care these last 7 years at Austin State Supported Living Center has been outstanding.

I want to let you know that I am opposed to the Sunset Advisory Staff recommendation to: Require Department of Aging and Disability Services to close the Austin State Supported Living Center by August 31, 2017.

I want to let you know that I am opposed to the Sunset Advisory Staff recommendation: To establish the State Supported Living Center Closure Commission to evaluate the State Supported Living Centers and determine an additional five centers to close.

I believe that only the Texas Legislature should close a State Supported Living Center.

I am opposed to the Recommendation for the Department of Aging and Disability Services to: Require DADS to close the five State Supported Living Centers determined by the SSLC Closure Commission no later than August 31, 2022.

I believe that only the Texas Legislature should close a State Supported Living Center.

I am opposed to the sale of the property that is currently named Austin State Supported Living Center.

Even though the current immediate closure of homes at Austin State Supported Living Center is not technically a Sunset Advisory Commission issue, I must tell you that I am opposed to the immediate closure of an extraordinarily large number of homes on the campus. The families and Guardians have a very short time line to make a decision as to where their loved one will live. Please study this issue now, and if possible, halt the immediate closure of the homes at the Austin State Supported Living Center.

The Austin State Supported Living Center is equipped to take care of many different types of people who have an Intellectual and Developmental Disability.

My brother needs the 24 hour care of the doctor, nurses, therapists, dentist, nutritionist, speech therapist, audiologist chaplain and the direct care staff. In an apples to apples comparison monetarily, one would have to factor in this kind of care that is available at Austin State Supported Living Center.

One question I have regarding the suggested closing of the facility is: "Where will our loved ones receive medical care if they are moved away from Austin State Supported Living Center?" Right now, all medical

NONA
Rogers

care is received at the Austin State Supported Living Center, and if necessary, Seton Hospital is right down the street to care for our loved in an emergency.

I would like to mention that at the Austin State Supported Living Center, we were told that the problem at the center was that we could not pass some of the requirements for Medicaid funding. When we asked how the survey was conducted, we were informed that the grading is on a subjective means. This type of grading seems to be unfair to those of us who see what excellent care our loved one is receiving. I would like for the Sunset Advisory Commission to study this issue of how Austin State Supported Living Center has been receiving grades for compliance.

There is an active Volunteer Group at Austin State Supported Living Center. They have purchased a van, and a grant purchase of IPADS for some residents, and they have helped to support the staff by a cook-out and there is a garage sale room at the Austin State Supported Living Center.

I believe that if you carefully study the Austin State Supported Living Center closely, you will see that a very fine life is created for all that wish to live there.

Please keep this facility open as a choice for those of us who need all of the services on one campus for our loved ones.

I have provided Chairwoman Nelson with a description of the Department of Pastoral Care at Austin State Supported Living Center, provided by the Director, Dr. Paul D. Kraus. The 2013 State Supported Living Center Choir Festival was held in Austin, Texas, and there is a wonderful video on you tube. Please contact Dr. Paul Kraus at Austin State Supported Living Center to obtain the link to this wonderful video.