

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Cecelia Hartley](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Wednesday, June 25, 2014 8:04:03 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 6:51 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Tuesday, June 24, 2014 - 18:51

Agency: DEPARTMENT ASSISTIVE AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES DARS

First Name: Julie

Last Name: Ross

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with:

City: Dallas

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: I am writing to express my support in favor of recommended actions for DADS on issues 2 through 8, however I am requesting an alternate action on issue 1 that would fast track the closure of all SSLC by August 17, 2017.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

For Issue 1: I request that the State go even further than the Sunset Staff's recommendation to close the Austin SSLC and five additional centers while improving the remaining seven SSLCs. I suggest an alternative recommendation: require DADS to close the Austin SSLC by August 31, 2015, a select five additional SSLCs (determined by the SSLC Closure Commission) no later than August 31, 2016 and close all remaining SSLCs by August 31, 2017.

The State has demonstrated, as evidenced by the DOJ ruling, that inmates (residents) of SSLCs are not guaranteed basic care and safety but instead, continue to be systematically abused, neglected, and exploited. As reports of abuse cited in the Staff report can attest, inmates of SSLCs are safer in community settings. As the Sunset report noted: "All residents can be successfully served in a community setting, at a cost savings to the State".

While other states such as Michigan have successfully closed all state schools, Texas continues the terrible legacy of state-sponsored segregation of intellectually & developmentally-disabled persons. The time has come to right this wrong: nothing short of closing every last SSLC and returning individuals to community-based care can begin to ensure the safety, dignity, and care for individuals with developmental disability.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Dawn Roberson](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Thursday, June 26, 2014 8:44:39 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2014 10:58 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Wednesday, June 25, 2014 - 22:57

Agency: DEPARTMENT AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DADS

First Name: Julie

Last Name: Ross

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with:

City: Dallas

State: Texas

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

Thank you for your insightful, forthcoming observations and recommendations on DADS: these changes impact so many Texans, including members of my family.

I support all recommendations in the DADS Sunset Staff report with one major modification to issue 1 as noted below.

The State has demonstrated, as evidenced by the DOJ ruling, that inmates (residents) of SSLCs are not guaranteed basic care and safety but instead continue to be systematically abused, neglected, and exploited. As reports of abuse cited in the Staff report attest, inmates of SSLCs are much safer in community settings. Cost is not a barrier - so what is stopping the State? As the Sunset report noted: "All residents can be successfully served in a community setting, at a cost savings to the State". So long as stipends are available to families who might need to travel further to visit relatives who are relocated to community centers, this adjustment could alleviate those concerns of proximity.

While other states such as Michigan have successfully closed all state schools, Texas continues the terrible legacy of state-sponsored segregation of intellectually & developmentally-disabled persons. The time has come to right this wrong: nothing short of closing every last SSLC and returning individuals to community-based care can begin to ensure the safety, dignity, and care for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

For Issue 1: In addition to the Sunset Staff's recommendation to close the Austin SSLC and five

additional centers, I request that the seven remaining SSLCs be closed by August 31, 2017 as well. We can't speak of the promise of community for all people with disabilities so long as state schools hold persons captive. Let Texas join the other proud states in our nation that have chosen to end the decades-long, dark history of institutionalizing the "feeble-minded".

Close all 13 SSLCs for good.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree