

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Dawn Roberson](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Tuesday, May 27, 2014 3:52:51 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 27, 2014 2:20 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 - 14:20

Agency: DEPARTMENT AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DADS

First Name: Lynda

Last Name: Schneck

Title: Parent of disabled son at RSSLC

Organization you are affiliated with: Friends and Family of RSSLC

City: League City

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: I support keeping all the State Supported Living Centers open. I am opposed to closing any of them. The clients at all these facilities need the care they are receiving. The care is so specialized and 99% of this care can not be duplicated in the community. Dr. Stephen Croft who has cared for clients both in the SSLC and in the community says the same thing. It would be criminal to close any SSLC.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: I do not feel the Sunset Committee are serving the needs of this special disabled population by recommending any state supported living center be closed. Please in your recommendations take the future fragile lives of these individuals in consideration. As the mother of a client who has resided at RSSLC for 37 years please do not put his life at risk by closing his home where he thrives both medically, physically and socially. Thank you

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree

To: Sunset Committee Members 6/25/14
Re: State Supported Living Centers
From: Lynda Schrock

I am writing this plea to all of you, even if you are not on a committee that directly affects **Texas State Schools for the Mentally Retarded**, because you have a vote on anything important that affects our State and/or its peoples. For those that are directly on a committee, I ask that you keep the Texas State Schools for the Retarded open, please do not close them or cut off funding for the care and programs for this very delicate population. DADS (Dept. of Aging and Disabilities) have strived to deliver the best services possible to our sons and daughters. We have had some very bad publicity that has been widely distorted, no worse than goes on at hospitals for average people, nursing homes, schools and even in home settings. **But**, the difference is instead of trying to fix the problems, some special interest groups want to close the State Schools down. In other incidents where problems have occurred everyone bands together to help rectify them. That's all we ask of you to help us keep the State Schools in place and fund them and everyone work together to make the schools the best we can.

My son, James, is at Richmond State School, and for you that have no idea what rehabilitation and great care that he receives, I will point some out for you. James, has cerebral palsy and mentally retarded I.Q. of a 5 year old in a 49 year old body. He rides a 3 wheel bike all around the campus, when he arrives he takes his walker off the back basket and motivates to his many destinations. If he were in a group home this would be unsafe and that would take away his least restrictive environment. Now to his destinations, one being his workshop where he makes minimum wage 4 hrs a day, his own spending money (this is non-existent in the community for a mind of a 5 year old to work). There is a recreation dept. that plans constant parties, which he enjoys, on and off the campus, for the population at RSS (this would be non-existent for him if he lived in a group home in the community). There is a "Light Rock Café" for special occasion parties i.e. birthdays. There is a hospital, doctors and nurses and dental hygienist on staff for emergencies and for dispensing medicines. Therapy dept. to care for his mobility needs (these are not available in a group home). We have a state of the art Equestrian Center included in the photos attached for therapeutic riding. James has won several trophies and ribbons at the "Top Hands" Houston Rodeo. There is a religion center and other programs that fulfill his life. There are also psychology and motivation skills classes on going. A planning committee meets monthly (which we attend) to review his current and future programs and health issues. His living arrangements are compatible to his many needs

this would be impossible to achieve in a group home in any community. James enjoys his home visits with his family, which are often, but he is always ready to go back to his "school" and get on with his everyday living.

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There is many more ways RSS serves James, that is why he cannot live at home as I cannot provide it for him, plus at my age and health condition am limited. The reason I have compared my remarks with community group homes is because of all the bad publicity I was fearfull of the future of the state schools and wanted to visit and review what was available. There are many available but I do not want my son to lose the life he has for a room with 4 walls and no programs and no nurses to dispense meds. Some had what they called "day rehab" which was a room in the adjoining garage with one staff person for 9 clients (5 were "contract" from homes that did not have a rehab), no supplies, games, were just sitting around staring at another 4 walls. In this current climate of less and less doctors taking medicare, I fear whether they will get proper medical care or therapy. Others had other discrepancies. Also the monies go directly to the "owners-providers" and I wonder if they would be willing to spend any for the needs of these people in group homes. There is no policing or monitoring of these facilities. My husband talked to DADS about this and they said there was not enough staff to monitor on a regular basis, maybe they get to them once a year. Then, they make appointments, so any discrepancy can be rectified before they arrive. Our State Schools are constantly monitored randomly. In community settings namely group homes "who is going to tell and to whom"?

I would appreciate your support and funding of State Schools for Retarded. Please do not vote to close any State School. *(State Supported Living Centers)*

P.S. Please do not appoint a SSC Closure Commission.

Yours truly,

Lynda Schneck
Lynda Schneck

