

Statement from Judi Stonedale on behalf of daughter/ward Julie Isbell who currently resides at The Austin State Supported Living Center.

I have a 42 year-old daughter who currently lives at AuSSLC. She is profoundly intellectually disabled. She does not walk or talk and requires total care. She has Cerebral Palsy, a significant mixed seizure disorder which involves 4 seizure medications and a Vagal Nerve stimulator, celiac sprue, GERD, esophagitis, hypotonic quadriparesis, scoliosis, osteoporosis, and unpronounceable vision problems. With all of her mental and physical afflictions she was typically a happy smiling young woman, until she left Austin SSLC and moved to the community.

On more than 2 occasions I arrived on her home to find her unresponsive due to toxic seizure medication levels. Not just one of her seizure meds but 2. I rushed her to the emergency room. When staff was asked why they hadn't called someone, the response was, "I didn't notice."

There were multiple meetings with the provider management and many promises were made. We'll take care of it, this will never happen again, don't worry."

Then one night around midnight I received a call from a staff member on the home where Julie lived. They told me Julie had gotten into hot water so they were taking her to Parkland Hospital to be checked out. The conversation was very matter of fact and non-urgent. I suggested they not take her to Parkland since it was a large, busy county hospital but to the nearby emergency room where she would likely be seen quicker and I would meet them there.

As I was preparing to leave my place of employment I received another call, this time from the paramedic that was on the scene. He stated that in cases of abuse they had to take the victim to Parkland. He stated that Julie had 2nd and possibly 3rd degree burns over her right side, abdomen, and into her groin. That large chunks of hair were seen in her bed and that he had no doubt the injuries were intentional.

I met the ambulance at the Parkland ER approximately 30 minutes later. Julie was curled into the fetal position and would not respond to me at all. The group home where she was living did not even send a staff member with her.

She was eventually admitted into the Parkland burn unit where she spent the next 6 weeks of her life. I could hear her screams of agony from the painful débridement process the minute I stepped on the burn floor. She did not come out of the fetal position for weeks and did not smile again for over 2 months.

I honestly feel if I had not been able to get her back into the State Supported Living Center she would not be alive today.

The SSLCs are not perfect, mainly because they are staffed by people and people are not perfect, but overall they take good care of the dependent, defenseless individuals who live there. Please do not close the SSLCs.

Thank you for your attention, time and consideration.

J. Stonedale