

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Dawn Roberson](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Wednesday, June 25, 2014 8:02:25 AM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 9:12 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 - 21:11

Agency: DEPARTMENT AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DADS

First Name: Sherry

Last Name: Williams

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with:

City: Mesquite

State: Texas

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

My name is Sherry Williams and I live in Mesquite, Texas. I am the legal guardian of my brother, John E. Eddleman that lives at Denton State Supported Living Center in Denton, Texas and has resided there since 1976.

Over the past 38 years, I have seen a lot of changes in the SSLCs. My brother is well cared for at the SSLC in which he lives and I'm very involved to make sure that he is cared for appropriately. He has freedom to go about the campus and is offered many opportunities to occupy his time on and off campus. I believe that many of these activities would not be accessible to him if he lived in the community.

Unfortunately, community placement can change in a moment's notice. Group home providers can close their homes whenever they see fit and can refuse to care for someone based on their particular situation and the difficulty that situation may present in the care provided by the group home. Legislation is in place to monitor private group home providers once a year, but in my opinion that doesn't suffice in insuring quality care for the individuals in those homes on a daily basis.

I have seen many surveys on closing institutions, but really none that are comprehensive on what happens to those that are severely/profoundly retarded once they are moved to the community. It is just stated that the same care is available in the community as is provided in the SSLCs.

Some of my questions:

What doctors are going to be willing to provide care for these individuals and have the understanding of treating the Developmentally Impaired to care for them appropriately?

I personally haven't seen any information on this from the medical community, except the Speech

Pathologist, Barbara Rosenberg, that lives in Sugarland and has treated clients on Richmond campus. There are the medically fragile, but also those that have behavior problems, some due to lack of understanding of what is happening to them medically...what kind of care will they receive...not based on an assumption, but on the medical community's input. And where will that care be located?

What kind of care will group home staff provide to a profound/severely retarded person on a day to day basis. Society has supposedly come a long way, but I have friends that are mildly retarded that are still looked upon as not being a "part" of our community. Also, if the individual has behavior problems, will group home staff be willing to take him/her places or deal with him appropriately or will he/she be confined to the group home all the time. What happens if abuse or neglect takes place...one inspection visit per year is not going to tell the story of the condition of the community group home.

What will aged parents and families do to remain in contact with their family member?
By closing facilities, it will create a hardship on the aging parents of the individuals being cared for at this time. If they are moved to another facility, many will not be able to see their loved one because of distant.

I am 63 years old. My parents are deceased. I have a great concern for my brother's well being if he outlives me. The SSLCs provide security to me that I want for my brother if something happens to me. There are many eyes and ears that are in place for my brother's protection. I don't believe that is so in the community setting.

I thought there were some very good recommendations from individuals across the State listed in Public Comment section of the Sunset Preliminary Report.
I believe the time should be allotted to consider these. There are various things suggested to do with the campuses that are in place now that could help ease the financial burden on the State and help the Community providers, too, but would keep these facilities from being closed.

If these facilities are closed or consolidated, many lives will be affected to the negative in my opinion. Many times I feel that those who support the SSLCs are "voices crying in the wilderness". I do want what is best for my brother and those that live at the centers. I ask that you DO NOT close the State Supported Living Centers.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: None right now.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree