

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Dawn Roberson](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Monday, June 30, 2014 4:48:13 PM

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

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Monday, June 30, 2014 11:42 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Monday, June 30, 2014 - 11:41

Agency: DEPARTMENT AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DADS

First Name: Lindsey

Last Name: Zischkale

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with: DADS-- former employee

City: Flower Mound

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: I'm deeply concerned and disappointed to hear that the committee is recommending the closure of the Austin State Supported Living Center. I worked at AuSSLC as an associate psychologist from February 2012 to April 2013, during which time I became intimately familiar with the challenges facing the facility. The fact is, closing the facility only shifts the problems to the even more poorly regulated community group homes, and does a huge disservice to the residence. I was gravely concerned to find out that AuSSLC is proposing closing half of its homes before December of this year-- the community placement process should be rigorous and completed by those who know the individuals best, and this accelerated timeline all but guarantees this will not happen. The state legislature needs to set forth a clear, detailed timeline for closure as well as provide funding to ensure our most vulnerable population will be placed in facilities that will protect and respect their dignity as human beings. These individuals have the right to live somewhere they will flourish, rather than be shuttled off to substandard, ramshackle housing-- as is so often the case.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency: Form a dedicated committee consisting of former employees and experts in the field to delineate the community placement process. Ensure individuals who are too dangerous to be moved to the community are placed in appropriate facilities.
Provide support and training for family members who decide they want to bring their family member home.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree