Our next meeting will be Sunday, January 21, 1:30 – 3:00 pm

Our mailing address:  P O Box 1671, Richmond, TX  77406
(This mailing address is for the FAMILY association, not Richmond SSLC or Volunteer Services.)
Please check out our website at familiesofrsslc.org.
From President Louise Clay

Happy New Year to family members, guardians, and friends –

It seems we are having a real winter this year with multiple freezes which started early. A lot of activities are being brought to the residents in their homes because of the weather. Flu is a problem at RSSLC, as it is everywhere, with this year’s vaccine less effective than usual. From what I understand, there are residents in the hospital, in the infirmary, and in care in the homes. Let’s hope it ends soon. Maybe the cold will kill out the mosquitoes and other pests. We can always hope for that.

As you probably know by now, Richmond and all the other SSLCs are now under TX Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC). We were formerly under “DADS”, which was the Department of Aging and Disabilities. DADS has been dissolved and no longer exists. HHSC is trying to make the SSLCs more efficient, and they are paying a lot of attention to expenses. I wish HHSC would pay attention to caregiver absenteeism, which disrupts care and causes other caregivers to be “pulled” to work in areas where they do not know the individuals. Everybody hates being “pulled.” But staffing ratios have to be met. This chronic absenteeism would never be tolerated in the “real world.”

Christmas at RSSLC was a big event, as usual. Everyone got several gifts from Volunteer Services. And the public was able to view dozens of Christmas displays around the campus. “Project Noel” is an annual event sponsored by Volunteer Services. There were quite a few new displays, and others had been refurbished. All the residents got to enjoy them, too. Wild West in Houston gave a party for busloads of RSSLC residents, and they had a blast. Also in December was the annual Candy Cane Ball, where everyone got dressed up in their finest clothes.

Well, that’s all for now. Hope to see you at the next meeting on January 21.

Louise Clay  (281) 346-0346 home  P O Box 966
louise@pcm.net  (281) 543-0123 cell  Fulshear, TX  77441

TX Health and Human Services Reports Related to SSLCs

There have been several new documents released by HHSC with regard to the SSLCs. The most significant is titled “State Supported Living Centers Expenditure Management Plan.” The following summary, written by our member Kathleen Boyce, is a condensation of the multi-page report:

The State Supported Living Center (SSLC) state office, within the State Operated Facilities division at the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) provides proactive oversight of each SSLC’s financial status to operate as efficiently as possible and attempt to remain within appropriated levels for the 2018-19 biennium. An annual report of the HHSC’s efforts to operate within the budget was submitted in December 2017.

The budget appropriated $1,316,112,345 for all SSLCs for the 2018-19 biennium, which is approximately $50 million less than the 2016-17 biennial appropriation. This represents approximately a 3.7% reduction in funding.

Per HHSC, the 2018-19 appropriation does not allow the SSLCs to serve residents at current census levels without jeopardizing resident health, safety, and quality of life, so the agency requested approval from the Legislative Budget Board to move $38 million in funds to the SSLC budget for the fiscal year 2019. The additional funding returns the budget to within approximately 1% of prior funding.
To achieve the budget as proposed, HHSC will continue to focus on maintaining and eliminating the need for overtime pay, tighter control of contractual labor contracts, and facility management costs. A casual comment was made that HHSC will also explore the consolidation of facilities, and reviewing the admission of new clients.

Comment by Louise Clay: Also in the report was an interesting fact – it seems that half of new SSLC admissions are in fact readmissions of residents who could not be served properly in the community. This fact obviously debunks the myth that everyone can be served in the community.


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### SSLC Facilities Census Data

**State Supported Living Centers**  
**Monthly Admissions And Separations By Facility**  
**12/1/2017 - 12/31/2017**

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Minutes from November 19 Meeting

Meeting started at 1:32 PM with Chaplain Billy Guerrero giving us a Thanksgiving invocation. There were new faces in the crowd so we went around the circle and introduced ourselves.

We will elect new officers at the January meeting - Michele Arnold and Darcey Eaves will serve on the nominating committee.

Keri Falk brought Cooper, one of Faithful Paws’ therapy dogs. We celebrated with her - the one year anniversary of dog therapy at RSSLC. She is responsible for getting the program up and running and explained how it worked for the new family members. Once a month (4th Sunday) one to four therapy dogs arrive in the gym at 3 PM and for one hour allow our citizens (who come and go) to interact with the dogs. “Their faces light up,” said Keri, when our citizens spend time with dogs and the dogs are adept around wheelchairs. The Director of Recreation calls each dorm and cottage to remind them it’s Faithful Paws Sunday. Call your social worker if you want your family member to attend.

Louise Clay talked about the 500-plus employees who stayed on campus during Hurricane Harvey to ensure our citizens would have no interruption to their many services. We decided as a group to get a letter of commendation into their employee files and to create a plaque for the administration building.

On December 1, Project Noel kicks off. The Christmas displays have been popular with local children and their families for decades. Santa will visit the first two weekends of December.

Our 50th anniversary approaches. On April 14th events will kick off with a 5K run at 8 AM. The next day, Sunday we’ll have a picnic. Our group will help arrange but not pay for food - stand by for details on how you can help.

Nicci Byrd, Volunteer Coordinator, has been very successful with our Special Friends program. She is finding people who will be friends to citizens on our campus who have been abandoned by their families. These new volunteers go through our vetting process first. If you know of someone who wants a meaningful volunteer experience, call Nicci at 281-344-4525.

Thank you to Chaplain Billy for putting the chairs back in place and always being in Forever Young first to open that beautiful space for our meetings.

Respectfully submitted by Michele Arnold in the absence of our secretary.

Our Friends and Enemies in the State Senate

Here are the senators who sponsored Senate Bill 602 in the 2017 Legislative session - they think campuses can be closed and consolidated and it will be no problem. They only take calls from people in their districts. Does anyone have time to look up their political campaign contributors?

Sen. Juan Hinojosa (D)    Sen. Donna Campbell (R)
Sen. Brian Birdwell (R)    Sen. Charles Schwertner (R)

These 4 are NOT our friends!

Our friends are the senators who voted NO to 602. (See next page.)
# State Senators
85th Legislative Session

## Alphabetical by Name

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Contact information for the 4 sponsors of the horrible 2017 Senate Bill 602 (NOT our friends):

The Honorable Charles Schwertner
P.O. Box 12068
Capitol Station
Austin, TX 78711
(512) 463-0105 (TEL)
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Georgetown, TX 78626
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Suite 202
Bryan, TX 77802
(979) 776-0222 (TEL)

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Capitol Station
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13750 San Pedro, Ste. 250
San Antonio, TX 78232
(210) 979-0013 (TEL)
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(830) 626-0065 (TEL)

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(512) 463-0229 (FAX)
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McAllen, TX 78504
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602 N. Staples Street, Suite 200
Corpus Christi, TX 78401
(361) 882-0900 (TEL)
(361) 882-0901

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P.O. Box 12068
Capitol Station
Austin, TX 78711
(512) 463-0122 (TEL)
Shelly Verlander, District Manager
900 Austin Avenue, Suite 500
Waco, TX 76701
(254) 772-6225 (TEL)
Taylor Blackburn, District Manager
1315 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 116
Granbury, TX 76048
(817) 573-9622 (TEL)

Families of RSSLC Donations

The Resource is published to provide communications among families and friends of Richmond State Supported Living Center residents. Costs are covered by tax deductible gifts from individuals. Please make checks payable to Families of RSSLC and send to PO Box 1671, Richmond, TX 77406. Thanks!

❤ Our recent donors: Thank you!! ❤

Estate of Billie McDowell,  Jerry & Louise Smith
Patrick McDowell, Executor Hans & Margie Vanbrackle

We are a 501(c)(3) organization named “Richmond State School Families and Friends, Inc.”, a non-profit incorporated in Texas. Our operating name is “Families of Richmond State Supported Living Center”, which is an assumed name registered with the state. If you look us up on the internet, be sure to enter the entire organization name as underlined above. An acknowledgment will be mailed for all contributions. If you fail to get yours, please call Louise Clay at (281) 346-0346.

See you on January 21, we hope!