

The Resource



**Newsletter from
Families of
Richmond
State Supported
Living Center**

We are a charity devoted to enhancing the quality of life for our loved ones at Richmond State Supported Living Center and keeping our members informed about the facility and its services.

November, 2017

Our next meeting will be Sunday, November 19, 1:30 – 3:00 pm

in the Forever Young building by the chapel. Meetings are scheduled on Sundays so that you can visit your family member AND attend our informative meetings. For those who can't attend, a conference line has been set up. To use it, please follow the instructions below. **PLEASE:**

1. Turn off your television set, radio, and any other background noise.
2. Dial **877-226-9790**.
3. Enter the Access Code: **9 2 0 6 9 1 9** and then press **#**.
4. Press the **"Mute"** button on your phone so we cannot hear what's going on in your house.

Thank you.

Our mailing address: P O Box 1671, Richmond, TX 77406

(This mailing address is for the FAMILY association, not Richmond SSLC or Volunteer Services.)

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From President Louise Clay

Greetings to family members, guardians, and friends –

Luckily I don't have very much to say this time. This means there have been no new disasters since the big floods at the end of August. Richmond didn't have any flooding on the campus, but a lot of the employees' homes flooded. In addition to the areas in Harris and Fort Bend counties, the city of Wharton (in Wharton county) had terrible flooding from the Colorado River. Lots of our loved ones' caregivers live there and are dealing with the aftermath.

From what I'm told, a total of 504 employees kept RSSLC functioning during the flood, doing everything from round-the-clock caregiving to cleaning out ditches to facilitate drainage. It would be great if we could somehow reward these people, but we have not figured out a way yet. Since employees are not allowed to accept anything from us, perhaps we can do certificates or plaques for their departments. Any suggestions?

For Halloween festivities, the Forever Young Center created a fabulous spook house for the day before Halloween. It was really quite imaginative and well done. An all-day party was planned at the big gazebo on Halloween itself. There was some rain on Halloween but in just part of the day.

At the state level, the SSLCs are no longer under DADS, which no longer exists. We are under the TX Health and Human Services Commission under **Mike Maples, Deputy Executive Commissioner, State Operated Facilities**. He is responsible for the operations of the 13 State Supported Living Centers and the 10 Mental Health facilities. Mr. Maples has a long and impressive background. His career began at Corpus Christi SSLC.

If you know of anyone trying to get a loved one into Richmond SSLC or any of the other SSLCs, please refer him/her to our website, which contains an article spelling out the steps a family needs to take to do this. Our website is <http://FamiliesOfRSSLC.org> and the page is "FYI" (For Your Information). To go to the article directly, enter <http://FamiliesOfRSSLC.org/FYI/>.

Cynthia Fannin is back at work as Assistant Director after having "retired" at the end of May. It is fairly common for state employees who have met the age and years of service requirements to retire and then come back to work. The rule has been changed so that they have to be away for 90 days (it used to be 30 days), and the risk for them is that their old positions may not still be open.

State caregivers are paid very poorly. But they really have great benefits – medical insurance, lots of vacation and seemingly endless sick time. The number of holidays is atrocious and redundant and sometimes politically incorrect (i.e., Confederate Heroes Day). There is San Jacinto Day in addition to Texas Independence Day, LBJ's birthday in addition to Presidents Day, etc., etc. The one weird thing is that if holidays fall on weekends, they don't get them! I'm sure our caregivers had rather have fewer holidays and more money. Only the legislature can change any of this, including salaries. Thought you might be interested.....

Guess I got wound up and had more to say than I thought. Well, that's all for now. Hope to see you at the next meeting.

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SSLC Facilities Census Data



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

State Supported Living Centers
Monthly Admissions And Separations By Facility
8/1/2017 - 8/31/2017

Facility	Enrollment 8/31/2017	New Admissions	CP Returns	Transfers In	Community Placements	Deaths
Abilene	282	0	0	0	0	0
Austin	180	0	0	0	0	2
Brenham	259	2	0	1	1	0
Corpus Christi	208	0	1	0	0	0
Denton	447	1	0	0	1	0
El Paso	95	0	0	0	0	1
Lubbock	185	2	0	0	1	1
Lufkin	298	2	0	0	0	0
Mexia	246	6	0	0	2	0
Richmond	319	0	0	0	1	0
Rio Grande	60	2	0	0	0	0
San Angelo	213	2	0	0	1	0
San Antonio	227	1	1	0	0	0
August Total	3019	18	2	1	7	4

Minutes from September 17 Meeting

John Fowler started our meeting with a prayer at 1:35 P.M.

Half a dozen family members joined us via telephone.

We met our new Admissions Director, Bea Alonso; her experience is extensive and she understands how important Texas' state supported living centers are. We talked about Texana being a necessary step into admissions at RSSLC and their unfortunate prejudices about congregate care. We have 98 beds available for people who need our specialized services.

Louise Clay gave the treasurer's report.

Dr. Heath, our senior dentist, gave us a status report on a project that has been in the works for a year or so. It turns out that the exceptionally good dental care our loved ones receive is rare for group home customers. We have a pilot program about to start that allows our former residents (who were pushed out into group homes) to come back to campus to get proper dental care, which often necessitates sedation. We have an anesthesiologist and are fully staffed to provide great dental care.

Superintendent Al Barrera explained what happened during Hurricane Harvey. Our campus is high above the Brazos River so we were safe, as we have always been in hurricanes and all previous flooding events. A total of 504 staff members stayed well beyond their normal hours to ensure continuous care. Thirteen group home customers who did not have safe options got to join our loved ones on campus during the storm.

Steve Carter is the new unit director at San Antonio.

On September 1, 2017, DADS ceased to exist; we are now served by Texas Health and Human Services: <https://hhs.texas.gov>

Al received questions ahead of the meeting and that was helpful - email Louise Clay with yours for the November 19th meeting: louise@pcm.net

We adjourned at 2:45 PM

Respectfully submitted by Michele Arnold in the absence of our secretary

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!! ♥

Louise Alexander
Jerry & Louise Smith

Jean Glidewell
Dorothy Specks

We are a 501(c)(3) organization named "Richmond State School Families and Friends, Inc.", which is 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.

And thank you, **Louise Alexander**, for bringing refreshments to our meetings!



See you on November 19, we hope!