

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.

January, 2018

Our next meeting will be Sunday, January 21, 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.)

Please check out our website at FamiliesOfRSSLC.org.

Contents

Message from President Louise Clay
TX Health & Human Services Reports
SSLC Facilities Census Information

Minutes from November meeting
Our Friends and Enemies in the State Senate
Donations to Families of RSSLC

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.

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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.

The entire report is available at <https://hhs.texas.gov/sites/default/files//documents/laws-regulations/reports-presentations/expenditure-management-plan.pdf> .

SSLC Facilities Census Data



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

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

Facility	Enrollment 12/31/2017	New Admissions	CP Returns	Transfers In	Community Placements	Deaths
Abilene	281	1	0	0	0	1
Austin	179	0	0	0	0	1
Brenham	255	1	0	1	1	0
Corpus Christi	206	1	0	0	1	0
Denton	449	2	0	0	0	1
El Paso	93	0	0	0	0	0
Lubbock	181	0	0	0	0	1
Lufkin	296	1	0	0	0	0
Mexia	241	3	0	0	1	1
Richmond	323	2	0	0	0	2
Rio Grande	63	1	0	0	0	0
San Angelo	211	1	0	0	2	0
San Antonio	226	1	0	0	0	0
December Total	3004	14	0	1	5	7

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. Brian Birdwell (R)

Sen. Donna Campbell (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

27-Apr				
Vote on	Sen.			
SB 602	Dist #	Capitol Phone	Last Name	First Name
	7	(512) 463-0107	Beitencourt	Paul
	22	(512) 463-0122	Birdwell	Brian
No	24	(512) 463-0124	Buckingham	Dawn
	10	(512) 463-0110	Burton	Konni
	25	(512) 463-0125	Campbell	Donna
	4	(512) 463-0104	Creighton	Brandon
	30	(512) 463-0130	Estes	Craig
No	6	(512) 463-0106	Garcia	Sylvia
	7	(512) 463-0102	Hall	Bob
	9	(512) 463-0109	Hancock	Kelly
	20	(512) 463-0120	Hinojosa	Juan "Chuy"
	16	(512) 463-0116	Huffines	Don
No	17	(512) 463-0117	Huffman	Joan
	1	(512) 463 0101	Hughes	Bryan
No	18	(512) 463 0118	Kolkhorst	Lois
	27	(512) 463-0127	Lucio	Eddie
No	26	(512) 463-0126	Menéndez	José
	13	(512) 463-0113	Miles	Borris
No	12	(512) 463-0112	Nelson	Jane
No	3	(512) 463-0103	Nichols	Robert
	28	(512) 463-0128	Perry	Charles
	29	(512) 463-0129	Rodriguez	José
	5	(512) 463-0105	Schwertner	Charles
	31	(512) 463-0131	Seliger	Kel
	11	(512) 463-0111	Taylor	Larry
	8	(512) 463-0108	Taylor	Van
	19	(512) 463-0119	Uresti	Carlos
	14	(512) 463-0114	Watson	Kirk
	23	(512) 463 0123	West	Royce
	15	(512) 463 0115	Whitmire	John
	21	(512) 463 0121	Zaffirini	Judith

By District

27-Apr				
Vote on	Sen.			
SB 602	Dist #	Capitol Phone	Last Name	First Name
	1	(512) 463-0101	Hughes	Bryan
	2	(512) 463-0102	Hall	Bob
No	3	(512) 463-0103	Nichols	Robert
	4	(512) 463-0104	Creighton	Brandon
	5	(512) 463-0105	Schwertner	Charles
No	6	(512) 463-0106	Garcia	Sylvia
	7	(512) 463-0107	Beitencourt	Paul
	8	(512) 463-0108	Taylor	Van
	9	(512) 463 0109	Hancock	Kelly
	30	(512) 463 0110	Burton	Konni
	11	(512) 463 0111	Taylor	Larry
No	12	(512) 463 0112	Nelson	Jane
	13	(512) 463 0113	Miles	Borris
	14	(512) 463 0114	Watson	Kirk
	15	(512) 463 0115	Whitmire	John
	16	(512) 463 0116	Huffines	Don
No	17	(512) 463 0117	Huffman	Joan
No	18	(512) 463 0118	Kolkhorst	Lois
	19	(512) 463-0119	Uresti	Carlos
	20	(512) 463-0120	Hinojosa	Juan "Chuy"
	21	(512) 463-0121	Zaffirini	Judith
	22	(512) 463-0122	Birdwell	Brian
	23	(512) 463-0123	West	Royce
No	24	(512) 463-0124	Buckingham	Dawn
	25	(512) 463-0125	Campbell	Donna
No	26	(512) 463-0126	Menéndez	José
	27	(512) 463-0127	Lucio	Eddie
	28	(512) 463 0128	Perry	Charles
	29	(512) 463-0129	Rodriguez	José
	30	(512) 463-0130	Estes	Craig
	31	(512) 463-0131	Seliger	Kel

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

The Honorable Charles Schwertner

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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,
Patrick McDowell, Executor**

**Jerry & Louise Smith
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!