



Legislative Platform: 83rd Texas Legislature

Community Now! is a statewide, all volunteer organization comprised of advocates; Texans who have a disability, parents, grandparents, and siblings who see the potential for persons who have a disability and fight for their right to live in their communities with access to quality, community-based long-term care supports and services.

STATE SUPPORTED LIVING CENTERS (SSLCs)

- Establish an independent bipartisan realignment commission to evaluate and make recommendations regarding the operation and management of SSLCs, including enhanced transition efforts, consolidation and closure of facilities as the population decreases.
- Establish a permanent moratorium on non-forensic admissions to all SSLCs.
- Establish benchmarks and metrics for transition specialists assigned to SSLCs to ensure that progress on transitions from SSLCs to community settings continues to occur.

REBALANCING THE TEXAS LONG-TERM SERVICES AND SUPPORTS

- Direct the Health and Human Services Commission to develop a long-range plan to re-balance long-term services and supports for Texans with disabilities and select a task force comprised of diverse stakeholders to guide plan development.
- Designate all monies saved through enhanced transition, consolidation and closure of SSLCs and private ICF-IDs to fund slots for individuals waiting on “interest lists” for community-based services and supports.

ENSURING QUALITY LONG-TERM SERVICES AND SUPPORTS

- Ensure that all individuals transitioning from SSLCs or private ICF-IDs to community settings develop and utilize person-directed plans designed for their individual needs.
- Apply Money Follows the Person protocols to individuals exiting SSLCs.
- Hold individuals who abuse or neglect Texans with disabilities in facilities operated by the state or funded with public dollars accountable for their crimes to the full extent of Texas law.
- Consolidate Medicaid waivers into a service delivery system based on functional need rather than disability diagnosis.
- Personal attendants and other direct support professionals paid through public programs should receive a wage of at least \$10 an hour plus appropriate benefits.
- Expand Consumer Directed Services (CDS) options to all Medicaid community-based services and ensure that information on how to access the CDS option is readily available and accessible.

Adopted by the Community Now! Board (November 2012)

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