



COMMUNITY **NOW!**

CN! resolution submitted at the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities iMake a Difference Conference

Whereas: Confirmed allegations of abuse, neglect, and exploitation in the State Supported Living Centers (SSLCs) have increased 65.1 percent since fiscal year 2006 despite increased appropriations to the Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) to hire more staff and improve training.

Whereas: The Legislative Budget Board recommended to the Texas Legislature that by closing at least one SSLC by May 31, 2013 would result in saving between 3.2 million to 16.4 million in General Revenue Funds for the 2012-13 biennium, and would enable the state to concentrate resources on persons remaining in the system and redirect savings to expand community programs.

Whereas: DADS proposed appropriation adds \$27.6 million for SSLCs while reducing GR funding for community services by \$21.8 million.

Whereas: Texas Department of Aging & Disability Services is \$1billion short for the current budget cycle.

Therefore be it resolved that: That the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities advocate for the development of a long-range plan to transition the Texas system of long-term services away from unnecessary institutional placement and toward cost-effective home and community based services and work to limit the use of additional state funds on costly SSLCs. This goal can be realized through the creation of a realignment committee to depoliticize the issue of selecting SSLCs for downsizing. CTD should also support legislation that holds individuals who abuse or neglect Texans with disabilities under the state's care accountable for their crimes to the fullest extent of the law.
