



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

★ Abilene State Supported Living Center ★

OUR MISSION:
To empower people to make choices
that result in a life of dignity and
increased independence.

AbSSLC News

Abilene SSLC

Week of May 6th, 2024

Public Service Recognition Week

May 6th-May 10th, 2024

Monday - AbSSLC STAFF are "Out of this World"

Wear your favorite alien/Star Wars shirt, dress like an alien or Star Wars character (*work appropriate).

Tuesday - TIK TOK Tuesday - Wear your TIK TOK inspired outfit (*work appropriate) and be watching for our AbSSLC famous people making their way across campus to make you smile, dance, and probably laugh!

Wednesday - AbSSLC sTaFf RoCk - Wear your favorite rock & roll t-shirt!

SNOW CONES for 2-10 & 10-6 shifts: THE always amazing **Rec Crew** will be making their way around AbSSLC campus on the snow cone trailer. (Thanks to the VSC & Recreation!)

Thursday - AbSSLC STAFF are SUPERHEROS - every day 24/7/365 days a year!

SNOW CONES for 6-2 & 8-5 shifts: THE always amazing **Rec Crew** will be making their way around AbSSLC campus on the snow cone trailer. (Thanks to the VSC & Recreation!)

Friday - AbSSLC Staff are THE best Public Servants - Wear your AbSSLC/Department Shirt Day~ Celebrate the work you do at AbSSLC within your home/department!

1st Street Gate Reminders

Overall, the **No Badge-No Entry** process at the 1st Street gate has worked well. The majority of staff have their AbSSLC badge.

A few things that will help get you (and everyone else) through the gate faster:

- Have your badge ready and available to show. It's very help if you will actually roll you window down and have the badge out. Pointing at it on your mirror or flicking it up and down doesn't work.
- Many windows are too heavily tinted to see through. If you don't roll your window down, you will be asked to stop and do so to ensure your badge can be seen and verified.
- Gate staff must be able to match you and your badge. We have already had previous staff (using the badge that was not collected when they left) try to get into campus.
- You cannot have items in the back of your pickup – this also goes for your designated driver. This is not a new rule.
- Try not to act ugly or entitled. **Everyone** that comes in has to show their badge. Some staff act like it's a personal affront to them – it's not. If you would like to work the gate, you can see for yourself!

Emergency Phone

If the campus phone system is down, you can call **325.692.0606** from your cell phone to reach the operator.

AbSSLC Positives

Want a positive message to start your day? Text **AbSSLCPositives** to **77295**

We want to hear from you!

Click the [link](#) or scan the code to let us know your questions or tell us your ideas and thoughts to make AbSSLC an even better place to live & work!



Dialing 911

You can dial **9+911** or just **911** from any campus phone to reach emergency services.

Shout Outs!

I would like to shout out the housekeeper on home 5971! Kei has become a vital part of home 5971, from interacting with those that live there to providing a clean environment. Kei has a very positive attitude, and it trickles down to the staff and the individuals on the home. We are very grateful & blessed to have Kei apart of home 5971!

I would like to shout out all the **DSPs** that float on a daily basis and also do POT. The assistance you offer to a home in need does not go unnoticed, we do appreciate you.

Big thankful SHOUT OUT to the **Transportation** department. They are very busy but somehow magically can bring people to Audiology when scheduled!! Thank you so much for making my schedule work!!!

I would like to shout out **Lara Kennedy**, BHS. We had a client who had a pre-admission meeting, and she sent me a referral immediately. We were able to get this person scheduled for counseling immediately. This will make a huge difference for him because he has been through extensive trauma.

I want to shout out **Kimberly T.** at 5961 Walnut. She exhibits a lot of care for the residents and knows each of them very well. She shares that knowledge with those working with her and I've seen her going over what to do in different behavior scenarios with other staff. She makes sure the guy's rooms are tidy and encourages them to do as much for themselves as possible. She also does an excellent job as shift lead and makes sure people get rotated in and out of 1 to 1 and communicates effectively with her peers to get the job done, no matter what it is. She is truly an asset to the campus.

I would like to give a Shout Out to **Elizabeth Chacon** and **Luisa Hernandez**. They both searched through countless fire drills trying to locate specific information for a record's request. This extra work they did was done in conjunction with their regular daily job duties. Thank you both for making my job easier.

Big amazed SHOUT OUT for **Bennie Matthews**, 2-10 staff at 6710 Circle Drive. He came with an individual to Audiology as a preferred staff and he proved to be worth his weight in gold! This individual, who for several years had refused to enter the Sound Room or allow other testing, cooperated for ALL!!! I give all the credit to Mr. Matthews who obviously has a fantastic relationship with the individual. Thank you, thank you for making this Audiology visit a success!

Jeff Branch sent this message out via email but many wouldn't have the opportunity to see it. We wanted to ensure everyone did.

Just need to share some things on my heart. I was graciously asked to be a judge for the talent show this morning. Honestly, I was not terribly excited but agreed. It was one of the best decisions I've made in a long time. Being able to observe closely was such a gift. It's easy to be overwhelmed by the challenges we face in our lives and especially here at work. Today, was a beautiful reminder of why we do what we do. I was incredibly proud of our AbSSLC family today. Some things I saw that really touched me:

- There were a lot of people who were there to participate and observe. That's a huge undertaking and it takes a true team effort.
- I saw many people who live here who were willing to take a risk. For many of us, performing or even presenting in front of others is hard. It's beautiful to see people who are willing to take the risk and share their gift. It's beautiful to see their gift celebrated.
- I saw many people who work here who were willing to take a risk. It's pretty clear that we have staff who give not only of their time and energy, but of their heart.
- Overall, people who live here looked very nice, very clean, and highly respected.
- I saw many of our staff in the audience engaging people who live here in a meaningful way.
- People were having fun. We need that!

Thank you to all the home and program staff who gave of their time, energy, and heart. Thank you to all of those who assisted in transporting people. Thank you to those of you who adapted schedules to make this happen.

May God bless us everyone.

Jeff Branch, Director of Residential Services

Shout Out!

Have you seen someone do the above & beyond or just want to recognize great work?

It's easy to do a Shout Out!

- Email Jeff Goza with their name and your comments
- Text their name and your comments to 325.370.4525

Let's Shout Out and recognize others!

Kudos and HUGE Shout Out to **Vera** and **Amanda** for putting their creativity to work to make the Imagination Corner Library come to life. It looks great and the open house was a huge hit! Thank you and GREAT JOB to everyone involved in making it happen! Thank you to the **Rec/Hab/Activity Center Crew** for the snow cones & popcorn! We have THE most creative, dedicated, and supportive staff at AbSSLC!

Imagination Corner Library



Abilene Volunteer Services Council has a BIG plan for a BIG project at Abilene State Supported Living Center!

We need YOUR help during
*** ABILENE GIVES 2024 ***
to make it happen!

Tuesday, May 7th, 8am-8pm

How to Donate

Online: abilenegives.org

Look for/click on: **Abilene Volunteer Services Council**
Click on **DONATE** and follow the directions.

or

Scan the QR code



Scan the QR Code
to Donate!

Donations are tax deductible & 100% of your donation will benefit the people we serve at AbSSLC!

VSC Mission: To improve the quality of life for the people served by the Abilene State Supported Living Center

