



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 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**Remember that your AbSSLC Name Badge must be presented at the gate for entry and visible at all times while on campus**

### Settlement Agreement Monitoring Team Visit

Another week, another review. This week, we will be hosting the Settlement Agreement Monitoring Team (SAMT) for their 21<sup>st</sup> Compliance Visit - aka CV21. The review team will be on-site beginning today (Monday, 05/20/2024) and leaving Thursday (05/23/2024) - conducting their regular 9-month review. Here is some additional information regarding the visit for anyone who may be interested.

There will be a number of monitors physically on-site with additional team members who will also be participating remotely.

#### What will they be doing?

While much of the review takes place off-site as the monitoring team reviews records submitted by the center, the on-site portion of the visit will consist of:

1. Observations (i.e. – Mealtime, Engagement, SAPs)
2. Interviews with individuals and staff
3. Attendance at facility meetings
4. Additional record requests and reviews

The on-site review consists of all homes and program areas, however, a sample of individuals was selected by the monitoring team for a closer review. If you are at one of the below homes, it is likely you will interact with a monitor during their visit.

#### Why do we have to be reviewed by this monitoring team?

After deficient practices were found at the SSLCs, the State of Texas entered into a Settlement Agreement with the Department of Justice (DOJ) in 2009 to avoid the uncertainties of litigation. As part of the Settlement Agreement, independent court monitors regularly review each center's processes and practices. The state is working alongside the Settlement Agreement Monitoring Team to prepare to transition this monitoring to specially trained State Office reviewers. We hope to see this transition take place in the near future.

If you have any questions regarding this review, please do not hesitate to contact Quality Assurance! We know we have had so many different visitors on campus recently, and we appreciate your continued efforts as we host these reviews. This, hopefully, will be our last major review for a little while. Keep doing what you always do, and no doubt we will have another successful review.

### Pickup Beds/Toolboxes/Covers

Please remember that all pickups must come to a full stop at the Entry Gate so staff can ensure there is not anything dangerous in the bed of the truck. All toolboxes and bed covers must be securely locked to prevent access.

### Calling 911

If you accidentally call 911 (it happens more than you would think), please don't just hang up. Stay on the line with the dispatcher and let them know the call was an accident.

If an Individual calls 911 due to a behavior, try to let the dispatcher know it's not an emergency. It's also good to call our Switchboard to let them know about it.

### Pulse of the People Newsletter

The **Pulse of the People** newsletter is published bi-monthly by the Employee Advisory Committee (EAC). Sign up here to get yours!

<https://forms.office.com/r/pc2bazN4hT>

### 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!



# Shout Outs!

Just wanted to mention that during a behavior crisis code earlier, **Daniel** (BHS Coach) was doing a great job of teaching the 5961 Walnut staff more effective ways of maneuvering with the Ukeru pads in addition to modeling appropriate response and reminding them not to say anything during the aggression; they took his direction well. I couldn't give him the praise in that moment, but he deserves some!

The **WORLD Famous 5th Street Diner** has some GREAT food ... BUT that's NOTHING on the AMAZING crew we are blessed to have working at the Diner! Thank you, **5th Street Diner crew** for always being fabulous! We are thankful for you, and we appreciate YOU, your talent, and all you do!

I want to say thank you to **everyone** that brought their vehicles to the recent inventory drive. We had such a great turn-out, we don't have to do another one. 😊. Shout out to **Joseph** and **JT** for their help in making it a success. Also, to the MULTIPLE people in different departments offering to bring water and to set up tents. You are all amazing!

I would like to give a shout out to **Sha'kolbi McCalister**, for being an amazing leader and worker. Also for utilizing her training not only to help our residents but in the community as well when she assisted in an emergency while having breakfast at a restaurant.

Shout Out to **Ricky Watkins** (5961/5962 Walnut)! His caring for the young men he serves is very evident. One of the AISD teachers said this about him. "Ricky is the best of the best. I never worry about students when he is here." I have also received calls from AISD staff, talking about how patient he is and how well he handles behavioral crises. Thank you Ricky!

**CONGRATULATIONS to all.** As a facility we have successfully completed 68 ISP goals for 59 individuals in the past 9 months. This is a huge accomplishment for us as we previously only complete 9. Second to be proud of is there is 98% of individuals that currently have a goal in all 5 areas of leisure, relationship, work, independence and living. This is compared to the last DOJ visit where 71% of individuals did not have 5 goals. These two areas are something to be proud of, the individuals have benefited the most from these 2 accomplishments. WAY to go each and every one of you!

Shout Out and Thank You for **EVERYONE** involved in creating a spectacular Pep Rally last Wednesday afternoon! The Rally sent off the AbSSLC Tiger Team athletes in pride and provided an opportunity to thank our dedicated staff for their hard work for this week's DOJ review! Pictured are members of the Wylie ISD Jazz Band and the Roscoe ISD Cheerleaders (along with Patty!) who provided us with music, support and spirit during the Rally! With volunteer David Batiz as Emcee and several departments creating customized cheers ... positive energy for success was welcomed on our campus!



Shout Out to the staff that intervened in a situation during the Pep Rally last week! **Ashley Marrow, Emily Jenkins, Brittany New, Jamie Wade, Mon Gurung, Keri McClure, Torrey Williams, Joanne Josselet, Justin Rivera** and **Barbara Marrow-Hale** quickly responded to the incident and ensured everyone was separated and safe. Thanks to their quick action, the Pep Rally was able to continue with little to no interruption.

BIG shout out to our **Welders** and **Grounds crew** for making the "Curley Shuffle" move at 6380 7<sup>th</sup> Street go smoothly last week! The 6380 staff were so helpful and patient! WOW!

I want to shout out ALL of the lovely ladies in the Hiring Office – **Shelia, Cindi** and **Jennifer**. They are always willing to step in and help out in so many ways. They are all very much appreciated!

Let's **Shout Out** and recognize others!

It's easy to do a Shout Out! **Email** Jeff Goza with their name and your comments or **Text** their name and your comments to 325.370.4525