



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

December 18, 2012

**CONTACT:**

Beth Mitchell, Supervising Attorney

512-407-2715

[bmitchell@drtx.org](mailto:bmitchell@drtx.org)

**LATEST REPORT FOR RIO GRANDE STATE SUPPORTED LIVING CENTER INDICATES  
MINIMAL COMPLIANCE IN ALL BASIC HEALTH AND SAFETY PROVISIONS**

*Total Compliance Deadline Passes for all SSLC's in Texas with None Making the Grade*

**AUSTIN, TX** – The Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) released its latest monitoring report indicating people with intellectual and developmental disabilities living in the Rio Grande State Supported Living Center (SSLC) in Harlingen remain at high risk for abuse and neglect due to the facility's continued noncompliance on many basic health and safety provisions.

The facility made slight progress since the last report, with overall compliance increasing from 13.85 percent to 18.35 percent. However, the deadline for 100 percent compliance in all monitoring provisions, but for two which relate only to records for these SSLC's, was June 26, 2012. All of the SSLCs in Texas have fallen significantly short of achieving total compliance as of that date, with current total compliance at 25 percent or less for all facilities.

The Rio Grande facility continues to show limited improvements in many areas. Some of the areas of significant failure reported at the Rio Grande SSLC are:

- Individuals were not consistently provided with interventions to minimize regression and/or enhance current abilities and skills.
- Restraints occurred that were not in accordance with applicable written policies, procedures, and plans governing restraint use.
- Corrective Action Plans (CAPs) designated as high urgency are not completed in a timely manner.
- No evidence that Interdisciplinary Teams (IDTs) were skilled at identifying preferences or at identifying supports and services that addressed preferences in a meaningful way.
- The Facility did not always adequately respond to individuals who had a change in health status.
- The Facility needs to develop and implement a system to monitor the prescriptions of polypharmacy.
- There were substantial delays in the implementation of Positive Behavioral Support Plans (PBSPs).
- Deficiencies remained with regards to monitoring and following up on individuals who were at risk for bowel impaction and obstruction.
- Care plans related to active medical problems were not specifically individualized to meet individuals' needs.
- Staff was observed not implementing Physical Nutritional Management Plans (PNMPs) or displaying safe practices that minimize the risk of Physical Nutrition Management (PNM) decline. Per interview, staff was not knowledgeable of the plans and why the proposed strategies were relevant to the individuals' well being.
- At the time of this review, the Facility did not have a formal dental office, or appropriate staff assigned to oversee the delivery and outcomes of dental services.

- Augmentative and Assistive Communication (AAC) devices were not consistently available to the individuals and not consistently utilized by individuals.
- Even when individual preferences were identified, the ISP reflected decisions counter to those preferences.

“This latest report emphasizes the fact that the SSLCs are continuing to fail to meet the most basic health and safety needs of residents and that facilities are regressing rather than progressing in their ability to provide care and treatment,” said Beth Mitchell, supervising attorney for Disability Rights Texas, the federally designated legal protection and advocacy agency for Texans with disabilities.

“And now, as the deadline for 100 percent compliance has passed, all facilities are still significantly behind where they should be in improving the protections, supports, and services they provide to individuals under their care,” Mitchell added.

Visit <http://www.dads.state.tx.us/monitors/reports/index.html> for view the latest DOJ monitoring reports for SSLCs in Texas.

For additional information on how all the state supported living centers are performing, visit the Disability Rights Texas onsite Press Room at [www.disabilityrightstx.org/who-we-are/press-room/](http://www.disabilityrightstx.org/who-we-are/press-room/).

###

*Disability Rights Texas (formerly named Advocacy Inc.) is a nonprofit organization that protects and advances the legal, human and service rights of Texans with a broad range of disabilities. Disability Rights Texas is federally funded and designated as the protection and advocacy agency (P&A) for the state of Texas.*