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**RICHMOND FACILITY FOR PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
FAILS TO REACH COMPLIANCE AFTER 3 YEARS OF MONITORING BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

RESIDENTS REMAIN AT HIGH RISK FOR ABUSE AND NEGLECT

AUSTIN—According to the latest U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) monitoring report for the Richmond State Supported Living Center (SSLC) located near Houston and operated by the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS), the facility remains out of compliance in 134 out of 171 areas after more than three years of efforts to improve.

The facility achieved negligible progress since its last full review six months prior, with current overall compliance moving from 16.43 to 16.98 percent. The Richmond SSLC has been unable to reach compliance in most sections of the DOJ Settlement Agreement, including vital areas such as medical care, nursing care and nutrition.

In fact, all SSLCs in Texas have fallen significantly short of achieving total compliance though the deadline for doing so in all monitoring provisions, but for two which relate only to records, was June 26, 2012. **Current total compliance for all facilities is at 25 percent or less.**

“The lack of progress at the SSLC in Richmond is alarming as it still fails to meet most of the basic health and safety needs of residents,” said Haley Watkins, advocate supervisor for Disability Rights Texas (DRTx), the federally designated legal protection and advocacy agency for Texans with disabilities. “And now that the deadline for 100 percent compliance has passed, it causes us grave concern that all SSLCs in Texas are significantly behind where they should be in improving the protections, supports and services they provide to individuals under their care.”

According to the DOJ report, the **Richmond SSLC major areas of failure** in Settlement Agreement Provisions include:

- There was a significant discrepancy between the observations of the monitoring team in the area of PT/OT and the facility monitors, which brings into question the accuracy of facility monitoring.
- There are significant concerns with overall provision of dental services. The facility had made little progress with the requirements of this section.
- There was significant delay in treatment for individuals requiring emergency dental care because intravenous anesthesia was not readily available.
- Medical providers are not assertively assessing all acute conditions.
- Nursing policies, procedures, processes, and protocols have not yet been adequately put into clinical practices sufficient to meet individuals’ health status needs.

- The use of crisis intervention restraint at Richmond SSLC increased significantly since the last review period. This is the second consecutive review period with a significant increase in the use of crisis intervention restraint.
- The video surveillance equipment that was installed to help identify abuse and neglect is not being used to conduct internal investigations of serious incidents.
- Timely reporting of allegations, while improved, remained problematic.
- The facility's Quality Assurance process did not appear to be used to identify possible systemic issues.
- The facility was unable to describe any process to determine if a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) was effective in remedying or reducing the problems originally identified. For medical services, there were instances in which assessments and results from X-rays, labs, or other tests indicated a diagnosis that was not listed.
- Some information needed for diagnosis and to assess health status has not been routinely provided to clinicians for decision making.
- It was not yet clear that IDTs were able to accurately assess levels of risk. Many individuals still lacked needed plans to reduce the need for pre-treatment sedation.
- There was not yet adequate facility level monitoring for serious side effects of psychotropic medication.
- Behavioral Support Plans were noted to have several areas of weakness.
- Individuals were not assertively assessed as to the underlying causes of osteoporosis
- Individuals with degenerative spine disease did not have assertive clinical plans developed to ensure that all appropriate supports and services could be provided
- Medical providers are not ruling out medical conditions that may be manifesting in behavioral issues.
- Nursing staff administering medications continued to need enhanced training to better understand and carry out safe medication administration strategies for individuals who have trouble swallowing.
- Staff was observed not consistently displaying safe practices that minimize the risk of Physical and Nutritional Management (PNM) decline. Individuals were not provided with safe dining or positioning strategies.
- Staff were not knowledgeable of the plans and why the proposed strategies were relevant to the individuals' well being.
- Individuals were not consistently provided with physical and occupational therapy (PT/OT) interventions to minimize regression and/or enhance current abilities and skills.
- Individuals identified as having decreased communication had not consistently been provided with the needed assessments, and assessments that were provided were not consistently comprehensive in identifying methods to expand communicative functioning.
- There were examples where individuals had continued on the same step of Skill Acquisition Plan (SAP) for well beyond the required number of months despite having demonstrated mastery of the skill.
- The IDTs continued to rely almost solely on their own subjective assessment of an individual's decision-making capacity, with no objective standardized criteria.
- Interdisciplinary Teams (IDT) were not yet proficient in identifying the most integrated setting appropriate to an individual's needs.
- Individual Support Plan (ISP) strategies did not yet adequately address individual's needs, strengths and preferences or reflect encouragement of community participation in any meaningful or purposeful manner.

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/.

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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.