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**STATE-RUN FACILITY IN EL PASO STILL FAILS TO REACH COMPLIANCE  
AFTER FOUR YEARS OF FEDERAL MONITORING**

RESIDENTS REMAIN AT HIGH RISK FOR ABUSE AND NEGLECT

**EL PASO, TX**—According to the latest U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) monitoring report for the El Paso State Supported Living Center (EPSSLC) operated by the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services, the facility remains out of compliance in 116 out of 171 areas after four years of efforts to improve. The facility achieved minimal progress since its last review nine months ago, with current overall compliance moving from 22.15 to 26.58 percent.

Since our review of the DOJ's last monitoring report for EPSSLC seven months ago, the fact remains that 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 less than 27 percent.

"If a prospective doctor or attorney incorrectly answered more than half of the questions on their licensing exam, no one would think twice about not allowing them to practice. And yet the state allows these digressing facilities with less than 27 percent compliance to be responsible for the basic health and safety needs of a vulnerable population of people," said Haley Turner, advocate supervisor for Disability Rights Texas (DRTx), the federally designated legal protection and advocacy agency for Texans with disabilities. "The deadline for 100 percent compliance was nearly one year ago, and it causes us grave concern that all SSLCs in Texas are *still* 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 El Paso SSLC major areas of failure in Settlement Agreement Provisions include:

- The issue of medication regimen adjustments was most concerning where changes in medication dosages or the addition/discontinuation of a specific medication were performed concurrently with no time for review of behavioral data to determine the appropriateness of the dosage change.
- The facility made no progress in the development of a medical quality program. No local policies were developed based on the numerous stated issued clinical guidelines.
- There continued to be problems with nurses properly administering medications in accordance with generally accepted standard of practice.
- Of the five scheduled medication administration observations that were made on different days and different shifts, only one nurse administered medications in accordance with standards of practice.
- The facility made minimal progress towards meeting compliance with requirements for documenting and reviewing restraint incidents for crisis intervention. Staff were not consistently completing required restraint documentation, making it impossible to determine if restraints were implemented and monitored in compliance with state policies.
- Minimal progress had been made in adequately following up on incidents by addressing factors contributing to the large number of incidents and injuries at the facility. There was one confirmed case of abuse and 13 confirmed cases of neglect between 8/1/12 and 1/31/13. An additional 21 other serious incidents were investigated by the facility, all involving serious injuries.

- There were 861 injuries reported between 9/1/12 and 2/28/13, including 8 serious injuries resulting in fractures or sutures. Some of the serious injuries were preceded by similar incidents, not adequately addressed previously.
- The development of a comprehensive set of clinical indicators is an essential step in moving forward, yet there was no real progress seen for these provisions.. Equally as important is the identification of the systems and data sets that would then be used to monitor health status. EPSSLC had not addressed either issue in a meaningful way.

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/).

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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.