



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

November 12, 2013

CONTACT:

Haley Turner, Advocate Supervisor

512-407-2714

hturner@drtx.org

IMPORTANT DEADLINE PASSES AS LUBBOCK FACILITY REMAINS OUT OF COMPLIANCE WITH MOST HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

LUBBOCK, TX—According to the latest U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) monitoring report for the Lubbock State Supported Living Center (LSSLC) operated by the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services, the *facility remains out of compliance in 108 out of 171 areas*. The deadline for 100 percent compliance for this facility and all SSLCs in Texas was June 26, 2013.

In reviewing LSSLC's latest monitoring report, DRTx is alarmed that *after four years of efforts to improve, the facility has reached zero percent compliance in eleven of 20 provision sections* of the Settlement Agreement including:

- Integrated Protection, Services, Treatment and Supports
- At-Risk Individuals
- Medical Care
- Nursing Care
- Minimum Common Elements of Physical and Nutritional Management
- Physical and Occupational Therapy
- Dental Services
- Habilitation, Training, Education, and Skill Acquisition Programs
- Communication
- Consent
- Recordkeeping and General Plan Implementation

“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, many with less than 30 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 has passed, 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.”

For additional information on how all the state supported living centers are performing, visit the Disability Rights Texas online Press Room at www.disabilityrightstx.org/who-we-are/press-room/. Visit the state's website at <http://www.dads.state.tx.us/monitors/reports/index.html> to view the latest DOJ monitoring reports for SSLCs in Texas.

###

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.