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SAN ANTONIO SSLC FLUNKS THIRD ROUND COMPLIANCE REVIEW

Austin, TX – The Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) has released a monitoring report indicating people with intellectual and developmental disabilities living in the San Antonio State Supported Living Center (SSLC) remain at high risk for abuse and neglect due to the facility's continued noncompliance on basic health and safety provisions.

More than two years since the implementation of the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) settlement agreement with DADS, which was established to ensure residents' mental and physical health and safety, the San Antonio SSLC was found to be compliant in only 24 of 171 provision areas, a mere 14 percent of all areas.

The DOJ settlement agreement delineates specific deadlines by which compliance must be met for each of the 171 provisions, ranging from 2009 through 2013. These deadlines require the San Antonio SSLC already to have met standards in 136 provision areas; the facility was found to be out of compliance in 112 of those provisions, resulting in noncompliance outside of settlement agreement deadlines in 82 percent of those areas.

Monitors indicated the following significant failures at the San Antonio SSLC:

- Monitors questioned whether the facility's "Do Not Resuscitate" (DNR) practices were within the generally accepted professional standard of care. Ten percent of individuals had DNR orders for conditions that were not terminal.
- There were no noteworthy improvements in the provision of medical care, and "an organized and systematic medical quality program was lacking."
- "Medication errors remained a serious cause for concern," and much work was needed to ensure that medications were administered and accounted properly.
- From Feb. 1, 2011 through July 27, 2011, there were 32 serious incidents, including five deaths and 23 serious injuries.
- Monitors identified significant problems with the follow-up of chronic issues, as well as laboratory monitoring for chronic diseases and medication use.
- Nursing diagnoses drawn from clinical assessments did not consistently identify individuals' clinical problems, needs, and actual and potential health risks.
- There continued to be problems with accurate documentation and monitoring of physical, mechanical and chemical restraints.
- Little progress was made towards substantial compliance in areas related to psychological care and services.

"The San Antonio facility's shocking lack of progress in meeting the health and safety needs of residents is alarming, given how little time they have left to gain compliance," said Beth Mitchell, supervising attorney for Disability Rights Texas, the federally designated legal protection and advocacy agency for Texans with disabilities.

"To date, the San Antonio facility remains outside the compliance deadline in 82 percent of all provision areas," Mitchell noted. "It seems improbable that the necessary improvements can be made to bring the San Antonio facility into compliance within the mandated DOJ timelines."

For more information on the Oct. 22, 2011, San Antonio SSLC Monitoring Team Report, visit www.dads.state.tx.us/monitors/reports/index.html.

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 is a nonprofit disability advocacy 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. In March 2011, the agency changed its name from Advocacy Inc. to Disability Rights Texas.