



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

★ Abilene State Supported Living Center ★

OUR MISSION:
To empower people to make choices
that result in a life of dignity and
increased independence.

AbSSLC News

Abilene SSLC

Week of August 17th, 2020

Calling in Sick

- If you are calling in for any kind of illness, you **MUST** call the Nursing Hotline **FIRST**. If you or anyone in your household is tested for COVID-19 you must call the Nursing Hotline immediately. You can reach this line by dialing **INFO (x4636)** from any campus phone or by calling **692-4053 x4636** from off-campus.

Please watch for calls from the Hotline after you leave a message! The call will come from a “795-3xxx” number or a Cell Phone number you likely don’t know. Nursing will return your call but many times they do not get an answer and/or your voicemail is not setup.

- After contacting the hotline you must contact Risk Management & then follow your regular call-in procedures.

Please do not come to work if you are experiencing symptoms! This places others that live and work here at risk!

Change in Return-to-Work Criteria

The CDC and our State Office have issued new guidelines for returning to work after an illness.

Previously, you had to be symptom free for 72 hours before returning. **Effective immediately, this has been changed to being symptom free 24 hours and you can return.** Please continue to contact the Nursing Hotline (x4636 or 692-4053 x4636) if calling in sick and then follow your regular reporting process.



With the on-going hot weather (and very little rain) we need your help in watering the trees & bushes that are close to your home/department. Try to do it early in the day but please don’t let the water run down the road!

Heat Precautions

Helpful Reminders for you and the people we serve:

- Limit outdoor activity, especially midday when the sun is hottest.
- Be sure all vehicles are cool and have properly working air conditioning. If the air conditioning is not working properly, report it to Motor Pool.
- Sunscreen should be worn and reapplied as indicated on the package.
- Pace activities. Start activities slow and pick up the pace gradually.
- Drink more water than usual and don’t wait until you’re thirsty to drink more. Encourage Individuals to do so. Muscle cramping may be an early sign of heat-related illness.
- You and the Individuals should wear loose, lightweight, light-colored clothing.
- If you or a Individual need to cool down, cool showers or baths are helpful.
- **Never leave anyone in a car unsupervised.**

The (World Famous) 5th Street Diner and Lone Star Coffee & Tea House are open!
Come see us for your favorite meals & drinks!



Coming Soon!

Shout Outs!

Thank you to **Suzanne, Christy, Jonathan, Bobbi Jo** and others who have gone above and beyond to make flowerbeds and window boxes thrive with color at Hab. Even the baby grass is starting to come to life! It takes so much time to provide water, protection from the sun, and to create the handmade extras that make our corner of campus special. Thanks for the sweat, time, and finances you have sacrificed for our department! It does not go unnoticed.

Shout out to **Christy Reeves**, our Speech Tech who helps SLPs design and develop AAC. She helps individuals communicate with greater success. She works with the wheelchair shop to develop mounts and she finds practical solutions when our ideas aren't working as envisioned. She gets out there to make sure adaptive switches are working, in place, and in good condition for the residents who need help accessing the activities they enjoy. Thank you Christy for working hard and working fast! We couldn't be successful without you!

Shout out to our warehouse staff **Kayla, Cody, Scott, Jarrod** and **Daniel** for always being there when we need them. Rather it be when we need an emergency delivery, needing questions answered about products or simply keeping us updated on all the changes and new products they carry. They always make time for us even when they are busy. We just want them to know they are very appreciated.

I want to thank all of you for the incredible job you and your staff have done to assure the lawns and plants around each home and building look great. Normally this time of year the grass has burned up and nothing is looking good. Not this year! The grass is green, the bushes and plants are growing, the plants in planters and window boxes look beautiful and accent the homes/buildings beautifully. I can only imagine how they will thrive come fall when it is cooler at night. And next spring and summer—well they will be on their way to becoming mature bushes/trees and plants. You have remained dedicated to this project and your hard work SHINES and is appreciated.

Jolene Willis

Maria Martinez was in refreshers Monday and Tuesday; she had a very positive attitude. She is definitely a shining example of the wonderful nurses we have at AbSSLC. Please let her know we see all the hard work and sacrifice for the people who live and work here.

Shout out to **Jessica DeLaCruz** - she is super helpful always making the ladies in our home top priority all day long and always going out of her way to make sure things are getting done the correct way

Shout out to the **Medical staff** of ABSSLC! Thanks to all the Primary care providers for working together as a team and taking care of all of the residents and staff during this pandemic. In a time when stress, late hours, on-call hours, and many responsibilities are the Norm. The Medical providers have really gone above and beyond! Big thanks!!

It's been awhile since we have gotten to celebrate a new Board Certified Behavior Analyst in our department, but the drought has ended! **Diania Sporisky** passed her certification exam earlier this year and has received the official promotion to Behavior Analyst !!

Diania has worked her way up over the years, and her story is an awesome example of how a person can really develop and bloom in their career here at the AbSSLC. She started here in January 2008 as an MRA I on the 2-10 shift. In 2009, she went to the 10-6 shift so she could finish her Bachelor's Degree. In 2010, she started working on her Master's Degree and became a Behavioral Health Assistant.

Diania was promoted to a Behavior Health Specialist in 2017 after completing her Master's Degree, and we are thrilled that she is now one of 6 Board Certified Behavior Analysts in our Behavior Health Department. Diania has worked at several homes throughout the years, and she has served as a BHA, BHS, and now BCBA on several caseloads. She is currently the BCBA for homes 6690 and 6760 Circle Drive. Please join us in congratulating Diania for this enormous accomplishment!

Kristen Adkins

Shout Out!

Have you seen someone do the above & beyond or just want to recognize great work? It's easy to Shout Out!

- "Reply" to any of the update texts you receive through the AskAdmin Text Group
- Email Jeff Goza with their name and your comments.
- Text it to 325.370.4525
- Call the AbSSLC TALK Line (x8255)

Let's Shout Out and recognize others!