



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 December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021

### COVID19 Testing

Week of 12.27.2021

We will now be testing **1 day** for each round as noted below. All staff will test on the same day.

#### Round 1

**Tuesday, December 28<sup>th</sup>**  
0530-1130 & 1300-1500

#### Round 2

**Thursday, December 30<sup>th</sup>**  
0530-1130 & 1300-1500

**You must test both rounds each week**

### I am HHS: Emily Jenkins

Name: **Emily Jenkins**

Job title: **Qualified Intellectual Disabilities Professional Educator**

#### What do you do?

I train staff on the process of making each plan individualized for the residents we serve. I train each qualified intellectual disabilities professional (QIDP) in Abilene, and training is extended to all staff on campus.

#### How did you get started in this field?

I first begin my career at Abilene State Supported Living Center working as a direct support professional for a 24-hour medical home. From there I went on to become a home clerk and a home supervisor. My career has lasted over 20 years with many more to come.

Read more @: <https://hhsconnection.hhs.texas.gov/news-announcements/announcements/i-am-hhs-emily-jenkins>

### AbSSLC COVID19 Status

As of Friday, 12/24/2021

Number of Individuals Positive	0
Number of Individuals currently in Isolation	0
Number of Staff Positive	13

### Employee Donated Sick Leave

HHSC allows employees to donate sick time to other staff who are in need and have exhausted all of their own sick time. The donated time goes to the designated employee and cannot be returned to the person who donated it, even if it's not all used.

Policy is very clear that an employee cannot ask another employee to donate this time – it must be offered freely by someone that is willing to give it. An employee is also not allowed to have someone ask for them (“Sue, can you ask Bill if he will donate me some of his time”) nor advertise they are needing time on Social Media or any other means.

**Violation of this policy (asking for time in some manner) is considered very serious and will likely lead to significant consequences, up to and including termination.**

Please contact your supervisor if you have any questions regarding this.

### Proper Way to Wear a Mask

#### DO WEAR YOUR MASK



**THE PROPER WAY**  
Wear your mask so it comes all the way up, close to the bridge of your nose, and all the way down under your chin. Keep it snug to your face.

#### DO NOT



**DO NOT** wear the mask so it just covers the tip of your nose.

#### DO NOT



**DO NOT** wear the mask below your nose.

#### DO NOT



**DO NOT** push your mask under your chin to rest on your neck.



Social  
Distance  
is Good



Do your  
part to  
help!

Remember that **you** make the difference for those we serve in 2022 and beyond!

# Shout Outs!

I want to give a big THANK YOU to **Cindy Bowman, Keri McClure, and Mike Horton!** They have been asked over and over to take on big requests and changes during COVID times. The Day Programs have opened and closed numerous times and there is a lot involved in opening and closing Day Programs. They have each taken on many challenges willingly. Some of the changes were at a moment's notice and some of the changes had to even happen by the next morning when we were notified on a Sunday. I want them to know how much I appreciate them and how thankful I am for each of them.

I wanted to give a shout out to **Emily Sterpka**. She is the Behavior Health Specialist for 6350. Every day she works her tail off for the gentlemen over there to ensure that their behavior needs are met. She goes above and beyond for the guys and spends time researching new ways to help teach new skills because she genuinely cares for them. Emily is dedicated and always gives 110% for them. Her hard work is much appreciated!

Shout out to **Mary and Tierra** at 5972 Service Ave. They are both amazing!!!

I want to give a shout out to **Dylan Brown**, our newest PDS over here in Behavior Services. Dylan started out here as a DSP working directly with our young male individuals for a while. He became an RTT for a bit, allowing him to spend a little more time with his family. And now he's here, with us! He's come in with such a positive attitude, willing to learn and eager to put those lessons into action! He oversees a caseload that he is familiar with from his time as a DSP and working directly with the boy's home. His willingness to learn, his positive attitude, and his goofy personality (trust me, he owns it) make work a little more fun each day! Thanks Dylan!

I would like to recognize **Gilbert Villarreal** who is a DSP II at the Infirmary. He volunteered to go to Home 6521 to help run the 10-6 shift when the DSP III had an OJI that was going to result in her being off an extended time. This continues at this time. I try to rotate staff so that one person does not have to take the responsibility of a home for the length of time that Gilbert has been needed. He has been the ONLY regular staff for 10-6 even though it is not his usual assigned home. He has been the staff to hold over many times daily when he is scheduled to work. This dedication of providing

care to the people we serve is deeply appreciated. I am planning to swap a co-worker in the near future to allow him to go back to work his regular assigned home. Each of the people living at Home 6521 are extreme medical fragile people and I know that they have been properly cared for each time Gilbert has worked. Thank you so much Gilbert. Marie Holder NSS Unit I

Shout out to **Terry Moore**, the Home Supervisor at 6500! She is always on the floor helping out her staff and she even works late when the next shift is short. She is always kind, compassionate, and understanding to her residents and her staff.

Shout out to **Cheryl Galvan!** Thanks for going above and beyond the call of duty. You rock!! Vocational services appreciates you coming to the Lodge to test people that would have had to miss out on our team building due to missing the AM COVID Testing.

A great big shout out to **John** in Laundry for helping out Vocational Services. He has a **great team** that gladly helped us with no questions asked. Vocational had planed our first annual team building/lunch and Of course the day our event is scheduled nothing runs according to how it usually does every other day. Sadly, some were going to have to be late because we have to complete our Cintas contract every day. All that was left was to get the laundry loaded and taken back which takes about an hour. I reached out to John for the possibility of completing this task for us so all team members could be present for the event. They stepped up and gladly helped us out. THANK YALL SO MUCH from Vocational Services. That's what I call TEAMWORK!

Shout out! Thanks SO MUCH for the Christmas Lunch. It was SO good ... and such a thoughtful act. It's the little things that make us feel appreciated!

## Shout Out!

It's easy to do a 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 their name and your comments to 325.370.4525

Let's **Shout Out** and recognize others!