



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 May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020

### AbSSLC Nursing Hotline for COVID19 Issues

If **you**, or **anyone in your household**, is tested for COVID19, it is **critical** that you contact the AbSSLC Nursing Hotline. You can reach this line by dialing INFO (x4636) from any campus phone or by calling 692-4053 x4636 from off-campus. Please note you will be asked to leave your full name and phone number on the recording – Nursing checks this line multiple times a day and will return your call. Please be patient – they are receiving numerous calls each day and want to take the time to ensure all of your questions are answered fully.

### American Cancer Society Relay for Life Walk

Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup>  
9am-1130am



We are supporting the **American Cancer Society!** We want to thank all of the staff who have shared they are a Cancer Survivor - we are still accepting names that will be announced as part of the walk.

Please remember we are requesting a \$5 donation for Luminaries so you can honor your loved ones. Please contact Susan Kilpatrick at x3661 ([susan.kilpatrick@hhsc.state.tx.us](mailto:susan.kilpatrick@hhsc.state.tx.us)) or Renay Kellum at x3432 ([renay.kellum@hhsc.state.tx.us](mailto:renay.kellum@hhsc.state.tx.us)) for either the luminaries or as a cancer survivor.



Our weekly \$50  
winner for  
amazing  
attendance!

**April Holloman**  
6522 Peach  
10/6

### Remember the Mask!

Masks are generally uncomfortable, hot and annoying. They are also play a huge role in keeping everyone safe!

## HOW TO WEAR YOUR MASK

Cloth face coverings should fit snugly and comfortably against the side of the face and allow for breathing without restriction.

1. Wash your hands before and after putting it on.
2. Do not touch the front of the mask!
3. If you need to take it off, put the mask on a clean surface or in a bag.
4. Wash the mask at the end of the day or when you get home!



### Campus Traffic

Please remember that the speed limit on **all** campus roads is **15mph**. This may seem very slow but it can make a big difference if someone runs out in front you and you have to stop suddenly. Staff (mainly Qs & BCBA's) are especially bad about this ... everyone just figures they can walk out in front of you and you will stop!

With the nicer weather, we also have a larger number of both individuals & staff out walking – please be aware of this while driving on campus and **especially when backing up!** It's very easy for someone to come up behind your vehicle.

And ... summer is definitely here to stay as seen by the record temperatures we have already had. Don't forget to **always secure your vehicle** and only leave windows open 1" for ventilation.

# Shout Outs!

Shout out to all the staff that helped our 2020 CHS grads get to this point AND to **Jennifer Z** ... for making this happen and all she does every day! She's awesome!

Shout out to **Safirea Renfro** for doing an amazing job covering for Kathy Brannon while she was out.

I would like to shout out a recognition to a few gentlemen this week, **Thomas Deluna, Jeff Channell, Kerry Crane, Lad Faries, Joe Guajardo, Willie Toler, Tomas Paulino, Chris Solis, Grayson Hall** and **Samuel Argiagou**. These men came together as a team and knocked out some concrete work. The **plumbers** worked most of the week to get the swimming pool operational again, way to go guys! The **electricians** have been busy with a few other maintenance men to clean up some old electrical issues, again some more team work. **Grounds** are always busy making our campus look great. As the hot weather comes **HVAC** are very busy keeping everyone cool and comfortable, thanks. The **Machine Shop** keep the kitchens operating, beds moving and many other things. Special thanks to the **Carpentry Shop** for the many campus improvements we are seeing. **Security**, what can I say, they keep us safe. What I'm really trying to say is, the Maintenance Team for ABSSLC is the best and I appreciate each and every one, makes me proud to be one of the team. I can't leave out the wonderful ladies that work very hard in the office taking care of all the paperwork that is generated every day, and I mean a lot, so thank you **Penny Newman, Vicki Deputy** and **Keri Lewis**. Great team!

Shout out to **Tiffani Pope** from Active Treatment Coach Department.

Shout out to the Staff, Housekeeping and Nursing that worked on the home that was designated for COVID-19. You guys did great and worked together keeping yourselves and each other from catching COVID-19 and spreading it. You are extremely appreciated for the job you did and the willingness to take on the task. Once again thank you: (Housekeeping) **Marta Toler**, (Home Staff) **Angela Scott, Chris Martinez, Leroy Lewis, Tyanna Lowry, Jennifer Monroe, Jessica Tercero, Gilbert Villareal, April Holloman, Kayce Buck**, (Nursing) **Kerri Helm, Kelsey Miller, Allison Roy, Ronna Darrow, Megan Schoeling, Lacy Ramirez, Seslie Jones**, and **Stephanie Walters**.

Shout out to **Anita Olguin** in Cashiers Office. She is working non-stop to provide services to everyone on campus as needed with no relief or backup. She does this with a great attitude and a smile on her face! Thank you, Anita for your tireless contribution to making our current situation better for everyone!

Have a **Shout Out** for amazing work or to recognize someone making an extra special difference for those we serve? Let us know! "Reply" to any AskAdmin text, email Jeff Goza ([jeff.goza@hhsc.state.tx.us](mailto:jeff.goza@hhsc.state.tx.us)) or text it to 325.370.4525!



Please help us celebrate Better Hearing and Speech Month by recognizing the wonderful work of our Audiologist, team of Speech Language Pathologists, and SLP Assistants!

*Together they have almost 200 years of experience and over 95 years with AbSSLC!*

- **Gayla Whitfill, CCC-SLP** has been practicing as an SLP for 10 years and will have her 1 year anniversary with AbSSLC in June. When asked what she enjoys most about her job here, she replied “Teaching communication in a variety of ways. Being able to problem-solve and try new things when something is not working. Seeing their faces when something new is working.”
- **Teresa Dunagan-Lee, M.S., CCC-SLP** has been practicing as an SLP for 22 years. She just celebrated her 1 year anniversary with AbSSLC in April. She states that she enjoys helping the residents to improve their communication and language skills with staff and peers, as well as helping staff better understand how residents communicate their wants and needs. She also says, “I am proud to be a part of interdisciplinary teams that address communication, swallowing, and PNMT needs.”
- **Cheryl Balanay, M.A., CCC-SLP** has been a SLP for 40+ years and has worked at AbSSLC for 30 of those for years (over 3 separate employments here). Cheryl says she enjoys her interactions with the people who live here so much. “They surprise me, draw tears, and make me laugh. I love looking into their eyes when talking to them and getting even a tiny smile. It is awesome when we can get someone to talk, make eye contact or be able to get what they want through some form of communication. Mostly I am fulfilled by them when providing communication services at AbSSLC.”
- **Leslie Riggins, BBS, SLP Assistant** has been practicing for 32.5 years and has worked at AbSSLC for 32.5 years. She has a long history with the individuals here. Leslie states, “Through the years, I have most enjoyed working with the individuals in therapy, especially using AAC. The times using AAC opened up a way for nonverbal individuals to communicate that they didn’t have before have been unforgettable.” Leslie has served as the Campus Educational Liaison and serves as the HT representative on HRC.
- **Donna Boulette, CCC-A/SLP** is our campus Audiologist (although she is licensed in both Audiology and Speech Language Pathology). She has been practicing for 40 years and has been with AbSSLC for 8 years. She loves getting to interact/communicate with individuals on a daily basis. She adds, “I am reinforced when an individual remembers me (points to their ears) and smiles when they see me. I am blessed to be able to help people hear better and feel better, like when ear wax is taken out of their ear canals.”
- **Devin Roberts, B.S., SLP-Assistant** has been practicing for a little less than a year as a Speech Assistant, but she isn’t new to AbSSLC. She has worked out here since August 2016 as a DSP, a PNMP, and as a QIDP. Devin says she just really enjoys “the communication between the individuals and myself. The interactions. Seeing them succeed.”
- **Maleika Fitzgerald, MS, CCC-SLP** has been practicing SLP for 19 years. In June she will have been with AbSSLC for 7 years. She enjoys giving individuals 1:1 attention which many enjoy more than any other preference. She likes helping them enjoy something independently, whether it is a communication system/signal or an adaptive switch. Maleika also likes working with IDTs to advocate for the residents and doing dysphagia (swallowing) work.
- **Chelsie Harruff, M.S., CCC-SLP** has been practicing for 6 years and is coming up on her 4 year anniversary with AbSSLC in August. Chelsie says she loves “working as a SLP at AbSSLC because helping people to communicate and increase their independence is so rewarding! I also love doing MBS studies and anything related to swallowing!”
- **Dee Ann Shelton, Ed.D., CCC-SLP** has been practicing 27 years and with AbSSLC 6 years. She currently comes in only a few hours a week with a focus on direct speech therapy because as Dee Ann exclaims, “I love to do direct therapy!”